

LWVO League Leaders Update
April 16, 2010

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Lobby Corps Is Looking for a Few Good Men and Women**

As League members we know you care about critical issues facing our communities so we are asking you to consider becoming a member of the Lobby Corps.

If you are willing to use technology to track legislative actions, prepare and submit testimony and assist in the analysis of information, we need you whether you live in Ashtabula or Scioto County. You can be a part of Lobby Corps from anywhere in the state if you have access to a computer and the internet as well as health dose of interest in critical issues. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the lobby corps, please contact Ann Henkener at ahenkener@columbus.rr.com

You are also invited to join the Lobby Corps lunch on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. This "brown bag" lunch gathering is a great chance to catch up on what is going on in the public policy world, network with other members and gain information from speakers and presenters on a variety of topics.

****Reminder** Taxation and Finance Consensus Process**

During State Convention 2007, the membership decided that we needed to update on Taxation and Finance. (Criteria, Corporate Franchise Tax, Income Tax, Property Tax, Sales Tax and Tax Mix).

The Members Only Section of the Website contains the information you need to complete the Consensus Process by **November 30, 2010**, including the Study Committee materials, consensus guidelines, consensus questions and the report form.

The consensus questions were provided to all members in latest *Ohio Voter* Newsletter. If you need any further information about this process, please feel free to contact the state office.

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** State House Day Press Release**

Press Release: Celebrating Your League's Participation in LWV-Ohio's 90th Birthday at Statehouse Day

Attached is a draft press release for local Leagues that attended Statehouse Day to send to their hometown papers. **In one paragraph (adapted from LWVUS sample materials), the local League can include the name(s) of its Statehouse Day attendees and individualize the release with information about its initiatives.**

****NEW** Phonathon Update**

Thank you to all members and Local Leagues who have already submitted their donations for Phonathon 2010. As you know our goal is \$35,000 net of expenses and we are progressing toward our goal so please keep up the good work.

Local League presidents should have recently received your list of members to contact for Phonathon 2010. We strongly urge you to make the case to your members that LWVO and LWVOEF need their support in order to continue our legacy of providing important voter services, education and advocacy programs as well as the ability to meet the needs of League Members across the state.

Remember that Local Leagues will receive a rebate of 15% of any funds collected from their local members and received in the state office by **May 1, 2010**.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Rosanne at Rosanne.thomas@gmail.com.

****NEW** From LWVUS- League Self Assessment Survey**

The streamlining committee is currently evaluating the state League self assessments in preparation for workshops, designed to meet your needs, at Convention in Atlanta in June.

The State League encourages local League boards to take advantage of this opportunity and participate and use this tool as a means to see how LLs are currently operating and as a planning tool for the future. In particular, this tool when completed by the outgoing local League board can be used to help orient the incoming board members on past accomplishments and areas where work might be needed to function to meet member and community needs.

The local League board should fill out the survey after a discussion of the questions. It can be completed on line at www.lwv.org. We hope that local Leagues will provide a copy of your completed forms to the state League office so that we can conduct a similar state level assessment.

We are hopeful that this tool can also be valuable as a means to identify and develop the most beneficial specialized assistance/trainings for local Leagues at the national and local levels.

Click [here](#) to take this short, easy survey by answering some questions. The survey will be available for responding until **Saturday, May 1, 2010**.

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** 2009 Direction to the Board Regarding Electronic Communication and PMP**

The LWVO board has considered the recommendation that significant PMP savings might accrue to local Leagues when 70% of their members receive their copies of *The Ohio Voter* and all other LWVO/EF publications solely by electronic means. We share local Leagues' eagerness to use less expensive, more efficient communication with members whenever possible. However, LWVO will realize little significant savings by subdividing our mailing list by individual League—or even if 70% of the entire membership received *The Ohio Voter* electronically. Please refer to the attachment for a full discussion: Title of attachment : Direction- PMP Discount Final

****NEW** Check out the LWVO Blog**

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has started a social media pilot for the 2010 primary election to increase visibility of LWV in the online community and to educate voters. The state League has launched a blog at lwvohio.blogspot.com and is encouraging members and others to visit and comment. The blog is also linked from the LWVO's website at lwvohio.org. In addition, the state League has launched a Facebook Fan Page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Ohio/93356156651>) and a Twitter page (<http://twitter.com/lwvohio>) to get the word out about our blog posts. Nothing attracts a crowd like a crowd so please visit and comment today!

****NEW** Staff Changes**

Office/Membership Manager Charisse Armstead has taken a new position and will be leaving the employment of LWVOEF effective April 16, 2010. Charisse came to the League in August of 2008 and has been an invaluable team member.

While she will be sorely missed, her contributions to the office administration, member service, the MRI program as a coach and her enthusiastic spirit will be missed. She has promised to stay in touch. We all wish her well in her new venture.

The LWVOEF personnel committee is in the process of revising job descriptions. As soon as that process completes we will post and fill the position. If you know of person who is interested in working for LWVOEF, please have them forward a resume and letter of interest to lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

****Reminder** Drop-in article for Local Leagues' Voters: Highlights from Your State League: Mid-January - Mid-March, 2010**

Your state League is keeping busy -- as your voice at the Statehouse, with regional League and local Town Hall meetings -- and much, much more! A ready-to-go article for your League's VOTER that gives your membership a snapshot of what your state League accomplished from mid-January through mid-March is available on the League website. You can download the March report by [clicking here](#) and selecting the March Board Actions report. This information is also attached to this email.

****Reminder ** Agenda for Action**

The State office recently sent the latest *Agenda for Action* to Local League Presidents. If you have not received your copy, please contact the state office.

LWVO President Meg G. Flack shared an important message about the *Agenda for Action* on March 24, 2010

Dear League President,

[Click Here](#) to find the *2009-2011 Agenda for Action*. As you read it, you will find it is both a history and a guide. It is the main source of information about the Program of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV-Ohio). *Agenda for Action* contains each LWV-Ohio position, its history, how the position has been used for action and the future outlook for the issue.

Please give the "Guidelines for Taking Action" a special review. With the increase in regional and multi-local League issues, there is a growing need for consultation with neighboring Leagues and consideration of each other's positions as part of our general advocacy practice. This is spelled out under "Action Requiring Consultation" on page 4.

And please keep membership recruitment in mind when taking action on an issue. For many members, the League's Program is the "jewel in the crown" of the League—and a strong membership-recruitment tool. Passion for an issue has been a motivating factor for many in joining the League and getting involved in advocacy.

If you have further questions or comments please feel free to contact Deidra Reese, LWV-Ohio Executive Director (phone: 1-877-LWV-OHIO; email: leg@lwvohio.org).

Sincerely,
Meg G. Flack
Meg G. Flack, President

Mark your calendars now--Dates to Remember

State LWVOEF Board Meeting

May 14-15, 2010

State Board Retreat

June 27-28, 2010

LWVUS Convention- Atlanta Georgia

June 11-15, 2010

**LWVO Lobby Lunches
11:30 am**

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month,

Anyone is Welcome to Attend

Columbus Metropolitan Library
96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus,

Call 877-598-6446 for more
information

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