

LWVO League Leaders Update  
January 13, 2011

• **Happy New Year!!**

May 2011 Bring the Best to You and Yours!

**Today's Topics:**

**ADVOCACY & EDUCATION**

**\*\*NEW\*\* 2011 Legislative Interview Materials Now Available: Building Relationships with Your Legislators!!**

**\*\*NEW\*\* Join Us at 2011 Statehouse Day, April 6, for CIVIL DISCOURSE**

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**\*\*NEW\*\* Regional Meetings Coming Feb. 26 to a Location Near You!!**

**\*\*REMINDER\*\* With the New Year, It's Time to Update Your Membership Roster! – From LWVUS**

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**ADVOCACY & EDUCATION**

## **\*\*NEW\*\* 2011 Legislative Interview Materials Now Available —Building Relationship with Your Legislators!!**

**What:** LWVO highly encourages local Leagues to conduct face-to-face interviews with their Ohio legislators at the beginning of each new session of the General Assembly (odd-numbered years).

**Why:** There are two reasons for the interviews.

- They allow local Leagues to establish relationships with newly elected officials and solidify connections with returning legislators in an easy way.
- Second, it is essential that the League build relationships with legislators and promote our advocacy agenda—and local Leagues get first chance at establishing that relationship.

**When:** Interview by May 1, 2011. Return information to LWVO by May 15, 2011.

**What if my League can't interview our assigned legislator(s)?** In that case, **it is important you let LWVO (and any other Leagues who share the legislator) know by February 28, 2011.** If another League does not volunteer to fill in, LWVO will interview key legislators that have not been interviewed.

**Where is the information Leagues need?** The Legislative Interview Packet is on the LWVO website in the Member Login section under [2011 legislative interview materials](#). The packet includes local League assignments, suggestions and the interview questions and reporting form.

## **\*\*NEW\*\* Join Us at 2011 Statehouse Day, April 6<sup>th</sup>, for CIVIL DISCOURSE**

Join us in Columbus – and bring a friend! – **April 6, 2011**, as the League of Women Voters of Ohio presents 2011 Statehouse Day. The theme of this year's event is Civil Discourse – and will be the subject discussed by our keynote speaker, Fred Andrie, a retired National Public Radio host from the Columbus area.

Statehouse Day participants may attend workshops on critical state policy issues, i.e., healthcare, education, regionalism, local advocacy tools and juvenile justice. Legislators will also be invited to attend the workshops and provide their input on where the state is heading as it relates to these and other issues.

We look forward to having you join us for this invigorating, thought-provoking, and particularly League activity! Look for registration information in the VOTER and the next League Leaders Update.

## **\*\*NEW\*\* LWV-Ohio Joins the Advocates for Ohio's Future Coalition**

At its January 2011 board meeting, the LWV-Ohio Board of Directors approved becoming a member of Advocates for Ohio's Future under the LWVUS positions on Meeting Basic Human Needs and Health Care. The coalition's goal is to protect Ohio's most vulnerable citizens by restoring or adequately funding vital services through a responsible budget that seeks - as its primary priority - to meet basic human needs and provide sufficient funds to invest in Ohio's future.

The dozens of coalition partners include Children's Defense Fund of Ohio, Center for Families and Children, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio, Mental Health Advocacy Coalition, Ohio AARP, Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, and many more health, human services and education organizations! For more information, go to: <http://www.advocatesforohio.org/> .

**\*\*REMINDER\*\* LWVO 2011 Program Planning Materials Available**

Program planning is key for a successful Convention. The grassroots nature of the LWVO program planning process is one of the best features of the League. It is the chance for every member to participate in the process of determining our priorities. We encourage local Leagues to provide members with the opportunity to share their opinions and make their voices heard by holding Program Planning meetings and returning your reports to the State LWVO office by February 23, 2011.

With the completion of the consensus process for the updated State Finance and Taxation positions, all the materials needed for local Leagues' program-planning meetings are available in the Member Login section in the 2011 Program Planning folder at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/2011-Program-Planning-Material.cfm> .

These include the 1) LWVO Program Planning 2011 packet, 2) the updated State Finance and Taxation positions and 3) the *Agenda for Action 2009-2011*. Please note: the updated positions do *not* appear in copies of *Agenda for Action 2009-2011*.

**\*\*REMINDER\*\* Consensus Reached on Updating State Finance and Taxation Positions**

Sincere thanks to the 16 local Leagues that participated in LWVO's State Finance and Taxation Study consensus process – and again, to the members of the Study Committee! The LWVO board reviewed the Leagues' consensus reports at its Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and determined where consensus for the proposed options was found. The board report with the approved updated position is available in the Member Login section in the Taxation and Finance folder at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/Taxation-and-Finance.cfm>.

**\*\*NEW\*\* LWVUS Action Alert: Tell Congress Not to Go Backwards on Health Care Reform**

In the next few days, the House is scheduled to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act, the comprehensive health care reform law passed by the last Congress and signed into law by President Obama. The Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in health care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a tragic step in the wrong direction. Please see the complete LWVUS Action Alert at [http://participate.lwv.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=3035](http://participate.lwv.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=3035) and tell your representative to oppose repeal of the affordable care act.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**\*\*NEW\*\* Mark Your Calendars for the LWVO/EF Convention – May 13-15, 2011:  
*Sustaining Democracy Through Sustainable Communities***

Please join cohosting Leagues LWV-Bowling Green, LWV-Perrysburg Area, LWV-Tiffin Area and LWV- Toledo/Lucas County, LWV-Ohio—as well as League members from all over the state—at Maumee Bay State Park for the 59<sup>th</sup> state League of Women Voters Convention.

Mark your calendar for May 13-15. The 1<sup>st</sup> Call to Convention will be sent this week to local League presidents, and more information, including registration and hotel information, will also be available in the winter VOTER and in the next League Leaders Update.

**\*\*NEW\*\* Regional Meetings Coming Feb. 26 to a Location Near You!!**

2011 Regional Meetings are scheduled for **Saturday, February 26, from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** at a location near you! Local League presidents will soon receive an email, as well as hard copy, with details about the location of their area's meeting and its topic. Also look for more information in an upcoming Spotlight e-newsletter and upcoming League Leader Updates. All League members are invited to attend their region's meeting!!

**\*\*Reminder\*\* With the New Year, It's Time to Update Your Membership Roster! – From LWVUS**

It's that time of year again: please update your membership roster with LWVUS for an accurate member count! The member count (determined by your updates to the LWVUS membership database) will “freeze” on January 31, 2011. This number will determine the amount your League must pay in PMP for FY2011-12. To update your member count, you must update your roster, including the expiration date and status (“inactive” or “active”) in each member record. If you have questions or would like a database tutorial, please contact Betty Taira at LWVUS, 202-263-1345 or by email at [btaira@lww.org](mailto:btaira@lww.org).

## ADMINISTRATION

**\*\*NEW\*\* Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds Is Fast Approaching**

We are at a mid-point in our fiscal year and following up on earlier notes we wanted to remind local Leagues with education funds that the LWV-Ohio Education Fund will discontinue administration of local League education funds (LLEFs) at the end of this fiscal year—June 30, 2011—rather than start charging fees of participating Leagues.

**To continue to ensure the LLEFs' ability to easily maintain its education funds, we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition of fund oversight to a program that will continue to provide your League with effective, timely and no-charge administration of your League's education fund.**

To that end, the board investigated a number of options for transferring administration of your League's education fund to another entity and has shared those options with the presidents and treasurers of the Local Leagues that have their LLEF with the State Education Fund.

The option we recommend is that those LLEFs move their funds to a similar program run by the national League (LWVEF). The LWVEF is the administrator of nearly half the local Leagues' education funds in the country. Their system is provided at no cost and is efficient!

- The LWVUS website has the form and procedure to be used to transfer your League's account.
- LWV-Ohio EF could do it for you, but this requires your League's written consent.

Leagues also have the option to establish their own education fund, as some local Leagues have done. However, it is then the responsibility of your local League to comply with all IRS and state filing requirements.

**The LLEFs currently administered by the state Education Fund, may transfer its fund from LWV-Ohio Education Fund any time before the deadline of June 30, 2011.**

**Please know that we are committed to providing assistance to your League to make this transfer successful.**

For further information about transferring your League's education fund by June 30, 2011, please contact Joanna Helon at the LWV OEF office: at [leg@lwvohio.org](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org) or toll free at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO (1-877-598-6446).

**\*\*REMINDER\*\* Introducing Joanna Z. Helon, LWVO / EF Interim Executive Director**

We are pleased to announce Joanna Z. Helon of Columbus is the new interim Executive Director of LWVO/EF, effective January 4, 2011. Ms. Helon has more than ten years experience in non-profit management, with a focus on government relations, communications, fundraising and special events. Previously serving as interim executive director of The Women's Fund of Central Ohio, she led the Fund's work to grow women's philanthropy and invest in programs that promise social changes for women and girls. Joanna also brings years of experience working with volunteers and volunteer organizations and will help us chart our future course and conduct the search for a permanent executive director. She can be reached at the office (toll free) at 1-877-LWV-OHIO or [leg@lwvohio.org](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org). Please join us in welcoming Joanna!!

**\*\*REMINDER\*\* LWVO Board and Nominating Committee Updates**

It was with great regret that the LWVO Board recently accepted the resignations of Melissa Currence (LWV-Cincinnati Area) from the LWVO Board and Nominating Committee, and Cyndy Wright (LWV-Clermont County) from the LWVO Nominating Committee. The board elected Gail Pytel (LWVO board member, LWV-Kent) and Vivienne Himmell (LWV-Greater Dayton Area) to the 2011 Nominating Committee in their stead. Thank you, all, for your service!

**Mark Your Calendars: Dates to Remember**

***Regional Meetings for Local Leagues***

***February 26, 2011***

***State Board Meetings***

***January 7-8, 2011***

***March 4-5, 2011***

***May 12, 2011***

**LWVO Convention 2011-Maumee Bay State Park**

**May 13-15, 2011**

**State House Day**

**April 6, 2011**

**LWVO Lobby Lunches**

**All are welcome!**

Columbus Metropolitan Library  
96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each  
month, 11:30 am – 1 p.m.**

Call 877-598-6446 for more  
information.

**If you have local League leaders or other League members who would like to receive the  
Leaders' Update, please send their email information to [leg@lwvohio.org](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org).**

**League of Women Voters of Ohio  
League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund  
17 South High Street, Suite 650  
Columbus, Ohio 43230  
Toll free: 1 – 877 – LWV- OHIO**

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.  
Working to increase understanding of major public policy issues.  
Influencing public policy through education and advocacy.