



March 2015

Ohio League Leader Updates

Contents

1. Join us March 31 at Statehouse Day
2. State Convention is May 15-17 in Beautiful Cincinnati
3. MLD Tip: ASKING is THE most effective recruitment tool
4. April All-Member Conference Call
5. Annual Campaign - last chance!
6. LWV Metro Columbus Crowd-funds Documentary
7. LWVO Board Update

1. Join us March 31 at Statehouse Day

LWVO Statehouse Day is coming soon, and we have an exciting day planned full of fascinating speakers. Registration closes on Friday, March 27 and a late fee will be charged to any walk-in guests who do not pre-register. [Click here for the event schedule and registration.](#)

2. State Convention is May 15-17 in Beautiful Cincinnati

If you haven't visited the Queen City in a while, you are in for a treat. The LWVCA Convention Committee has assembled [a variety of fun things to do](#) on your trip to Cincinnati for convention.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for convention. April 15 is the deadline for the discounted early bird registration price. Convention goers must make their own hotel reservations - [click here](#) - and the deadline for our special room rate is also April 15.

The final call to convention packet will be sent to local League presidents soon and posted on the state League website (www.lwvohio.org).

3. MLD Tip: ASKING is THE most effective recruitment tool!

It sounds simplistic, but we need to ASK people to join to bring in new members.

Every League member should act as a membership ambassador for the League - and while making The ASK may be difficult at first, it becomes easier with practice. More importantly, Leagues also report that **IT WORKS!**

- **Reach out:** Ask your neighbor, your friends, members of other clubs or organizations to which you belong to come with you and join the League.
- **Be prepared:** Always carry a membership brochure or flyer to give to the next person you meet who is interested in the League.
- **At all League events / meetings:** Use a sign-in sheet to collect the

8.
LWV Online Store Closing
April 30 - Inventory
Available at Little to No
Cost (REMINDER)

names and contact information of participants. Follow up with non-members a few days later either with a phone call, e-mail, or letter and ASK them to join.

- **From the podium:** Deliver a membership message from the podium at all League events, debates, and forums - and wherever a League member makes a presentation.
- **In publications:** Place a membership ad in all of your League publications including study reports, Voters Guides, and newsletters. A membership ad can be placed in your Education Fund publications if purchased with your League's general funds.
- **On the website:** Make sure your League website includes a membership message and an ASK to join - with League contact information.
- **With the media:** Insert a membership message into League interviews, letters to the editor, press releases and media advisories.

4. April All-Member Conference Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, April 7, 12-1 pm.**

Topic: State Program Planning and Adoption. At state convention in May, delegates will be discussing and voting upon the State League's program for the next two years - including current positions on various issues, whether to update any of our current positions through additional study, or whether to adopt a study of any new issues.

This call will provide League members with an overview of the process for program debate, how to move a non-recommended study for consideration, how a League member may campaign to urge delegates to support a study or update, and the in's and out's of parliamentary procedure. Our LWVO Convention Parliamentarian Sue Phillips will join us to answer your questions about proper procedure, and LWVO Advocacy Chair Ann Henkener will take questions related to why certain program proposals were recommended or non-recommended by the state board.

Members new to League program procedure are encouraged to join the call to learn what to expect at Convention and how to participate.

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

Please RSVP at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org to help us plan for the numbers of attendees. The recording of the all-member call will be available online here following the call until the end of the month. Please note that the podcast is intended for LWV members and guests (just like the calls) and, therefore, should not be shared with anyone outside the League family. Thank you.

5. Annual Campaign 2015 - last chance!

In case you thought you missed your chance, it's not too late to donate to our Annual Campaign this year! The State League depends heavily on the support of individual donors to continue our critical work. We have not raised membership dues in 7 years, and the only way we can continue to keep dues affordable is with the generous support of our donors large and small throughout the year. We especially need your help this year on our advocacy, or 'O', side to continue our critical work on redistricting. Your contributions to LWVO will help us pass State Issue #1 on the fall ballot to reform state legislative districting. We have come so far, now we need a concerted effort in the home stretch. And remember, we will also be advocating for a fix on Congressional redistricting. Also, as the new two-year session of the Ohio Legislature is underway, LWVO has been hard at work lobbying on LWVO positions including free, fair and accessible elections. These are a sampling of the many exciting and important projects that are going on at the state level. We greatly appreciate your support in whatever amount you are able to give. [Click here to donate today!](#)

6. LWV Metro Columbus Crowd-funds Documentary

LWV Metro Columbus is making a documentary that tells the stories of some of the League's most illustrious volunteers and their impact on Central Ohio and beyond. The goal is to debut it in August 2015, as the centerpiece of the 95th anniversary celebration. **In order to reach beyond their regular fundraising base, they have started a crowd-funding campaign with Power2Give.org (think Kickstarter for nonprofits) that is running throughout Women's History Month.** The project began with a party for some members who have been active since the 1970s, which was recorded as background research for the project. The party video also provided material for a video trailer for the fundraising campaign and clips that have been posted on the LWVMC YouTube Channel. See the campaign [here](#). See the YouTube Channel [here](#).

7. LWVO Board Update

At the March LWVO Board meeting, Board members spent considerable time addressing the finances of the Ohio League. This included a report from the Investment Committee. Each year the League's financial statements are audited by an outside auditor. The auditor attended the meeting and gave a very favorable report on the 2013-2014 financials, reflecting the fact that our staff keeps careful records and the books are in good order. Finally, the Board approved the budget for 2015-2017, which will be submitted to the delegates at Convention. At Convention, delegates will be asked to approve a bylaws change moving to a two year budget. A two year budget cycle allows for smoother more effective planning and this is currently the practice of LWVUS. The Board continued its emphasis of seeking to increase contributions to the League from members and nonmembers as well as foundations and is not proposing to increase PMP.

8. LWV Online Store Closing April 30 - Inventory Available at Little to No Cost (REMINDER)

LWVUS will be closing its online store at the end of April due to low demand for products and publications, and the high cost of maintaining this business. At the same time, we are exploring alternative avenues that will allow LWVUS to offer core organizational publications through more efficient and cost effective means. Stay tuned for future details. Between now and store's closing, we are offering Leagues and members one last opportunity to get branded LWV items and publications at rock bottom prices. Some items are even FREE (shipping and handling charges apply)! Check out what is still available in [the online store](#) and act fast. Items available right now include LWV publications "Observing Your Government In Action," "Membership Brochure," "Vote" brochure (Spanish & English), and "5 Things you need to know on Election Day cards (Spanish only)." In addition, branded items such as note cards, tumblers, tattoos and pins are also available. The last day to place orders is April 15th (easy to remember since it's Tax Day)! Inquiries should be directed to publications@lww.org.

-