

LWVO League Leaders Update
July 14, 2010

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Committee on Education Finance Looking For Interested Leagues**

The Committee on Educational Finance is beginning its work and is looking for leagues interested in participating in a pilot study of education financing with an emphasis on how the state and local financing work together. Pilot League members will be encouraged to attend school board meetings, meet with the district treasurer, etc., hold community meetings on school finance and help us develop questions that we can use for a full blown study to be launched next year. It's a great opportunity for member involvement and programs that reach out to the community. If you think your League might be interested in participating and is willing to form a study committee, please contact me and give the name, e-mail address, phone, and snail mail address of the person chairing the study committee for your League.

****NEW** Voter Guide Information For General Election Available**

The 2010 General Election Voter Guide Information Packet for Local Leagues is now available. You can access the report at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/2010-General%20-Election-Voting-Guide-Info.cfm> on the League Website. Included in the report are shared candidate instructions, registration deadlines, candidate questions and information on separating Voter Service From Advocacy.

There are two important items to note about the Voter Guide Packet.

- 1) The responses from candidates for the State Board of Education(BOE) will be delayed as they do not file until August 4. We expect to send the questionnaires to those candidates by mid August, however the time needed to complete and return them and incorporate their responses into the Voter Guide will take a few weeks. To expedite your preparations, we have already submitted the questions to the statewide candidates with an August 13 return date. The Voter Guide will be a priority task for the office and we hope to get the information to Local Leagues by September (with the exception of the BOE candidates). You can expect to receive the information on State Board of Education Candidates by the end of September. **DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE SPACE FOR THIS INFORMATION IF YOU PLAN TO INCLUDE IT IN YOUR VOTER GUIDE.**
- 2) The State board recognizes that the local League Voter Guides are a great tool for citizens. With that in mind, it may be a great time to ask for support to keep up the good work at the local Level. Some of our local Leagues are already putting a notice in their Voter Guides asking for support while others may not have considered it. The office will soon send you a draft template donor form that you might consider using in your fall 2010 Voter Guide. It is your choice to use it or not but we want to offer this idea to help. Look for a separate communication on the voter guide packet on Friday July 16, 2010.

****NEW** See Letter to the Editor from Meg Flack on the DISCLOSE ACT**

The DISCLOSE Act **being considered by the U.S. Congress would allow** American voters to know the identity of groups spending money to influence elections and the donors funding **election** expenditures.

LWVO President Meg Flack issued a letter to the editor to the Columbus Dispatch on July 8, 2010 urging passage of the DISCLOSE ACT. [Click here](#) to read the full letter or paste http://lwvohio.igpr.com/base.cfm?page_id=1779 into your browser.

LWVUS has more information on the For DISCLOSE that you can find by [clicking here](#) or pasting http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Campaign_Finance_Reform&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=144&ContentID=14803 into your browser.

****NEW** LWVOEF Issues Lawsuit Monitoring Report**

On July 1, 2010, the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund issued a report entitled "[Off to A Good Start.](#)" The report summarizes interviews with 22 county boards of elections by local Leagues across Ohio to monitor compliance with the terms of the [LWVO et al. vs. Brunner Lawsuit Settlement Agreement](#). The agreement ended four years of litigation begun in 2005 by the League of Women Voters of Ohio against the offices of the Secretary of State and the Governor. The lawsuit asserted that Ohio's election system was deeply flawed and had been dysfunctional for 30 years.

The LWVOEF Board would like to thank each local League that attempted and completed interviews with county boards of election. Those efforts brought the report to fruition.

[Click here](#) to read the full report or go to <http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/6-29-10%20-%20Final%20Report%20-%20Lawsuit%20Monitoring%20Project.pdf>. You can also access the [Press Release](#) on the League website.

***Reminder* Joyce Grant Includes Pass-Through Money for Local Leagues to Host Community Meetings**

LWVOEF wants to remind local Leagues that the new Joyce Foundation Grant provides funds to support Local League Town Hall/Community meetings on imPACT topics including local government accountability issues.

Local Leagues can access up to \$300 this fiscal year to host community meetings that meet the imPACT program criteria. For more information on accessing these funds, please contact the state office.

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** League Leader Update Explanation of Usefulness**

The League Leaders Update (LLU) is the most cost effective communication tool the LWVO uses with the local Leagues. The material included covers administrative, voter services and issues information. Since the content is useful to current and potential leaders, we will be sending it to all local League officers and directors for whom we have email addresses. The presidents will no longer need to forward the LLU to their board. (However, each local League may want to designate a board member to establish a distribution list for their membership and forward the LLU.) Anyone can opt out if they chose not to receive it by contacting the LWVO office.

We hope this keeps everyone "in the know" with less effort.

****NEW** Convention Edition of LLU a Great Resource of Information**

In case you missed the LWVUS Convention, the League issued a Special Convention Edition of the League Leader Update on June 29. This special edition can be found on the League website at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/League-Leader-Updates.cfm> or downloaded by [clicking here](#).

It is a great resource to bring interested League leaders and members up to speed on actions taken by convention delegates as well as impressions by attendees.

****NEW** PMP Rate and Due Dates**

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This is a reminder that the rate for PMP for the fiscal year which began on July 1, 2010 is \$25 per member by action of the 2009 LWVO Convention.

PMP should be paid quarterly. Quarterly due dates are October 1, January 1, April 1 & July 1.

Leagues paying the entire amount **by October 1 qualify for a 5 percent discount as long as it is postmarked by October 1, 2010**. According to LWVO bylaws, a local League must meet its state PMP responsibilities through the quarter immediately preceding the State Convention to be entitled to voting delegates. This means that three-quarters of your PMP must be remitted by April 1, 2011 in order for your League to send voting delegates to May 2011 State Convention.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the state office.

****Reminder** Training Opportunities**

The Membership Development and Engagement Committee (MEDC) has put together Leader training opportunities to help make your jobs easier. The MEDC is offering several training dates for your convenience and encourages leaders and those interested in learning more about the league to sign up for one of the sessions below. We strongly urge all officers and board members to sign up for one.

The training dates scheduled are:

July 24th at 10 a.m. Please [RSVP](#) no later than July 22, 2010
August 12th at 7:00 p.m. Please [RSVP](#) no later than August 10, 2010
September 7th at 7:00 p.m. Please [RSVP](#) no later than September 5, 2010
September 18th at 10:00 a.m. Please [RSVP](#) no later September 16, 2010

Please RSVP via email to the state office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org and provide your name, contact information, the date of the training you will join, and your local League. Once you sign up, a confirmation and dial-in information will be sent to you.

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** Board Members Willing To Attend Local League Meetings and Events**

As your state board continues to work to support our local Leagues we want you to know that we are willing to attend meetings and events if requested. As long as requests are made in a timely manner and schedules can accommodate, we will make every effort to attend meetings and events as requested.

If you have an open invitation to any board member or a specific board member you would like to see at your event(s), please do not hesitate to contact them. If you need board member contact information you can obtain it by calling or emailing Michele in the state office.

****NEW** Program Planning Note**

It is great to hear from so many local Leagues that you are creating your program planning calendar. The League will be forwarding you Program Planning Information in February as is our custom. Some of you have specifically asked about when we plan to hold State House Day in 2011. Please know that we are awaiting the calendar from the General Assembly so that we will plan a day that coincides when there are full Legislative Sessions Planned. We want to avoid picking a date when they will not be present.

We continue to monitor for the release of the calendar so please bear with us as we patiently await that information from the Leaders of the Ohio General Assembly. As soon as we have that information we will secure a date and location and forward it to you.

****NEW** Phonathon Update**

As we begin our new fiscal year, we want local Leagues to understand that we have NOT met our Phonathon goal so we need your continued help. Many local Leagues implemented drives, made phone calls and other requests to their members to support Phonathon 2010 and for that, **we thank you**. With the generous support thus far, we have raised nearly \$27,000 toward our

goal of \$41,000. To meet the budget passed in April, **we still need to raise over \$14,000** in additional revenue for this fundraising drive.

Recently we mailed a post card solicitation to members who have yet to contribute to the Phonathon 2010 drive. Several of you have responded to this request but our work is not done. Please do all you can to reinforce the message that support for Phonathon helps us to maintain our role as a source for voter service and reliable, nonpartisan information.

It is not too late to send in your donation! For your convenience we have included the donation form below.

****Please enclose a copy of this form with your donation and mail to****					
League of Women Voters of Ohio - 17 South High Street, Suite 650 m- Columbus, Ohio 43215 1-877-LWV-OHIO (toll free)					
YES! I want to celebrate LWVO's 90TH and support the work of the League. Enclosed is my contribution.					
£ \$ 450	£ \$ 360	£ \$ 270	£ \$ 180	£ \$ 90	£ \$ _____
• By check: _____ Payable to LWV-Ohio* or _____ Payable to LWV-Ohio Education Fund.**					
Name (please print) _____					
By credit card: Make a secure credit-card donation online at www.lwvohio.org					
<i>* Contributions to the League of Women Voters of Ohio, a 501 (c) 4 organization, are not tax-deductible.</i>					
<i>** Contributions to LWVO Education Fund, a 501 (c) 3 organization, are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.</i>					

You can complete the donation form above or go to our website to make a secure online donation through PayPal. Just click on [the League Donate Page](#) on our website. Then click on the button for either LWVO or LWVOEF from that page to make your donation.

****NEW** LLEF Treasurers Asked to Verify Third Quarter Statements ASAP**

Local League Education Fund Statements for the end of the third quarter were sent to local Treasurers on file for the LLEFs held by LLWVOEF. Thank you to those treasurers who verified and/or corrected balances by the requested deadline. We ask that local presidents encourage their LLEF treasurers to notify the office ASAP if any changes need to be made on the third quarter statements. We need the third quarter verified so that we can proceed to prepare the fourth quarter statements for the period that ended June 30. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the state office.

****Reminder** WELCOME MICHELE MARTIN TO THE LEAGUE STAFF**

Please extend your welcome to Michele Martin, who was recently hired as the Membership/Office Manager for the League. Michele, who has worked as a temporary in our office since April, brings more than 20 years of office management experience to her new role. If you have questions about membership issues, LWVO operations and more Michele is a great resource.

We are delighted to have her as part of the team and look forward to her becoming better acquainted with League members across the state. Michele can be reached at 614-469-1505 or lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

If you have not had a chance to welcome her to the League, please take a moment to do so.

Mark your calendars now--Dates to Remember

State Board Meeting	September 10-11, 2010
State Board Meeting	November 12-13, 2010
LWVO Convention 2011-Maumee Bay State Park	May 13-15, 2011
LWVO Lobby Lunches	2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 11:30 am

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