



May 2014

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. National Commission on Voting Rights Hearing in Columbus

The National Commission on Voting Rights (NCVR) has been holding hearings across the country to learn more about elections. Later this week, the NCVR is hosting a regional hearing on the state of the vote in Ohio and Indiana. The Commission will document what keeps voters from the ballot box and election reform efforts that expand access. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara will be a guest commissioner.

When: Friday, May 30, 2014
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Where: Riffe Center, 31st Floor, Room South B & C
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[Click here](#) to learn more about this event.

2. LWVUS Convention Information

A. Ohio Meet-up at LWVUS Convention

LWV Ohio is organizing a happy hour get-together on Saturday, June 7th at 5:30pm - after plenary and before evening events - for Ohio League members to mingle, share ideas, and have fun. We are going to Sol Irlandes, a few blocks from the convention hotel, and you can check out their menu at <http://www.solirlandes.net/#/home>

Please let Carrie Davis (email cdavis@lwvohio.org or call 614-469-1505) know how many people will be attending from your League, so that we can reserve enough space.

B. LWVUS Convention is a Week Away: How to Prepare

For complete information on all aspects of planning your time at Convention, please review [YOUR GUIDE TO CONVENTION 2014](#), where you'll find the answers to many of your questions. In addition, please visit the [Convention Forum](#) (log in from [this page](#)) or listen to the most recent webinar about the Convention - [Get the most out of Convention: Power](#)

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C. LWVUS Convention Workbook Now Available

LWVUS posted the Convention Workbook, which includes program recommendations, non-recommended program items, the proposed budget, and more. [Click here](#) for the LWVUS Convention Workbook. (Please note, you will have to sign into your LWV member account to open the workbook.)

D. Convention 2014 Caucus Schedule Available

This year's state and local League-sponsored caucus descriptions and schedule are now [available online here](#) so you can start to map out your early mornings and late evenings for when you're in Dallas.

E. Transportation to & from the Convention hotel

We contacted the Omni hotel where Convention is being held and inquired about transportation options for members going to and from the airport. These are the local transport options they suggested:

Go Yellow Checker (phone 214-841-1900) - \$19 per person. Takes an hour because the Omni is the last stop on the route.

Taxi - \$55. Walk out and get in one of the waiting cabs. Go to the Omni Hotel, 555 S. Lamar, Dallas, TX 75202.

Private Town Car or SUV -
\$80 for town car flat rate (includes tax & gratuity)
\$110 for SUV flat rate (includes tax & gratuity)

3. Action Alert! Restore the Voting Rights Act

Tell Your Representative to Move Forward on Voting Rights

Four months after legislation was introduced in the U.S. House and Senate to restore the Voting Rights Act, we are still waiting for Congress to take action. The time for waiting is over. [Tell your Representative to call for a hearing on H.R. 3899, the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 \(VRAA\)](#). The VRAA is an important step forward for our democracy, where the right to vote is not about politics or the outcome of elections; it is about equality and justice.

4. New LWVUS Agriculture Position

On May 15, 2014, the LWVUS Board approved the new [Position on Federal Agriculture Policies](#). The position is based on responses from 243 state and local Leagues.

In the May 22 LWVUS Leaders Update, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara had this to say about the update:

"Over the past eight years, Leagues, assisted by member experts, have come together to do five national studies. The most recent was [updating our agriculture position](#). In this Update, we publish our [Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policies](#) which supplements the existing

agriculture position adopted in 1988. While we have experienced some bumps along the road to achieving this consensus the member experts on the study committee produced excellent materials and Leagues demonstrated amazing creativity in the process. We had widespread participation and very a clear consensus. Join me in thanking [the study committee](#) as well as the board and staff members working with them for their hard work."

5. Reminder: Judicial voter education mini- grants are available - apply today!

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.

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.

6. Annual Meeting Season

Along with spring flowers, it is also the season for League annual meetings. The state Leagues wishes to extend a hearty THANK YOU to all of the outgoing and incoming local League officers. You are what makes League strong!

Please send a copy of your new board roster to the state office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org, so that we can share announcements, news, and action alerts with you and your board.

7. 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.

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.

8. LWV Ohio is hiring!

LWVO is growing our office staff, to provide you and your League with even better customer service and to make us an even more effective advocate. We are currently accepting applications for

- * [a Development Officer](#),
- * [a Temporary Summer Office Associate](#), and
- * [Summer and Fall Voter Education and Engagement Project Interns](#).

Do you know someone with a passion for civic engagement who is looking to put their talents to work at an Ohio non-profit? Please share these job descriptions with your networks and encourage strong candidates to apply. The job descriptions are also on the LWVO website.

9. All Member Conference Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, June 3, 12-1 pm**.

Topic: Early Voting Lawsuit. Our guest speaker for the June call will be Sean Young, staff attorney with the ACLU Voting Rights Project. Sean is one of our lawyers on the lawsuit filed earlier this month challenging the cuts to early voting. LWVO, the Ohio NAACP, and Bethel AME Church are plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

Please RSVP at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org to help us plan for the numbers of attendees. Thank you.

Upcoming Topic for the July All Member Call: The Charter School Accountability Project with Doug Oplinger, Akron Beacon Journal Managing Editor.