

LWVO League Leaders Update

February 9, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NEW**** Change of Date for Statehouse Day 2011. Join us on April 7!
- **REMINDER**** Regional Meetings Feb. 26, 2011. Coming to a Location Nearby!
- **REMINDER**** LWVO Convention, May 13-15, 2011

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

- **NEW**** Letter to the Editor Template RE: Elimination of the Estate Tax
- **NEW**** Ann Henkener Appointed to LWVUS Privatization of Govt. Services Committee
- **REMINDER**** 2011 Legislative Interview Materials Available
- **REMINDER**** LWVO Program Planning Materials Available/ Please Respond By Feb. 23

ADMINISTRATION

- **REMINDER**** Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds: June 30, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

****NEW** Change of Date for Statehouse Day 2011. Join us on April 7!**

Please note that the date of Statehouse Day 2011 is now **Thursday, April 7**. (This is one day later than the original date.) The location will be the Verne Riffe Center, 31st floor, as it has been in the past.

We appreciate your help in communicating this date change to your members and we hope you will be able to join us on April 7! Our goal is to have more than 100 League members in attendance at this important and interesting event.

Registration information is also now available online at www.lwvohio.org. 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 central Ohio area whose radio program was known for inspiring conversation. Stay tuned for more details on workshop topics and not-to-miss speakers!

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience. We appreciate your partnership in making Statehouse Day on April 7 a success!

****REMINDER** Regional Meetings -- Feb. 26 at a Location Near You**

2011 Regional Meetings are scheduled at a location near you! The regional meetings will be an opportunity for an ideas-exchange with members from neighboring Leagues and all League members are invited to attend their region's meeting!

Please visit <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/About-LWV/Local-Leagues.cfm> for the meeting schedule. Please RSVP to Jean Kozzarek at jkozlww@aol.com.

****REMINDER** Mark Your Calendars for the LWVO Convention – May 13-15, 2011: *Sustaining Democracy through Sustainable Communities***

Please join co-hosting 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 59th League of Women Voters of Ohio Convention.

Mark your calendar for May 13-15. The 1st Call to Convention has been sent to local League presidents, and more information, including registration and hotel information, will also be available in the winter VOTER. Please note the correct contact information for Carol Russell is 419-931-4416. She is the contact for the hotel registration for the LWVO convention at Maumee Bay State Park.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Letter to the Editor Template RE: House Bill 3, Elimination of the Estate Tax**

Background:

At a time when Ohio is facing a projected \$8-10 billion budget shortfall, the House of Representatives is considering House Bill 3, a proposal to eliminate the estate tax in Ohio – with no proposed means of replacing the lost funds. Eighty percent of estate tax revenues return to communities of origin and support vital services. In FY 2009, that would have amounted to \$269.4 million in lost revenue to communities across Ohio, with another \$64.4 million for the state's General Revenue Fund.

LWV-Ohio Advocacy Position:

The League of Women Voters of Ohio's position on State Government Finance states that taxes should "provide adequate resources for government programs while allowing flexibility for financing future program changes." LWV-Ohio believes eliminating the estate tax without providing a means for communities to replace the lost revenue is a serious threat to communities' well being.

How you can help:

To get the message out, a template letter to the editor is attached to this League Leaders' Update for League presidents to individualize and send to their local newspapers on the issue. If there are multiple Leagues in your area, please coordinate sending the letter.

Over the next few weeks, LWV-Ohio will ask League Presidents to consider sending a letter to the editor on one or more of the following issues: Elimination of the Estate Tax, Abolition of the Death Penalty and Handling of Provisional Ballots.

****NEW** Ann Henkener Appointed to LWVUS Privatization of Government Services Study Committee**

Congratulations to Ann Henkener, LWV-Ohio Legislative Director and member of the Metropolitan Columbus League, on her appointment as a member of the LWVUS Privatization of Government Services Study Committee. She and seven other League members from across the country will work over the next few months to define the scope of the study approved by delegates to national Convention in June 2010. Following that, committee members will complete the research phase of the study, and then League members will participate in the consensus process to define a new position.

****REMINDER** 2011 Legislative Interview Materials Available: Building Relationships 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). 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.

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

If your League is not able to participate, **please let LWVO know by Feb. 28.**

****REMINDER** LWVO 2011 Program Planning Is Now!**

Program planning is key for our statewide education and advocacy efforts. The grassroots nature of the LWVO program planning process is one of the best features of the League. Local Leagues can 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.**

All the materials needed for local Leagues' program-planning meetings are available in the Member Area section in the 2011 Program Planning folder at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/2011-Program-Planning-Material.cfm> .

ADMINISTRATION

****REMINDER** Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds: June 30, 2011**

We are past the mid-point in our fiscal year and following up on earlier notes; the LWV-Ohio Education Fund will discontinue administering 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 local Leagues' ability to easily maintain their education funds, the board has investigated and shared a number of options for transferring administration of your League's education fund to another entity with the presidents and treasurers of the local Leagues. **The LLEFs currently administered by the state Education Fund, must be transferred from the LWV-Ohio Education Fund before the June 30, 2011, deadline.**

For more information about transferring your League's education fund by **June 30, 2011**, please contact Michele Martin at the LWVOEF office via email at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or call toll free at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO (1-877-598-6446).

DATES TO REMEMBER

<i>Regional Meetings for Local Leagues</i>	<i>February 26, 2011</i>
<i>State Board Meetings</i>	<i>March 4-5, 2011 and May 12, 2011</i>
<i>Statehouse Day</i>	<i>April 6, 2011</i>
<i>LWVO Convention 2011 Maumee Bay State Park</i>	<i>May 13-15, 2011</i>
<i>LWVO Lobby Lunches</i> <i>All are welcome!</i> <i>Columbus Metropolitan Library</i> <i>96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus</i>	<i>2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 11:30 am – 1 p.m.</i> <i>Call 877-598-6446 for more information.</i>

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.

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