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## June 2013 Ohio League Leader Updates

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### 1. Save the Date!

#### a. July all-member call

Join us for our monthly LWVO all-member conference call held on Tuesday, July 2nd at 12 noon.

What was in the final version of the state budget? What other bills passed before the legislature recessed for the summer?

Join us for July's all-member conference call for a breakdown of what happened in the Ohio legislature during the first half of 2013.

#### July All-Member Call

**Topic: Legislative Session Report**

**When: Tuesday, July 2nd, 12pm-1pm**

**Call: 866-740-1260, PIN 4691505#**

#### b. Plan to Attend August Regional Meetings

LWVO will once again be hosting regional meetings across the state in August. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

#### Dates & Locations:

All meetings will run from 10am to 12:30pm.

#### **Saturday, August 10th**

- Northwest meeting

#### **Saturday, August 17th**

- Northeast (west side Cleveland) meeting
- Central & Southeast meeting

#### **Saturday, August 24th**

- Southwest meeting
- Northeast (east side Cleveland) meeting

**Reminders from  
LWVUS:**  
**a. Do you know where to  
download the LWV logo  
and how to use (and not  
use) it?**  
**b. The LWVUS  
Agriculture Study is  
coming soon - get ahead  
with some "light"  
summer reading**

## Topics:

- **New! Voter Education: Judicial Elections**

Every election, Ohio voters are asked to choose who should serve as judges in our courts. Yet, many voters skip voting in these races because they don't know enough about the candidates. Other voters cast their vote knowing little or nothing about the candidates.

It's time we change that. Earlier this year, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor announced a set of proposals to challenge Ohioans to think about how we can do a better job electing judges.

The Chief Justice met with LWVO and invited us to be part of the discussion. Come to regional meetings to hear the latest on Chief Justice O'Connor's proposal and LWVO's position on judicial selection, and join the discussion of what role League can play in voter education about judicial races.

- **League Leadership & How League Works**

Whether you are a new member, new board member, a returning leader or an aspiring leader, this training is for you! It will focus on two key areas:

1) *The Cornerstones of LWV: Our Mission, Program and Financial Structure* - including a discussion of the concepts of nonpartisanship v. political activity; how we arrive at League positions and League program; the difference between operating funds (501 c 4) and education funds (501 c 3); how to take action and the difference between lobbying and more general advocacy and education.

2) *Governance and Management Issues* - including discussion of best practices for Leagues, boards and committees-as well as leadership tips to encourage participation and develop leaders.

## **2. Welcome new Local League boards!**

### **- Remember to update your local board rosters with LWVO and LWVUS**

It is Annual Meeting time, and this means changes in League leadership. LWVO will be reaching out to local League officers with information relevant to their office.

Please contact Barbara Herman at the LWVO office (614-469-1505 or [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org)) to update your League's roster. Thank you!

LWVUS would like to know your updated board information too. Please be sure to update this information in the LWVUS member database. Contact Betty Taira at [membership@lwv.org](mailto:membership@lwv.org) for questions about the LWVUS Database.

### **- Check out the LWVO Leadership Library!**

The LWVO Leadership Library, full of helpful resource materials, including League governance and best practices, is available at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member%20Area/2012-Leadership/Training/Materials.cfm>

### **- Customizable Business Cards Available Online Now**

[Business cards with the League logo](#) are available for individual League leaders online to customize with their personal information and print at home. The cards include a space for your title, name, and League, as well as your phone number and email address. These customizable cards are a smart and professional looking way of promoting your League.

### **3. Congratulations to the Oberlin League**

The LWV of Oberlin was featured in the June 20<sup>th</sup> LWVUS League Leaders Update for their outstanding membership work. In case you missed it, here is what LWVUS said:

#### **Spotlight on Success: LWV of Oberlin, OH (NEW)**

Local Leagues across the country are working to build their membership and using innovative strategies to successfully foster growth. LWVUS talked to these leagues to learn how they recruited new members and leaders so effectively. Our fifth League highlight focuses on the [LWV of Oberlin, Ohio](#) .

### **4. Announcing our inaugural class of Ohio MLD Coaches & Teams**

LWVO is thrilled to welcome our first class of MLD Coaches and Teams. We held our first Ohio MLD training June 21-23. Participating Leagues include: Bowling

Green, Chillicothe-Ross County, Cincinnati Area, Metro Columbus, Cuyahoga Area, Greater Dayton, Kent, Lake County, Oxford, Shaker Heights, Tallmadge, and Toledo-Lucas County.

LWVO will continue to accept MLD applications on a rolling basis. MLD trainings will be held annually, so start thinking about recruiting your MLD Team for next year's training class.

## **5. League lobbyists in action - a report from the Statehouse**

It's not often that we take time to brag about all the amazing advocacy work carried out by our corps of volunteer lobbyists. We'd like to take the opportunity to tell you about a few things your LWVO lobbyists have been doing just during the last month.

- **Redistricting** - LWVO Redistricting Specialist Ann Henkener testified on [SJR 1](#) in favor of redistricting reform. Ann also attended the Constitutional Modernization Commission's committee hearing that is likely to take up redistricting in the fall.
- **Human Trafficking** - LWVO lobbyist Karen Rainey testified in support of [HB 130](#) to strengthen anti-trafficking laws.
- **Fracking**- LWVO Energy Specialist Al Rosenfield prepared testimony on [SB 46](#) about regulation of fracking. The committee postponed hearing SB46 until the fall.
- **Elections and Voting** - LWVO issued an [open letter](#) to election officials on the disturbing action of referring lawful absentee and provisional voters to the local prosecutor for investigation. The Plain Dealer ran this [editorial](#) in response, saying that the League is right and calling on election officials to stop making these referrals.
- **Education Finance** - LWVO issued an action alert: [Urge Your Ohio Senator to Oppose Expansion of School Vouchers](#). Thank you to everyone who took action!
- **Healthcare** - LWVO issued an action alert: [Urge your Ohio Senator and Representative to Support](#)

[Medicaid Expansion](#). Thank you to everyone who took action!

- **Judicial Reform** - [Check out the podcast of the Ann Fisher show on WOSU with Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and LWVO President Nancy Brown discussing judicial reform.](#)
- **Women's Health** - LWVO issued an action alert: [Threats to Women's Health Do Not Belong in State Budget.](#) Thank you to everyone who took action!

Please join us for the all-member call on Tuesday, July 2nd at 12 noon for a report on what was in the final version of the state budget (HB59).

## **6. Reminders from LWVUS:**

### **a. Do you know where to download the LWV logo and how to use (and not use) it?**

The LWV logo and usage policy is available on the LWVUS website here - <http://www.lwv.org/content/lwv-logo-usage-policy>.

### **b. The LWVUS Agriculture Study is coming soon - get ahead with some "light" summer reading**

The Agriculture Forum on the LWVUS website <http://forum.lwv.org/group/agriculture-update> includes some suggested summer reading for the Agriculture Study. (Note: You will have to log into the Member section of the LWVUS website to access the forum.) The materials are not part of the study, but they may be helpful for members thinking about the upcoming study.