

League of Women Voters of Wayne County

September Newsletter

President's Letter

Many thanks to Kathy Helmuth, and the members of her Candidates Night (CN) committee. Remember to mark your calendars - CN is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at 7:00 PM at the Wooster Library. Cindy Biggs will be the moderator.

The League will have several partners: AAUW will provide refreshments and The Chamber of Commerce volunteered to advertise CN in its monthly newsletter. This will be a City Candidates Night with candidates for Wooster Mayor and council, as well as Wooster City Schools board races.

Another item to mark on your calendar is a membership meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13 at 5:30 PM at Broken Rocks Cafe in downtown Wooster (123 E. Liberty Street). Speaking at our program are Meg Flack, Pat Simmons and Marlene Muse from League Ohio. The topic will be a light-hearted and informative look at the Membership Leadership Development (MLD) project in Ohio. The program lasts up to an hour and will be followed by social time and dinner. Please RSVP.

Greg Lubelski,, President 2014-2016
(330-464-6959)

If anyone needs a ride to Candidates' Night on Oct. 1, or the membership meeting on Oct. 13 at Broken Rocks, give a Board Member a call.

(Janice – 330-262-0788)

LWVO 2015

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Programs- Undue Influence of Big Money in Politics- speaker Dan Krassner, Political Director for Represent US. This organization is nonpartisan anti-corruption which uses public education, policy proposals, and grassroots organizing to pass Anti- Corruption Acts at local, state and federal level.
 - This organization was part of a coalition that successfully got 10 laws passed in Florida increasing government transparency and accountability for the purpose of stopping the influence of money in politics.
- Beyond Civility-Speakers State Rep. Denise Driehaus, Bea Larsen and Robert Rack.
 - This program focused on developing skills where citizens and civic leaders meet to explore the barriers to effective dialogue.
- Marcia Johnson-Blanco Co-director of the Lawyers' Committee's Voting Rights Project. She is a leader in voter protection promoting election reform, ensuring minority participation in the redistricting process and ensuring that those with felony convictions regain their voting rights.
- Great Ideas for strategies to grow your league- representatives from various leagues in Ohio discussed their activities that grew their league membership.
 - Quarterly social events
 - Documentary about the Leagues history
 - Partnerships with other organizations
 - Great speakers and programs
- Vote 411-League representatives from Clermont and Kent are using the 411 software to produce on line and paper voter guides. Very easy software and is economical for the local League to use.
- Dinner Banquet Speaker-Scott Greytak, Policy Counsel and Research Analyst for Justice at Stake. His presentation addressed fundraising by candidates for judge and whether money in judicial elections threatens the impartiality of our courts.
- Effective Advocacy-Discussion about getting the left and the right members of both parties to discuss and finding common solutions for legislation.
- Protecting Fair and Impartial Courts-Discussion on money and judges. There will be a web site

LWVO 2015 Business Section

- By-Laws- The members voted up approve the By-Law committee recommendations. The by-laws are not in line with the National League by-laws and all local leagues are required to update their by-laws to reflect both National and State League by-laws.
- Budget- The members voted to approve a bi-annual budget. The state budget for 2016 reflects a 49k deficit and in 2017 and 18, 791 deficit that will be taken from the reserves of 370K. There was discussion on replacing the

reserves and the League Ohio will be launching a program called Inspire-Join the Conversation. This program is a 5 year sustainability campaign to raise 2M. Program launch to be announced at a later time.

- Positions-The delegates voted to approve a study about Primary elections stated by the League of Greater Cleveland with other local leagues. The study will be completed in 1-2 years.
- Delegates approved the slate of officers and board members. Co-Presidents are: Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick both from Oberlin. First Vice President-Andrea Cobb. Second Vice President Marleen Muse from Cincinnati. Treasurer-Janet Kershaw from Greater Cleveland. Secretary-Tamara-Hardgrove-Shomo, Tallmadge.
- Board of Directors-League of Women Voters web-site.

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LWVUS Studies

Local leagues have been asked to participate in two new studies by LWVUS: “Constitutional Amendment” and “Money in Politics.” These studies are due by December. Because of that deadline, the Board is organizing a small group to conduct the study and then report to the Board.

Please watch your email for a questionnaire that will 1) ask you to consider which topic should be studied, and 2) ask whether you are interested in participating.

Descriptions and outlines of both studies may be found on the LWVUS “League Management Site.”

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Candidates’ Night October 1, 2015

**Wayne County Public Library
7:00 pm**

Contested races include mayor, school board and city council.

Calendar

Oct. 1 Thursday – Candidates' Night @ Wayne County Public Library,
7:00 p.m.

Oct. 13 Tuesday – Membership Meeting @ Broken Rocks Café 5:30 p.m.
Please RSVP (330-464-6959)

League of Women Voters of Wayne Country
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Wooster, Ohio 44691