

## Workshops & Caucuses

### How to get the Most Out of Convention

**Presenters: Jean Koznarek & Ardith Keck, LWVO**

If this is your first time at a LWVO Convention there are tips that will make it a more enjoyable and informative experience. Ardith Keck and Jean Koznarek will share some tips from their experiences at many state and national League conventions. Come hear some interesting little things that can make the weekend more rewarding. Long time Conventioneers are welcome to brush up on the procedures and events. We hope you will join the workshop or attend the Parliamentary Briefing.

### When “Any Warm Body” Won’t Do: Nurturing League Leadership

**Presenters: Janice B. Patterson, LWV Cuyahoga Area & Chris Driver, LWV Hudson**

In a guided discussion, participants will discover techniques that boost members' confidence in leadership roles and foster successful nominating committee results.

**Presenter: Janice B. Patterson, LWV Cuyahoga Area**



Janice B. Patterson is a past president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and has served both as a local League president and county inter-league organization president. She was elected to the LWVUS Nominating Committee in 2006-2008 and has served on numerous other nominating committees over time. Now retired, her professional career included serving as Assistant Dean for Administration at the Maxine

Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University and as Training Manager and Business Operations Manager for Lake Erie Girl Scout Council, Cleveland. She is a graduate of Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, and The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

### Q & A Budget

**Presenter: Nena Hankins, LWV Kent**

The workshop is an opportunity for members to ask questions of the budget committee regarding the Proposed LWVO Budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

### Do we REALLY Need More Members?

**Presenter: Cheryl Graeve, Senior Director of Membership and Field Support  
League of Women Voters of the United States**

Because the League mission is built around engaging MORE people in our democracy and our democracy certainly needs the League presence now more than ever - most of us would readily say YES! If you are one of those members that would answer yes – you are encouraged to attend this workshop. The session will offer an interactive experience designed to help Leagues with tools and practices to increase local membership, inform and engage the public in our work, and expand our impact within our communities.

**Presenter: Cheryl Graeve, Senior Director of Membership and Field Support  
League of Women Voters of the United States**

Cheryl Graeve leads a team at the League of Women Voters of the United States, working to increase membership in the League nationwide and develop programs to ensure that new leaders are recruited and League expertise at the community level is passed forward to new



generations of leaders. As with many people attracted to the League, she works on democracy issues, including debates, community engagement and forums, and deliberative-democracy/dialogue areas at the national level, including work around civility, decreasing the partisan divide, and the role of the media in an informed democracy. She started with the League in January of 1998 to direct a pilot project, "Voters Online" – one of the early online sources for election information and candidate debates using the internet. She is proudly a local League member and the daughter of a League member!

### **The Accountability Project: Bringing ImPACT Home to a Local Issue**

The imPACT Advisory Committee is excited to introduce you to "The Accountability Project", an opportunity for local Leagues to educate and advocate on a local community issue with a focus on government accountability and transparency.

LWVOEF believes that enhancing the capacity of local Leagues to advocate on community issues will have long-lasting, positive effects both at the local and state level. By examining a local or regional issue through the lens of government accountability and transparency, local Leagues can play a vital role in bringing communities together and creating dialogues to find grassroots solutions. With this in mind, the League is embarking on a new approach to educate and mobilize individuals on the issue: The Accountability Project.

Join us to learn more about the goals of The Accountability Project and how your League can get involved. Hear testimonials from other Leagues about the benefits of participating and the support that LWVOEF will provide to your League. This project will build on the successes of local Leagues' community forums/town hall meetings, continue to promote civic engagement and active participation in government, and bring the imPACT project home to your community!

### **Human Trafficking Study Proposal**

**Presenter: Karen Rainey, LWV Delaware County**

A state study is proposed that would allow the state League to advocate for the victims of human trafficking, who frequently are minors and who are often treated as the criminals. Former Attorney General Cordray's Trafficking in Persons Study Commission has several reports and recommendations available that can form the basis for the study, which would likely shorten the time frame necessary for completion and allow the League to be able to join the fight against this problem. The study commission's reports are available on the attorney general's Web site, [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov).

Although one of the League's principles is that the League believes in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States, that principle alone, without a supporting study and consensus, is not enough for the League to act on the human trafficking issue, which has become a major human rights problem in Ohio.

**Presenter: Karen Rainey, LWV Delaware County**

Karen Rainey is president of LWV Delaware County and a member of the LWV Ohio lobby corps, advocating on housing issues. She served as the LWV Ohio legislative director for six years. She has been a League member for 44 years, with experience on League boards in five jurisdictions.

Karen has a BA from Thiel College, Greenville, PA, and an MPA in Urban Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. Her working life was spent in city, county and state government, including stints in urban planning and community development, administration of job training programs, and coordination of state-local government relations.

Karen is also following the human trafficking issue for AAUW Ohio.

### **Ohio's New Gold Rush: Is natural gas drilling the answer to Ohio's budget woes?**

**Presenter: Ellen Mee**

This workshop will provide an overview of deep-shale hydraulic fracturing processes and its potential impact on Ohio's natural resources, environment and public health. The workshop will include a discussion of pending proposals to open all state lands, including state parks and nature preserves, to industrial development for oil and gas production.

**Presenter: Ellen Mee**



Ellen Mee is the Director of Environmental Health Policy and of the Environmental Health Research and Advocacy Program. Ellen also serves as the principal investigator for the Ohio Environmental Council's work with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Midwest Consortium. In this function, she works with communities around Ohio to promote awareness among citizens and policy makers of environmental and public health threats. Before joining the Ohio Environmental Council, Ms. Mee taught courses in Children's and Elder Law at The University of Florida College of Law, and served as health policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington D.C. and served

as a volunteer health policy lobbyist for the Ohio League of Women Voters. Ellen holds a J.D. from The University of Florida College of Law and a B.A. in Communications from the University of Washington.

### **Making a Difference for Children in our Communities**

**Facilitator: Nancy Brown, LWVO Board member**

Join Ohio's premiere child advocacy experts for an interactive session about how we can make a positive difference for the children in our lives and in our communities. Sponsored by the Ohio Children's Foundation, this informative session will both motivate and provide us with the tools needed to identify ways we, as League members, can advocate for children as our experts connect the data with our own experiences as parents, caregivers and community members.

This session was developed in partnership with the Ohio Children's Foundation, whose mission is to enhance the lives of children by providing grants to support services for at-risk children and families, by helping prepare children for kindergarten, and by advocating for public policy that will positively affect children's lives.

**Presenter: Nancy Brown, Co-President**

Nancy was the Advocacy Chair of the League of Women Voters Ohio from 2009 -2011. Her League of Women Voters experience includes serving as President of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus from 2003 to 2005. Nancy received a B.A and M.A. from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from The Ohio State University. Her professional career included almost 30 years with Borden, Inc., including stints as General Counsel of Borden Foods Corporation and Borden Chemical, Inc. She enjoys traveling, hiking, reading and, most of all, her three children and twelve grandchildren.

**A Conversation with Local Leagues: LWVO  
2050 - What Should the State League  
Do...Be...Become?**

**Facilitators: Meg Flack and Nancy Brown, LWVO**

The state League must be dynamic, yet nimble, to meet today's challenges -- and we invite you to help us think about what LWV Ohio's role should be in the 21st century. In this informal, interactive workshop, League members will have the opportunity to share their perspective on the purpose and function of the state League. For example... How do League members view the state League? How can the state League strengthen its relationship with members / local Leagues? What services do members / local Leagues value most? How can the state League continue to be relevant in a world that has changed dramatically since 1920? And – what next? Help us brainstorm answers to these—and more—questions as we collectively position our state League for 90 more years of success!

**“Streamline the League??? Everyone else is  
too busy!!! I’ll Just Do This by Myself!”**

**Presenter: Cheryl Graeve, Senior Director of  
Membership and Field Support  
League of Women Voters of the United States**

As people become increasingly busy – we do need to STREAMLINE the time and way we run the League – but we should not accommodate that trend by the practice of “just doing it all myself”. So, how can we simplify our work while retaining the best of League practices AND expand the opportunity for more people and new people to participate and lead within the League? Come to this workshop to find out more about how your League can streamline! (Take away some tools to assist you too)!

**Education Finance Workshop**

**Presenter: Barbara Brothers, LWV Greater  
Youngstown, Chair of Education Finance  
Committee**

We will review the LWV Ohio positions on Education Finance and the experience of our education specialist, Joan Platz, in using them to advocate on education matters on behalf of the League. In order to assist local leagues in actively supporting education accountability at the local level, members of the pilot study will share information on activating observer corps, understanding property taxes, what are the sources of income for local districts and what are some of the problems facing local school districts that those leagues involved in the pilot study have discovered.

**Presenter: Barbara Brothers, LWV Greater  
Youngstown, Chair of Education Finance  
Committee**



Barbara Brothers taught in the English department of Youngstown State University beginning in 1960 until her retirement in 2001 and also served in various administrative capacities. In addition to numerous publications, her professional service includes: President of the Ohio College English Association and of the National CEA; Co-editor of CEA Publications and much more. The College English Association recognized her work with Professional Achievement Awards in 1999 and 2001. She has served on such community boards as OPRS Park Vista Retirement, Citizen's League of Youngstown, AAUW Youngstown, and Youngstown Symphony Boards. She is the Voter Guide Editor and Coordinator of Voter Services for the League of Women Voters of Greater

Youngstown and has completed her service on the YWCA Capital Fund Steering Committee.

## **LWV and Social Media**

**Presenters: Melissa Currence, LWV Cincinnati and Teana Nichol, LWVO**

Did you know the fastest growing demographic on Facebook is women 55 years and older? This workshop will review social media websites that local leagues can use to build and sustain membership and promote advocacy. We will review how Leagues can use Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and blogging to get the word out about your League.

**Presenter: Melissa Currence, LWV Cincinnati**



Melissa Currence is the president of LWV of the Cincinnati Area and has been a member since 1997. She has served from 2006 – 2010 as Vice President of Voter Services where she has managed Ohio's Smartvoter.org pages. A native of Cincinnati, Melissa is the interactive media project manager for The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, where she uses social media on a daily basis. She received a B.A. from Xavier University and M.A. from Ohio State University.

**Presenter: Teana Nichol, LWVO**



Teana Nichol's alma mater is Wright State University where she received a B.S. in History. Teana was the VP of Membership for the LWV of the Greater Dayton Area (2005 – 2008) where she

increased the net membership by 10% through

targeted membership recruitment, surveys of members, improved relationships with community partners, increased visibility, membership retention programs, and annual networking events.

Currently, she is on the LWV Ohio state board for membership development where she successfully lobbied for Ohio's participation in the national LWV Membership Recruitment Initiative. Teana enjoys reading, hiking, cycling, yoga, Scrabble and Rock Band.

## **The League - Non-Partisanship and Elections in a New Era**

**Presenter: Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, LWVUS/EF Director**

A back to basics approach to support League planning and execution of forums/debates leading up to the 2012 elections including: 1. How to explain our non-partisanship regarding political parties and candidates vs. issues positions and 2. experiential exercises designed to prepare the moderator for the unexpected.

**Presenter: Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, LWVUS/EF Director**



Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti has been an active League member for thirty-seven years. Prior to election to the LWVUS/EF Boards in 2008 and 2010, she held numerous

leadership positions on three state and five local League boards in NC, NJ, and FL. She joined the LWVFL board in 2003 and was elected its president in 2005 and 2007. She served as secretary for the NJ state League from 1997-1999 and as Membership director for the NC state League from 1977 to 1980. She was president of the N. Pinellas County (FL), Morris County (NJ) ILO, Morristown Area (NJ), and Chatham Twp (NJ) Leagues.

Professionally, Ms. Wheatley-Giliotti spent 25 years in the telecommunications industry. For 15 years, she focused on European and Asian business development.

Ms. Wheatley-Giliotti has served as a community volunteer for almost sixty years in a host of capacities for local, state, national, and international political, cultural, educational, environmental and historical associations. Her current leadership positions include: Dunedin Fine Arts Center (FL), president; City of Dunedin (FL) Committee on Environmental Quality, chair.

Ms. Wheatley-Giliotti earned a B.A. degree from SUNY Buffalo where she then pursued a Doctorate in East Asian and Latin American History on a teaching fellowship.

### **Redistricting Update**

**Presenter: Ann Henkener, LWVO**

Refresh yourself on the basics of redistricting and learn about the competition planned for 2011.

### **Financial Development & Management**

**Presenter: Jean Robejsek, LWVO**

Share ideas and motivation on how to develop the resources you need to do the League job. How to share the work load so everyone can participate and everyone feels like a winner.

### **Election Monitoring Workshop**

Since the historic settlement of the *LWVO v Brunner* lawsuit in 2009 that mandates changes to address the glaring defects in Ohio's election administration, the work of local Leagues across the state has been critical to ensuring that the obligations assumed by the Secretary of State in that settlement are met. Fifteen leagues participated in the 2010 post-election audit observation pilot project, and 22 county boards of elections were interviewed by local Leagues to monitor compliance with the lawsuit following the 2009 election. These monitoring activities

provided the state League with important information to share with the Secretary of State and also enabled local Leagues to establish better relations with their boards of elections and achieve a better understanding of the intricacies of the electoral process.

As the 2011 general election and 2012 presidential election approach, LWVO is striving to build on this work and help ensure fair elections in Ohio. Your state League invites local Leagues to join us in this effort, and we will be offering a range of coordinated and complementary election monitoring activities to local Leagues interested in participating. This workshop will help you understand how your League can be involved and enable you to plan your activities and recruit members for this important work. It will also be an opportunity to let us know how we can better structure this work to facilitate your League's participation.

### **Leading & Growing the Modern League**

**Discussion leader: Cheryl Graeve**

This will be a breakfast round table discussion regarding membership and leader development led by Cheryl Graeve, LWVUS (see biography, above). All are invited to join in a dialogue regarding challenges, concerns and successes at the local League levels.

