

LWVO League Leaders Update
July 28, 2010

****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.

Today’s Topics:

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Dianne Wheatley Gillioti**

LWV-Ohio is delighted that **Dianne Wheatley Gillioti, LWVUS Director**, will continue in her role as **LWVUS board liaison -- the “go to” national board member -- for *all* Ohio Leagues until 2012.**

Dianne, whom many League members got to meet at the 2009 Ohio Convention, is available to assist the state and local Leagues at any time with League-related questions or issues not answerable at www.lwv.org .

Dianne, re-elected for a two-year term as a national director at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, will be chairing the governance committee and continuing as the debates guru for all state and local Leagues issues and inquiries. She will also continue to serve on the development and membership committees – so is a wealth on information in many areas.

Please confirm that Dianne is on your League’s distribution lists for newsletters and messages to members. Her contact information:

Dianne Wheatley Gillioti
wheatley@tampabay.rr.com
Phone 727.734.2968; Fax 727.734.4859

****NEW** Health Care Reform Community Forums Now Available**

If your League is interested in scheduling a community forum on health care reform, you won’t want to miss this! Health care reform has been at the forefront of policy debates recently—with a reform package passing in March, 2010. At the state level, LWV-Ohio has been a strong member of the Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC) coalition. Attached is an invitation to local Leagues from the coalition offering to provide free, open community education events throughout the state during which community members can learn about the health care reform, ask questions, etc.

LWV-Ohio works under the LWVUS position on health care, and the national League has been a strong advocate for health-care reform (see <http://www.lwv.org> – Health Care) at the federal level.

LWVUS Position: *Quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.*

For more information on this program, please see the document attached to this email entitled 7-19-10 Community Forum OCHC- LWV Community Education.

****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. **You do NOT need a password to access the Members Only Section.**

If you need any further information about this process, please feel free to contact the state office.

****Reminder** 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.

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

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

An important note about the Voter Guide Packet.

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.**

****Reminder** 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.

MEMBERSHIP

****Update** Training Opportunities**

The Membership Development and Engagement Committee (MEDC) has put together Leader training opportunities to help make your jobs easier. The MEDC has offered 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. **Thank you** to those local Leagues that have participated in the trainings thus far.

The remaining training dates scheduled are:

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.

****Reminder** 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.

****Reminder** PMP Rate and Due Dates**

This is a reminded 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.

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** Welcome Chuck Wolfe, ImPACT Project Manager**

Please extend your welcome to Chuck Wolfe who recently became the Project Manager for the imPACT Program. Chuck is a long time civic activist who brings a wealth of energy and experience to his new role with LWVOEF. Chuck will be reaching out to local Leagues to offer support and resources of the imPACT program.

We are delighted to have him as part of the team and look forward to him becoming better acquainted with League members across the state. Chuck can be reached at TWolfe53@aol.com or at democracy@lwvohio.org. You can also leave a message for Chuck at the state office 614-469-1505.

****NEW** League Leader Update Circulation List**

If you have local League members who are interested in receiving the League Leader Update, please have them send their email address to leg@lwvohio.org in order to be added to the list.

****NEW** Deidra's Schedule**

I want to let everyone know that I will be on vacation from July 30, 2010 through August 6, 2010. If you need assistance, Michele Martin will make every effort to assist you. As Michele is still a new employee, I appreciate your indulgence as she continues to learn about the League and our processes.

Feel free to leave a message with Michele for me and I will contact you upon my return. As always, your state board members are also a resource to assist you if there is a challenge.

****Reminder** 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.

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

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

7-19-10 Community Forum OCHC LWV Community Education

Federal health care reform passed on March 23, but the long road that led up to that moment still stretches ahead of us. Every day, over one million Ohioans go without needed medical care because they can't afford it. In 2008, 1.2 million or 15.6 percent of Ohioans were without health insurance . Today Ohio is facing an 11% unemployment rate, forcing more Ohioans to lose their employer-sponsored coverage and join the ranks of the uninsured. In addition, many Ohioans with insurance go without needed care or face financial ruin because of high deductibles and coverage restrictions leave them unprotected when they need health care.

As Ohio and our nation look into our future, we know that the new law will provide the foundation more affordable and quality coverage to thousands of uninsured in our state, create more accountability and fairness on the part of providers, and extend peace of mind to older adults, people of color, and our family and friends with pre-existing conditions who have struggled to find health care that works for them. However, health care reform has only begun that process, and we must not only learn together our new rights but also where we can encourage further change, built on that new foundation.

To that end, the Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC) coalition is offering free, open community education events throughout Central Ohio and the state in which community members can learn about the contents of health care reform, ask questions, and find opportunities not only to learn more but to engage around the health care concerns laying heaviest on our shoulders.

If you are interested in scheduling and hosting a community forum provided by OCHC, please call or email Julia Nielsen Bingman at 614.456.0060 x 229 or jbngman@uhcanohio.org, and she will plan the event with you.

It is an exciting time to learn about how our health care is changing, and it is absolutely essential that the voices of our families and neighbors are heard as we move into the future of health care reform. We hope you'll join us.