



OHIO VOTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO WINTER 2013

Energizing Democracy: What Would Alice Do? From Janet Kershaw and Carol Gibson, 2013 LWVO Convention Co-Chairs

"Use thy gumption," admonished Alice Paul's Quaker mathematics professor Susan Cunningham while Alice was her student at Swarthmore College. Throughout her life as a fighter for voting rights and gender equality, Alice always showed gumption.

Today's Ohio would certainly tempt Alice to take action! Think of the challenges: The current practice of redistricting, corporate money in politics, suppression of voting... Whatever the issue, we think Alice would find workshops, speakers, caucuses, and kindred spirits at the LWVO Convention this year.

But Alice displayed other talents, too, like reliability. When asked about Alice, her father William Paul said, "When there is a job to be done, I bank on Alice." That trait, which her father first saw in the school-girl Alice, served her well throughout her long life (1885-1977). She didn't just march, picket and give speeches, she organized. Adopting the spirit and strategies of Alice and other suffragists, the League of Women Voters has become the organization people have learned to bank on to speak out in support of best governmental practices.

State Convention offers League members opportunities to strengthen membership, develop strategies, re-examine our internal organization, hear thought provoking speakers, exchange stories, and make new friends who share our recognition that democracy takes vigilance.

And a final note to all of you who have not visited Cleveland in a decade or two: plan some time to see new sights. To name just two: the Cleveland State Campus expansion, and in Uptown, the gorgeous new Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). We look forward to seeing you in May.

WE ARE YOUR LEAGUE! MAKE AN IMPACT!



Attend LWVO's 60th State Convention!

WHEN: May 4-5, 2013

WHERE: Cleveland at the
Downtown-Lakeside Doubletree Hotel
1111 Lakeside, Cleveland, OH 44114
www.doubletreecleveland.com

THEME: "Energizing Democracy: What Would Alice Do?" Alice Paul was a true leader in the fight for women's right to vote and later continued the struggle in the fight for civil rights and women's rights. Join us to hear about what Alice can teach us as we explore effective ways to influence public policy and provide voter service, recruit and retain members, develop leadership, and design productive communication strategies.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Friday, May 3: Early evening: Pre-Convention Meet-and-Greet

Saturday, May 4: 2013 LWVO Convention
Morning: Workshops
Luncheon: Keynote Speaker
Afternoon: Plenary I and Workshops
Dinner: Special Event
Evening: Caucuses and Workshops

Sunday, May 5: Convention Continues
Morning: Breakfast Program and Plenary II

Convention concludes by 1pm

REGISTRATION: Watch your email for additional Convention information including Convention registration, hotel reservations, Convention agenda, proposed budget and state program. This information will also be available on the state League website, www.lwvohio.org, or by contacting the LWVO office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or (614) 469-1505.

Redistricting Reform Update

From Ann Henkener, LWVO Redistricting Specialist

Legislative Action Expected this Year

Redistricting reform is on the legislature's agenda this year - not surprising after 2 years of public pressure to change the way Ohio is currently drawing its districts. Thanks again to all the League members who worked so hard on this issue and kept it on the front burner. The League is following the developments in both the General Assembly and the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission. League members have continued to meet with stakeholders to consider the best routes forward. In December the League presented testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 5 (SJR 5), a redistricting resolution that passed the Senate just prior to the General Assembly adjourning for 2012. Senate President Faber and Secretary of State Husted have both publicly stated they believe the legislature will work on redistricting reform in 2013. Speaker Batchelder has expressed a preference for redistricting reform to be handled by the Constitutional Modernization Commission. Either way, the League will continue to press for reform.

LWVO to Release New Report on "Safe Seats" Created by Gerrymandering

The call last year from the newspapers was for a bi-partisan solution. That could easily produce a two-party gerrymander which would certainly be better than the current single-party gerrymander. But for reform to be in the voters' interests, it also must provide a way of getting rid of the practice of drawing unnaturally "safe seats" - drawing districts that are so strongly Democratic or Republican that a candidate from the other party doesn't have a realistic chance of winning the seat. That deprives voters of a real choice in November because the winner of the primary is almost certain to win the general election.

The League is preparing a report on the number of "safe seats" that came out of the districts drawn in 2011. We hope to have it published in the next few weeks so it is available to League members, voters, and the General Assembly and the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission to aid in their work this year.

League of Women Voters of Ohio needs YOU to serve on the LWVO Board. Do you have what it takes? From Suzanne Barbati, Chair of LWVO Nominating Committee

Are you a people person? Do you have Computer Skills? Like to Tweet or FB? Are you interested in Finance? Are you a "Great Communicator"? Do you enjoy Public Speaking? Are you a Critical Thinker? Are you organized? Do you take great pictures? A leader? Like to travel? Want to make a difference? Give back or pay it forward? Care about your community and the State of Ohio? Think outside the box? Think inside the box? Are you a Mom or Dad, looking for meaningful work? Are you currently employed or retired, with a wish for more? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, please consider a position on the LWVO Board of Directors for the 2013-2015 term.

The 2013-2015 LWVO Board of Directors will provide leadership to, chart the course of, and share their expertise with LWVO and local Leagues over the next biennium. The board slate will be presented to Leagues in March in the Final Call to Convention -- and voted upon at the 2013 LWVO Convention in May.

Please submit your recommendation(s)—for yourself and/or other good candidates—as soon as possible via a brief letter. All nominations will remain confidential. If for yourself, please detail your interest and skill set and include a statement of understanding that serving on the LWVO Board of Directors will require attendance at typically six board meetings per year in Columbus (currently half are on Saturdays, half from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon), some travel, and the ability to attend regional meetings. The proposed slate will be presented to the membership in early March in the Final Call to Convention, so please send your recommendations to Suzanne Barbati, at 4190 Lockwood Blvd., Youngstown, OH 44511 or email at sbarbati@zoominternet.net as soon as possible.

New Membership Growth Opportunities

From Carol Patterson, LWVO Board Membership Committee Chair

We heard you!

Over the past year, the state League heard League leaders' desire to increase community impact through membership and leadership growth. The state board took local Leagues' concerns to heart and sought out ways to help build stronger local Leagues and enhance their impact.

At the January LWVO board meeting, the Membership Committee recommended that Ohio join LWVUS' Membership and Leadership Development program (MLD) with the aim of working with local Leagues to increase membership and develop strong leaders. The MLD program fits clearly with our proposed Strategic Plan and addresses these major issues. The state board voted unanimously to implement the MLD program.

During the next few months, LWVO will work to find enthusiastic and dedicated individuals who are willing to be trained as MLD Coaches to help participating local Leagues reach their unique goals, as defined and developed by that League. Could this be you? We will also be seeking local Leagues to kick off the program. Would your League like to be in on the ground floor?

MLD offers many potential benefits in addition to membership increase. It takes a collaborative approach to building a powerful and visible League presence in local communities, and offers dynamic training for League leaders. For more information, please call Carrie Davis at (614) 469-1505 or visit the Members Section – MLD – on the LWVO website, www.lwvohio.org.

From the Co-Presidents' Desk



Nancy G. Brown



Meg G. Flack

We suspect that many of you, like us, breathed a sigh of relief when the 2012 election was over. Not because the League's work was done (because it isn't)—but because it finally meant we could pick up our telephones without getting yet another recording telling us for whom to vote, for whom to contribute, etc. And as we look back on the election, we are extremely proud of the state and local Leagues' accomplishments. Together, we waged a valiant campaign to reform redistricting—and though Issue 2 did not prevail, League members across the state brought the need for reform to the forefront. It is now clearly on the political agenda, and together, League members will continue to strongly advocate for redistricting reform—reform that really improves the system.

We also take pride in all that LWVO and local Leagues accomplished to protect Ohioans' voting rights. League members across the state worked with their Boards of Elections to ensure that the election went smoothly and that Ohioans were not denied their right to vote. Together, we are assessing what went well with the election and where there is room for improvement – and the many League members across Ohio who observed post-election audits and who are now interviewing their board of elections are playing a critical role in this effort.

No doubt you have noticed that the League barely had time to catch its collective breath before undertaking significant new initiatives. In addition to the audits and Boards of Elections interviews, League members have been involved in legislative interviews, state program planning, addressing consensus on LWV Michigan's Great Lakes position, and more. League members also gave LWVO input critical to the state League's strategic plan at the Regional Meetings in February. And we look forward to members' continued participation in upcoming events this spring and urge you to read about them in this issue of the VOTER.

It is humbling that LWVO's projects are only a part of the important work of local Leagues, who engage in voter service, education and advocacy in their communities. We recognize that it is *you*—the League members across the state—who make the League powerful. We greatly appreciate *your* dedication to the League—and all *you* do to make democracy work.

Come to LWV Ohio Statehouse Day!



We hope you can join us for our annual Statehouse Day on Tuesday, March 19th. The day will be full of engaging presentations on issues critical to Ohioans such as the 2013-2015 state budget, the Governor's proposed changes to education funding, implementing the Affordable Healthcare Act in Ohio, redistricting reform proposals and more.

The luncheon will feature an enlightening keynote speaker and will be held next door to the Riffe Center at the prestigious Capital Club. We will gladly accommodate special dietary needs.

All attendees will have the option of requesting a meeting with their legislator through the LWVO office and can be teamed up for the meeting with a member of the Lobby Corps, if desired.

A detailed Statehouse Day agenda will be available soon at www.lwvohio.org. You can RSVP online at www.lwvohio.org or complete the form below and return it to the State office.

What: 2013 LWV Ohio Statehouse Day

When: Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Registration begins at 8:30 am

Program: 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street
31st floor
Columbus, OH 43215

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day 2013 Registration Form

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Local League _____

Fee: \$35 Member \$40 Non-member \$20 student

Lunch Yes No Note: This will help ensure we have an accurate count for lunches.

Special dietary needs (e.g., Vegetarian) _____

Would you like to meet with your legislator? Yes No

**Please make checks payable to LWVO and send this form with payment to:
LWV Ohio • 17 South High Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215
For information call: (614) 469-1505**



To Get More From LWV OHIO in 2013

1.

CHECK OUT THE MEMBER AREA OF www.lwvohio.org

You will find recent Ohio League Leaders' Updates and important information for local Leagues and members.

2.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The first Tuesday of every month at noon, join us for an all-member conference call to discuss an issue of importance to the League with members across the state. Topics have included redistricting, money in politics and education funding.

3.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ACTION ALERTS AND E-NEWS UPDATES!

All League members receive E-News updates to keep you connected to the work of LWV Ohio. Periodically, when legislation or policy is on the move, LWV Ohio will reach out to you and your local League to take action. We count on you to amplify the voice of LWV Ohio with your phone calls, emails and letters.

4.

SIGN UP FOR THE LEAGUE LEADER UPDATE

The League Leader Update, LWVO's monthly e-newsletter filled with updates on everything from membership to advocacy to finance/grant opportunities to voters' service to upcoming events, is now accessible to all League members. Simply email lwvinfo@lwvohio.org or call 614-469-1505 to subscribe.

5.

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK AND "FOLLOW US" ON TWITTER

LWV Ohio posts breaking news and member updates on Facebook and Twitter regularly. Get news quickly and easily share it with your friends and network.

LWVO/EF Wishes to Thank Our Generous Donors

Many thanks to our generous supporters - like you! - who supported the LWVO/EF year-end appeal. THANK YOU!

Your continued support helps ensure that League will keep fighting to *Make Democracy Work*.

Have you considered other ways to help sustain LWVO/EF in years to come?

- Give a League gift membership to an activist in your life. A gift membership makes a wonderful graduation present for students, and introduces a new generation to League.
- Make a donation to League in honor of a friend or loved one to mark special occasions such as birthdays and retirement parties.
- Include LWVO/EF in your will as a beneficiary of a will or trust. If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include LWVOEF.

The state League office will be happy to assist you in setting up one of these gifts! Give us a call today at (614) 469-1505.



LWV Ohio Monthly All-Member Calls

Get involved from the comfort of your home or office!

The state League hosts a conference call on the first Tuesday of every month. Much like tele-townhalls, the monthly call is a great way for League members across Ohio to connect, share ideas, get updates on hot topics, and plan action.

Here's how to join the discussion:

Calls occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:00 PM (noon) until 1:00 PM
Call (toll-free): 866-740-1260
Enter PIN Number: 4691505#

Each month features a different topic. Previous call topics have included education funding, redistricting reform, voter protection, and campaign finance. Check the state League website – www.lwvohio.org – for next month's call topic.

★ OHIO VOTER ★

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For membership information, call (614) 469-1505, toll free 877-LWV-OHIO, email membership@lwvohio.org, or visit us online at www.lwvohio.org.

follow us on  [Twitter.com/lwvohio](https://twitter.com/lwvohio)

 Find us on [Facebook.com/lwvohio](https://facebook.com/lwvohio)

MEMBERSHIP FORM



YES, Sign me up as a Member of the League of Women Voters of Ohio!

\$60 INDIVIDUAL \$90 HOUSEHOLD

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail this form with your check to
LWV Ohio
17 South High Street, Suite 650
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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