



March 2016

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Statehouse Day Keynote Speaker & Schedule

Join us for LWV Ohio Statehouse Day on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. [Click here](#) to register today!

When: Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm -- with registration beginning at 8:30 am.

Where: Sheraton on Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

Our theme this year is "What the Candidates Should Be Talking About (But Aren't)." We will be exploring some of the big issues affecting Ohio - issues that people want solved but are left waiting for government to act - education funding, neglected infrastructure, elected judges and campaign money, and addressing the epidemic of mass shootings.

The luncheon will feature our keynote speaker, [Michael Li](#), from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU. Mr. Li is the Senior Counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where his work focuses on redistricting, voting rights, and elections.

We'll end the day with a reception for League members to network with one another and share program ideas for the year ahead.

Guests are welcome to join us for the entire day, a half day, or just for lunch. Meetings with legislators will be scheduled throughout the day upon request. Registration is the same price as last year - \$40 for members, \$45 for nonmembers, and \$25 for students. Registration closes one week before the event, and a flat fee of \$50 will apply to any walk-ins who are not registered. Online registration is now open.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! [Click here](#) to learn more. Please contact the LWVO office at 614-469-1505 if you, your local League, another organization you belong to, or your business are interested in

7. Primary Election Report & Planning for Fall Voter Service

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sponsoring this event. Due to our nonpartisan policy we cannot accept sponsorships from political parties, candidates, or campaigns.

2. MLD Tip: Building Your League's Leadership!

Your League's 2016 annual meeting may seem far, far away, but it's never too early to begin identifying and developing leadership for future League boards. Here are four valuable resources from LWVUS to help your League do just that!

Best practices for League Nominating Committees:

- [Little Green Book...Everything You Need to Know About the Job of the Nominating Committee](#)

Best League practices to grow future leaders:

- [LWVUS Best Practices / Guidance: Building Your League's Leadership Pool](#)
- Note: [Click here](#) for the MLD binder

Best practices to ensure members are developing and using leadership skills:

- [Engaging Members to Lead the League Using the Leadership Ladder Process](#)

Sample surveys for identifying members' interests to then match with League opportunities:

- [Sample Member Interest Surveys to match members with their interests](#)

3. Is Your League Looking for New Members and Leaders? Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due April 15, 2016.

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.

Following MLD training, Leagues' MLD teams receive ongoing coaching and support from their LWV Ohio coach.

TRAINING: Leagues new to the program in 2016 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training, May 20-21, in Columbus with lodging, meals and materials provided by LWVO at no cost to their League except for a registration fee of \$25 for each MLD Team member.

FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at megflack150@gmail.com or 614-235-5993.

4. The Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team Wants You! Applications due April 15.

Join the phenomenal Ohio MLD coaching team for 2016-18! Each coach acts as a mentor, cheerleader and communicator to two local Leagues - with a total monthly time commitment of eight hours per month working, primarily via conference calls. An overview of the program, the coaches' role and the application to become an MLD coach (with specific responsibilities outlined) are available on the LWV Ohio website [here](#).

TRAINING: New coaches will receive training May 20-21 in Columbus. Hotel and meal expenses will be covered by LWVO.

FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at megflack150@gmail.com or 614-235-5993.

5. Pass-Thru Grants Available - "Women's Voices: Preparing the Next Gen of Women Leaders"

Thanks to a generous grant from the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, we are launching "Women's Voices: Training the Next Gen of Women Leaders." The Women's Voices Project aims to connect current women political leaders in our communities with high school girls to serve as role models and encourage youth civic engagement.

LWVOEF has \$3,500 in pass-thru funds available to share with local Leagues electing to participate in the project. In addition to the outright grant of \$100 or \$300, all project materials will be created by and paid for by the State League. Local leagues have the option to apply for one of two funding tiers, depending on your League's participation level.

- TIER 1: High School Assembly or Youth Townhall on Women in Politics -- Five Tier 1 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$100 to Leagues that participate in the youth townhall only.
- TIER 2: All Tier I Activities, Plus Ongoing Student Engagement & Mentoring -- Ten Tier 2 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$300 to Leagues that participate in the youth townhall and hold additional student engagement and mentoring activities.

Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted, so Leagues are encouraged to apply early. Programs must be conducted during calendar year 2016, and Leagues may choose whether to

hold them during spring, summer, or fall. [Click here](#) for additional information about the project and to download the application form.

6. Donate to the LWVO 2016 Annual Campaign

LWV Ohio Co-Presidents Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick invite you to join them in donating to the 2016 LWV Ohio Annual Campaign. We are truly grateful to have League members like you among our most loyal donors. The LWVO Annual Campaign, thanks to generous member donors, is the cornerstone of LWVO's ability both to continue the work we began in 1920 and to attract funding from outside donors. External funders are eager to support an organization whose members willingly contribute to its financial health. The goal this year is \$25,000.00 and your contribution will help us do exciting and groundbreaking work.

We all know the League of Women Voters is needed as much now as it was when suffrage for women was gained a century ago. Making sure that ALL citizens can vote remains a work in progress. Your contribution is appreciated and makes a difference! All contributions received by April 1 will be listed in the Statehouse Day Program.

[Click here](#) to donate today! We greatly appreciate your support at whatever level you are able to give.

7. Primary Election Report & Planning for Fall Voter Service

[Vote411 primary election report](#) - Thank you to all the local Leagues who participated in Vote411 for preparing a voters' guide for the March 15 primary election. This year, for the first time ever, we have provided League voters' guide coverage to the entire state through Vote411 and we did amazing! Ohio was the second highest in the country in generating traffic on Vote411 site. Vote411 analytics from January through March revealed that the candidate information was viewed 33,000 times by voters in Ohio. That's 14% of the entire nationwide total, which was 223,000 during that timeframe. We should expect even heavier use on Vote411 this fall and are looking forward to participation of all local Leagues across the state. For local Leagues who did not use Vote411 during the primary but are interested in using it this fall, LWVUS will be offering additional Vote411 trainings. [Click here](#) for a replay of a Vote411 training provided by the LWVUS.

[Observing primary post-election audits at BOE](#) - County Boards of Election (BOE) will be holding post-election audits of the March 15 primary sometime in mid-April. Please check with your county BOE to find out the date of their audit.

LWVO will once again make post-election audit observer materials available for local Leagues and other voting rights allies. Unfortunately, we do not have stipends available to offer participants this year, but we have heard from several allies who would like to do them as part of volunteer

observer programs.

There are a handful of issues unique to the primary that we want to watch for during the April audits. **Primary election audit observer instructions and reporting forms will be posted on the state League website later this week.**

We will be having an audit prep call on the Ohio Fair Elections Network (OFEN) call on **Thursday April 7 at 3 pm**. The dial in will be: **(712) 432-1699 passcode 331445#**. League members are welcome to join the coalition call to coordinate with voter advocates who plan to observe audits, and we would especially appreciate it if past League audit observers would be willing to share their experiences with advocates new to the observer process.

Planning for summer and fall voter service - As President John F. Kennedy said, "a rising tide lifts all ships." So too can we raise League's visibility across the state if we all work together on a coordinated voter service plan. Join us for our April all-member call (see details below) to talk about how LWVO and local Leagues can help one another to elevate our voter service plans for this fall.

8. April All-Member Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, April 5, 12-1 pm**.

Topic: Fall Voter Service Planning

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

Join us for a lively idea exchange about League voter service plans around the state. Our discussion will include:

- What voter service materials, support, and other resources will be available to local Leagues from LWVO.
- Local Leagues are invited to share what local projects you have planned. Are there materials or event ideas that can be shared and used by other Leagues?
- How does your local League coordinate with high schools, colleges and universities, naturalization ceremonies, and partner with local organizations to expand voter registration and other voter service activities in your community?
- What voter service projects would your League like to do if you can secure funding? Let us know what your funding needs are, and LWVO will keep a look out for possible funding sources.
- LWVO & Nonprofit Votes' local affiliate Ohio Votes will once again offer live and web-based trainings on voter registration, voter ID, options for how to cast your ballot, and voting for college students.

More info to come as trainings are scheduled. We'll also make the slide presentation and materials available for local League speakers bureaus.

- Plans for observing Board of Elections post-election audits after the primary and general elections.
- Plans for fall Election Protection, training and volunteer opportunities.
- Local League access to the VAN (voter activation network), more commonly known as the "voter file" - what it is, how you can use it, trainings available.

The recording of the all-member call will be available online in the Member Area of the LWVO website 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.

9. LWVUS Convention - How Many Delegates Can You Bring to Convention 2016?

Wondering how many delegates you can bring to the LWVUS Convention? According to the LWVUS Bylaws, the number of voting delegates is determined by local league membership count reported to the national office by January 31, 2016. Each local League is entitled to at least one delegate in addition to the local League president. When local League membership reaches 51 voting members, the local League is entitled to one additional delegate. Thereafter, one additional delegate is authorized for each additional 50 members.

For example:

1-49 members = 1 delegate

50-99 members = 2 delegates

100-149 members = 3 delegates

[Click here](#) to read more on delegate representation for Convention.

10. Upcoming Partner Lobby Days

April is Advocacy Month! Many of LWVO's coalition partners are holding lobby days during the month of April. Please click the links to find out more information about each event and how to participate.

- Tuesday, April 5 - [Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence is hosting a virtual lobby day opposing HB 48, the "guns everywhere" bill.](#)
- Wednesday, April 6 - Ohio Juvenile Justice Coalition (JJC) is hosting a virtual advocacy day on school discipline and truancy. JJC will circulate a summary of these issues and a sample script you can use when calling your Representative or Senator along with sample social media advocacy actions. [Sign up](#) for JJC's email update list.

- [Tuesday, April 12 - Ohioans to Stop Executions is hosting Death Penalty Lobby Day, your chance to get involved in important life-saving advocacy by helping to demonstrate to legislators that their constituents want to make Ohio's broken legal system more fair and accurate.](#)
- [Wednesday, April 13 - Freedom of Choice Ohio will hold our annual Advocacy Day.](#)
- [Wednesday, April 20 - A group of nineteen organizations have joined together to create Women United for Change, an educational and advocacy event opportunity to learn more about legislative solutions to issues impacting women.](#)