

Please discard the LLU Received on April 28 and use this one instead.
I apologize for any inconvenience as the incomplete version was forwarded yesterday.

LWVO League Leaders Update
REVISED- April 29, 2010

Today's Topics:

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

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- **NEW** LWVO Issues Letter to the Editor on Judicial Selection**
- **Reminder** Statehouse Day Press Release for Local News and Local Voters**

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Election Day is Coming Soon**

There are just a few more days until the primary election. Many Local Leagues are working hard to keep the community informed and engaged and we appreciate your effort. Please make certain you keep the office informed of your voter service efforts and keep up the good work.

The front page of the LWVO website at www.lwvhohio.org has a link to find polling locations as well as information on the state ballot issues.

****NEW** LWVO Issues Letter to the Editor on Judicial Selection**

LWVO President Meg Flack recently submitted a Letter to the Editor (LTE) of the Columbus Dispatch regarding the appointment of Judge Eric Brown as Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court following the passing of former Chief Justice Thomas Moyer. Flack pointed out the League's support of an alternative process for selecting judges. To read the full letter click here or go the "In The News Section" of the LWVO Website at www.lwvohio.org.

****Reminder** State House Day Press Release for Local News and Local Voters**

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 or use in your local League Voter. **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.**

****SEE THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS EMAIL****

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** Historic Photos Needed for LWVUS Convention Slide Show**

LWV-Ohio is gathering historic pictures from local Leagues to show at LWVUS Convention during a one minute in the spotlight for Ohio during Roll Call. If you have any photos that you would like to submit, please forward them to the state office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org no later than May 18, 2010. Make certain to let us know the approximate date/year, the occasion and any other info you may know about the people pictured.

Depending on how many pictures we receive, we will use them all -- or at minimum, one from each participating League. So please join in the photo fun!! And if you'd like to send more pictures, we'll archive them and show them at LWVO Convention 2011.

****NEW** Local League Contact Form and Training Opportunities**

It is that time of year again when the tulips and dogwoods are blooming, birds are tending their nests and local Leagues are having their Annual Meetings. It is a very busy time and with the transition that occurs, it is important that our connection with your League is maintained. Up to date contact information enables us all to work together and support each other more easily.

You will find a Local League Board Contact Information form in the member's only section of our website. It is also attached to this League Leaders Update for your convenience. Please take a

few minutes to fill this out and return it so the LWVO office will have the most current list of your leaders and their most accurate contact information.

There are many slots on the form. Not all local Leagues have boards that are that large, but we wanted to give plenty of space for the ones who do.

The committee is also providing several training opportunities as listed below. The webinar is for all leaders and potential leaders and contains a lot of helpful information. We strongly urge all officers and board members to sign up for one.

The training dates scheduled are:

July 13th at 7:00 p.m.
July 24th at 10:00 a.m.
August 12th at 7:00 p.m.
August 25th at 7:00 p.m.
September 7th at 7:00 p.m.
September 18th at 10:00 a.m.

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.

We appreciate all of the hard work you and your local League does for our communities.

Contact me with any questions,

Jean Koznarek
LWVO Membership Engagement/Development Committee Chair
216-702-8430
jkozlwv@aol.com

****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. While we are making progress, the need for continued support is urgent. Council delegates this month made difficult decisions that reflect a 12% reduction over last year's budget. **If we fail** to meet the fundraising goal, **more cuts will be necessary**. 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**. **There are only a few days left to maximize your local League rebate!**

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

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** Don't Forget to File your 990 E Postcard for LLEFs and Non-Profits**

You may recall that in 2009, the LWVO notified local League Presidents and Treasurers of the need to file the 990 E Post Card with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) because of a provision included in federal law. LWVUS has also provided information on this matter on their website which you can access by [clicking here](#) or pasting http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=In_League&CONTENTID=10966&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm into your web browser.

Beginning May 15, 2010, non-profit organizations that have failed to file the IRS Form 990 for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax status so it is imperative that all non-profit organizations file by the deadline. **LWVO does NOT file the 990 form for local Leagues** therefore please be certain to file for your local League by the deadline if you have not already done so.

According to the advice given from LWVUS, **ALL Leagues and education funds must file** an annual report with the IRS by the 15th day of the fifth month after the organization's accounting period ends.

Leagues and education funds whose gross receipts (i.e., total receipts before deducting expenses) averaged over \$25,000 during the last three tax years must file Form 990 ("Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax") or Form 990-EZ with the IRS. Leagues and education funds can use the shorter Form 990-EZ as long as their gross receipts were less than \$100,000 and their total assets at the end of the year were less than \$250,000. Form 990, Form 990-EZ and instructions are available from the IRS in Adobe Acrobat format through this [link](#).

Leagues and education funds that do not meet the filing threshold for Form 990 and Form 990-EZ are still required to file an "electronic postcard" Form 990-N with the IRS. Form 990-N is available through this [link](#).

If you have any doubts as to how to complete your League or education fund's [Form 990](#), you should consult the instructions and/or your tax advisor.

****NEW** PMP Payment Clarification Must Be Postmarked by October 1 to receive Discount**

The LWVO Board and Office wants to clear up any confusion regarding the deadline that local Leagues need to send their PMP payments to LWVO to receive the 5 % discount, the LWVO board has specified the date the full PMP payment needs to be postmarked. There is no substantive change in policy.

Policy with clarification underlined and highlighted:

A 5% discount on PMP will be offered to local Leagues that pay their PMP in full by the end of the first quarter. In order to be eligible for the PMP discount, the full year's invoice payment must be postmarked no later than October 1 of the current fiscal year. Three quarters of the LWVO PMP must be paid for a local League to participate in Council or Convention.

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

****NEW** Office Staff Update**

As you should be aware, there is currently a vacancy in the office staff as the Board personnel committee revises job descriptions. We are fortunate to have Michele Martin working in the office on a temporary basis until we can post and fill the open position.

If you are aware of persons who might consider sharing their talents with the League, please feel free to encourage them to forward a resume outlining their skills. Any resumes reviewed will be reviewed during the screening and hiring process. Resumes can be sent to lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

****Reminder** 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

****Reminder** 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!

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

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Encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government
Working to increase understanding of major public policy issues
Influencing public policy through education and advocacy