



## March 2014 Ohio League Leader Updates

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### 1. Statehouse Day & Council is April 9 - Online Registration closes March 24th.

Join League members from around Ohio at this year's Statehouse Day and Council on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton on Capital Square in downtown Columbus. [Click here](#) to register today!

Registration fees are Member \$40, Non-member \$45, Student \$25. Please note the registration deadline is Monday, March 24. After that date, online registration will not be available and a \$5 late fee will be charged.

Confirmed speakers for Statehouse Day include:

- "Informed Voters, Fair Courts"-Presented by Colonel Linda Strite Murnane, U.S. Air Force, Retired, member of the National Association of Women Judges.
- "The Historic Fight for Voting Rights and Modern Challenges"- Presented by Hasan Kwame Jeffries, Associate Professor at the Ohio State University, Department of History and Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.
- "Ohio Women's Health in 2014: A Look Back at Ten Years of Anti-Reproductive Health Policies"-Presented by B. Jessie Hill, Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and Jaime Miracle, Policy Director for NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio.
- "From the West Virginia chemical spill to the Cincinnati oil spill: How do we protect the Ohio River Watershed?"-Presented by Michael Miller, Professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati, Department of Biological Sciences.

We are awaiting confirmation on additional speakers, who will be announced soon.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! [Click here](#) to learn more. Please contact the LWVO office if you, your organization, or your businesses are interested in sponsoring this event.

### 2. Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due April 1st.

Wish your League could spread the workload around more? Wish there were more trained League leaders available to step up? Wish your League could do

**LWVO/EF's Annual Campaign!**

**8.  
Ohio Meet-up  
at LWVUS Convention**

**9.  
LWVO Files  
Friend-of-the-Court  
Brief in Juvenile Justice  
case**

all it wants to do to be a vibrant part of your community? Your League can make these wishes come true!

The Ohio League, in partnership with LWVUS, has brought the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program to Ohio - a program proven to be successful in membership recruitment and retention, leadership development, and sparking renewed energy in many Leagues!

We invite your League to join the Ohio Leagues already participating in the MLD program! Please [click here](#) to see an overview of the MLD program and the local League application form which outlines specific responsibilities.

Leagues joining the program for 2014-2016 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training session, April 25-26 in Columbus. Lodging, meals and materials will be provided by LWVO at no cost to your League except for a registration fee of \$25 for each MLD Team member. Current MLD teams and coaches are invited to join the new teams and coaches on April 26.

After the training, participating Leagues' MLD teams will receive ongoing coaching and support from their LWV Ohio coach, assisted by a Ruth S. Shur Fellow (LWVUS National Coach).

We encourage you to communicate with your board as soon as possible. The deadline for applying for the 2014-2016 MLD program is April 1 - and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at [megflack150@gmail.com](mailto:megflack150@gmail.com) or 614.235.5993.

### **3. What do you need to know to vote this year?**

Ohio policymakers have been busy enacting a multitude of changes to Ohio elections - some of which go into effect for the May primary and others for the November general election. It will be important for the League and other voter advocates around the state to help voters navigate all these changes. [Click here](#) to read about some of the changes most likely to impact Ohio voters this year.

In the coming weeks, LWVOEF will be creating new voter service materials with the updated rules. We will send an announcement when these new materials are available.

### **4. Share your views with the "I Want to Vote" project**

Should early voting be available on weekday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays, or only weekday business hours? Ohio policy-makers have been arguing about this for years, but no one has asked voters what they want. LWV Ohio aims to change that, which is why we are launching the "I Want to Vote" project.

Part story collection and part market research, the "I Want to Vote" project will ask voters when they want to be able to vote and why.

Voters' own choices and stories (minus personal information) will be displayed

on the "I Want to Vote" project website. This information will also be compiled and shared with Ohio policymakers, so that future decisions can take into account what voters from around the state actually want from their election officials.

Watch for an announcement soon when the "I Want to Vote" project goes live, share your views, and ask your neighbors to do the same. Together, we can work to make sure election administration decisions are based on facts instead of hyperbole.

## **5. Curious about the proposed Voters Bill of Rights?**

You may have seen the news that a group of advocates is circulating initiative petitions to add a "Voters Bill of Rights" to the Ohio Constitution. [Click here](#) to read the proposal.

LWVO has not yet taken a position on this ballot proposal, because we share the proponents' desire to protect voting rights and embed that protection in the Constitution, but have concern with writing this level of detail into the Constitution. Our LWVUS position on Voting Rights and our LWV Ohio position on the Ohio Constitution need to guide our actions in this matter and will be considered by the LWVO Board.

In the meantime, until such time as LWVO does take a position on this issue, League members are free to circulate petitions, just not with League buttons on.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the state office, 614-469-1505.

## **6. Local Leagues are invited to apply for Judicial Voter Education Mini-Grants**

LWVOEF has launched a Judicial Voter Education campaign to address the problem of voter drop-off in judicial races. Voters frequently skip voting for judges due to lack of information about how to evaluate and choose a candidate who will make a good judge.

At February Regional Meetings, League members were introduced to new resources available for Judicial Voter Education. [Click here](#) to find these tools on the NEW Judicial Voter Information page on the state League website.

We need your League's help to reach Ohio voters in search of information on how to vote for judges. How can your League incorporate these materials into your 2014 voter service plans? Looking for ideas? Check out the Ashtabula League's Primary Judicial Candidate Forums [here](#).

Thanks to the Joyce Foundation, the state League is once again able to offer pass-thru grants to local Leagues to support local judicial voter education projects.

Local Leagues are invited to apply for pass-thru grants of \$250 each to support

creative ideas to provide judicial voter education in your community.

[Click here](#) for the grant application form and project requirements.

## **7. Please support LWVO/EF's Annual Campaign!**

We will be working hard over the next year on many fronts, but especially to:

- Ensure that Ohioans know how to exercise their right to vote and have the information they need to vote intelligently - including in judicial elections; and
- Understand the threats to Ohio's water - and only with such understanding will we be able to become

a strong voice in the battle to protect clean water across the State. We cannot maintain and expand this and other work without support from our members. Please support our Annual Fundraising Appeal, which is going on right now. [Click here](#) to make your contribution online either to LWVOEF (tax deductible) or to LWVO. You may also send your check to the League Office at 17 S. High St., Ste 650, Columbus, OH 43215. We appreciate greatly the support of our members, both the financial support and the volunteer hours you give to make the League a success in Ohio.

## **8. Ohio Meet-up at LWVUS Convention**

Don't forget that it is time to register for the LWVUS Convention in Dallas on June 6th to 10th.

[Click here](#) to read about the Convention on the LWVUS website. It is a wonderful opportunity to help shape the direction of LWVUS for the next two years, attend interesting workshops and, best of all, interact with League members from around the country. It will also be a chance to interact with Ohio League members and we are planning a social time to meet, strategize and have fun. Please let Carrie Davis know who will be attending from your League so that we can be sure that they receive communications about the meet-up.

## **9. LWVO Files Friend-of-the-Court Brief in Juvenile Justice case**

On March 10th, LWVO joined in an amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court in *State of Ohio v. Alexander Quartrerman*. [Click here](#) to read the Amicus Brief on the LWVO website. The amicus brief opposed *mandatory* bindover (transfer) of 16 and 17 year old juveniles from juvenile court to adult court when the juvenile is charged with certain more serious offenses. The brief argued that bindover for all juveniles should be at the discretion of the judge. Our support for this argument was based on our juvenile justice position which provides:

- Youth under 18 are not adults and treatment should relate to their

**stage of development.**

- **Children should not be held in adult prisons or detention facilities.**
- **Each case should receive individual evaluation before the court and judges should use their discretion to find the best resolution of each case.**