

**LWVO League Leaders Update**  
**August 28 2010**

***Today's Topics:***

**ADVOCACY & EDUCATION**

- \*\*NEW\*\* Voter Guide to be sent on September 1, 2010 to Local Leagues**
- \*\*NEW\*\* League Web Page- Election Focus and Revamped imPACT site.**
- \*\*NEW\*\* Luncheon on Women and Political Power**
- \*\*NEW\*\* LWVOEF to Cosponsor Debate for Supreme Court Candidates with ONN**
- \*\*Reminder\*\* Midwest Democracy Network Summer 2010 Meeting**
- \*\*Reminder\*\* Press Release on Redistricting**
- \*\*Reminder\*\* Taxation and Finance Consensus Process**

**MEMBERSHIP**

- \*\*Update\*\* Training Opportunities**

**ADMINISTRATION**

- \*\*NEW\*\* PLEASE UPDATE YOUR OFFICERS INFORMATION ASAP**
- \*\*NEW\*\* Annual Reports Available**
- \*\*NEW\*\* Local League Education Funds Transfer**
- \*\*NEW\*\* LWVOEF Now a Kroger's Rewards Program Participant**
- \*\*Reminder\*\* Drop-In Donation/Membership Ad for Voter Guides and Instructions Re: Funding**
- \*\*\*Reminder\*\* LLEF Fourth Quarter Statements**
- \*Update\*\* PMP Invoices Delivered and Early Pay Discount Reminder**

**ADVOCACY & EDUCATION**

**\*\*NEW\*\* Voter Guide to be sent on September 1, 2010 to Local Leagues**

The 2010 LWVOEF Voter Guide will be sent to Local League on September 1, 2010. The Voter Guide will also be posted on the League website at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).

The Voter Guide will include all responses received from statewide candidates. Please note that there are a few candidates that did not respond despite repeated efforts.

In one race for the Ohio Supreme Court, Justice Paul Pfeifer is running unopposed and therefore is declining all requests to complete candidate questionnaires.

As you are aware, candidates for the Ohio State School Board were required to file early in August and therefore were not included in the initial round of candidate requests. Each certified candidate has been mailed a candidate questionnaire with a mid September return deadline.

We will update the Voter Guide on line and submit to local Leagues a supplement for their Voter Guide by September 24, 2010. If you intend to include the State Board of Education Candidates in your local Voter Guides or Voter Information Bulletins, please do not forget to leave space to include their responses.

If you will produce an electronic copy of your Voter Guide or Voter Information Bulletin, please make that available to the state office so that we can post it on the League website. Please contact Michele Martin at [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org) if you would like for us to put a direct link to your Voter Guide on the state website.

**\*\*NEW\*\* League Web Page- Election Focus and Revamped imPACT site.**

Please take time to check out the League website at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org) as there are many changes. We have shifted the primary focus of the site to Voter Service and Information. You can find information on registration deadlines, registration forms, ways to contact your county board of elections and more.

An exciting feature is the 411 Vote site that you can access directly from our front page. Keep watching for more information and feel free to direct people with questions to the League website.

We are excited to announce that we have revamped the imPACT website. You can click on the imPACT Logo from the front page or go to <http://www.ohioimpact.org/site.cfm/imPACT-Home.cfm> to access the site. If you haven't been to the site for a while, we urge you to check it out and provide us with your feedback on the site.

**\*\*NEW\*\* Luncheon on Women and Political Power**

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is one of the Co-Sponsors of the Public Policy Luncheon entitled: *Women and Political Power: Have We Moved Forward?*, featuring Ann Fisher, Host of WOSU's "All Sides With Ann Fisher".

This event will take place from Noon until 1:30 P.M. on Friday October 1, 2010 at the Fawcett Center located at 2400 Olentangy River Road in Columbus.

The Luncheon is \$30 per person and you must RSVP by September 22. [Click here to download more information.](#) Or see the attached flyer. We hope that you can join us for this exciting event.

**\*\*NEW\*\* LWVOEF to Cosponsor Debate for Supreme Court Candidates with ONN**

The LWVOEF, in partnership with the Ohio News Network (ONN) will host a debate for the candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court. In early October, ONN will record the debate that will then be televised on ONN stations across the state.

The debate will include one session with the candidates for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Eric Brown and Justice Maureen O'Connor and an additional session with candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Judith Lanzinger and Judge Mary Jane Trapp.

Since Justice Pfeifer is running in an uncontested race, there will be no debate for that contest.

We will keep Local Leagues and members informed as the dates and times for the broadcast of the debates become available.

**\*\*NEW\*\* LWVOEF Now a Kroger's Rewards Program Participant**

Are there programs you wish the League could do, but know that we need more resources to implement them? The League wants to be able to do more in our local and state community and we are always looking for ways to generate funds for programs. The LWVOEF has a new way to generate revenue to support program; The Kroger Community Rewards Program.

Kroger will contribute thousands of dollars to local Non Profit Organizations in Ohio through the use of the Kroger Plus Card and LWVOEF could share in that if we all participate.

If you link your Kroger Plus card to the League, you will still accumulate your points and receive your discounts, **and** Kroger's will donate funds to the League based upon our accumulated shopping throughout the state. The more of us that link our cards and use them when we shop at Kroger's, the greater the amount of revenue we will receive quarterly from Kroger.

To enroll go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) . Have your Kroger Plus Card handy and follow the instructions.

The LWVO Non Profit Organization Number (NPO) is 80480.

Once you are signed up, make sure you swipe your card for every purchase made a Kroger's so that we can raise funds in an easy way. You can also input an alternative ID if your forget your card as long as it is linked to the League NPO.

We can encourage others to connect their Kroger Plus card to the League as well. Tell your friends, neighbors, club members etc... Ask any people you now to join in this effort and give them our NPO number 80480.

**DO NOT TRY TO RECRUIT PEOPLE AT ANY KROGER STORE AS THAT IS A VIOLATION OF THE RULES.**

**\*\*Reminder\*\* Midwest Democracy Network Summer 2010 Meeting**

Representatives from LWVO Ed Fund attended the meeting of the Midwest Democracy Network (MDN) in Madison, WI in July. Members of the MDN include not only Leagues, but also other good government groups, such as Common Cause and Citizen Action, in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

Experts from entities such as the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University offered insight into recent Supreme Court decisions and how best to structure new initiatives on public financing of elections to avoid running afoul of the prohibitions on certain kinds of matching funds. It is probably not permissible to attempt to "level the playing field" by providing more money to candidates who face well funded opponents, but public financing that is a multiple of small contributions is expected to survive judicial review. There was discussion on efforts in the various states to address the politicization of the judiciary.

Much of the focus of the meeting was on redistricting. As in Ohio, efforts to achieve major reform of how redistricting takes place have had disappointing results. However, there was

discussion of the role that MDN organizations can play in the redistricting process going forward, including discussion of how to develop messages that will help citizens understand redistricting and how it affects them. Dr. Michael McDonald of George Mason University shared the prototype software which he and others are developing to enable citizens to participate in the redistricting process in their states.

### **Reminder\*\* Press Release on Redistricting**

On August 5, 2010, LWVO issued a press release on the status of redistricting in Ohio. See the release below:

So what do we do now? The Ohio General Assembly dithered and dallied and avoided approving a redistricting reform amendment to our constitution in time for the November ballot. All is not lost, however – yet!

When the Apportionment Board and the General Assembly redraw the state's legislative and congressional district lines, respectively, in 2011, the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV-Ohio) urges them to voluntarily use the redistricting principles and procedures proposed and tested by the League a year ago. We must move away from the hyper-partisan redistricting models that produce districts that don't reflect Ohio voters' preferences, that permit protection of incumbents, and that encourage unnaturally high numbers of safe seats.

LWV-Ohio also urges voters to encourage the use of a fair, nonpartisan and transparent process to draw legislative and congressional districts by asking that all candidates for governor, secretary of state, and state auditor--and for state senator and state representative--support a transparent, public competition for redistricting plans.

The plans should be judged on four objective, measurable factors:

- Representational fairness measures whether the proportion of districts drawn to favor a political party reflect the proportion of votes that party generally receives statewide. Since Ohio tends to be a 50/50 state, districts should be drawn to favor both major political parties evenly.
- Compactness encourages districts that do not wander around in bizarre shapes to favor one party or another in the classic gerrymander fashion.
- Competitiveness encourages more districts that might be won by either political party. This would encourage electing legislators who are willing to solve problems in a bipartisan way.
- Communities of interest encourages plans that minimize splitting up municipalities.

Finally, LWV-Ohio encourages Ohioans to request that all meetings and discussions of the Apportionment Board and General Assembly committees judging the plans be public, that they include opportunities for public comment, and that their final choices be explained.

What is not to like about a fair and transparent process that puts voters' interests foremost? What excuse is there not to try it?

### **\*\*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.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **\*\*Update\*\* It's Not Too Late to Take Advantage of Training Opportunities**

The Membership Development and Engagement Committee (MEDC) has put together leader training opportunities to help make your jobs easier. The MEDC 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:

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](mailto: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\*\*PLEASE UPDATE YOUR OFFICERS INFORMATION ASAP**

If your League has not already done so, PLEASE update your Local League Contact Information and submit it to the state office. We have discovered that there are local Leagues that have not updated their information which prevents the state office from being able to deliver needed information in a timely manner. Some of the information that we have sent lately that may have been sent to previous officers include: PMP invoices, Presidents Packets, Voter Guide Instructions, and LLEF Statements.

As you can see these are **important** pieces that need to be delivered to the appropriate leaders. We need your help to keep the records up to date. Make certain that your League has completed and submitted the [Local League Contact Form](#) to Michele Martin at [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org) as soon as possible as we are well past the reporting deadline.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**\*\*NEW\*\* Annual Reports Available**

The Annual Reports for LWVO and LWVOEF for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Fiscal Years are now available. You can access the report from the League Website at [http://www.lwvohio.org/base.cfm?page\\_id=1947](http://www.lwvohio.org/base.cfm?page_id=1947)

We will also be mailing a few copies of the annual report to each local League for your files.

**\*\*NEW\*\* Local League Education Funds Transfer**

Faced with decreasing resources and increasing administrative costs, the LWV-Ohio EF Board of Trustees recently voted to discontinue administration of local League education funds (LLEFs) at the end of this fiscal year—next June 30, 2011—rather than start charging fees of participating Leagues. **To continue to ensure the LLEFs' ability to easily maintain its education funds, we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition of fund oversight to a program that will continue to provide your League with effective, timely and no-charge administration of your League's education fund.** To that end, the board investigated a number of options for transferring administration of your League's education fund to another entity and has shared those options with the presidents and treasurers of the Local Leagues that have their LLEF with the State Education Fund.

The option we recommend is that those LLEFs move their funds to a similar program run by the national League (LWVEF). The LWVEF is the administrator of nearly half the local Leagues' education funds in the country. Their system is provided at no cost and is efficient!

- The LWVUS website has the form and procedure to be used to transfer your League's account.
- LWV-Ohio EF could do it for you, but this requires your League's written consent.

Leagues also have the option to establish their own education fund, as some local Leagues have done. However, it is then the responsibility of your local League to comply with all IRS and state filing requirements.

**The LLEFs currently administered by the state Education Fund, may transfer its fund from LWV-Ohio Education Fund any time before the deadline of June 30, 2011.**

**Please know that we are committed to providing assistance to your League to make this transfer successful.**

For further information about transferring your League's education fund by June 30, 2011, please contact Deidra Reese at the LWVOEF office: at [leg@lwvohio.org](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org) or toll free at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO or 1(877) 598-6446.

**\*\*Reminder\*\* LLEF Fourth Quarter Statements**

Fourth Quarter Local League Education Fund Statements have been delivered. Please be certain to check the reports and contact the office if there are discrepancies in the report. We have updated software; **therefore it is imperative that you verify the information so that we can have accurate records.** Once you have verified the accuracy of the report and made any necessary adjustments, please complete and return the attached form entitled LLEF Quarterly

Report Reply Form August 2010 to [leg@lwvohio.org](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org), via fax to 614-469-1505 or U.S. Mail to 17 South High Street, Suite 650 Columbus, Ohio.

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

**\*\*Reminder\*\* Drop-In Donation/Membership Ad for Voter Guides and Instructions re: Funding**

Attached to this League Leader Update is a suggested template entitled "8.2.10 - VG Donor - Membership Form - FINAL.doc" for inclusion in your local Voters' Guide. This form was reviewed by LWVUS / EF. Presidents should have received a direct communication regarding this drop in ad previously so this serves as a reminder to forward this information to your Voter Service Chair if you have not already done so.

**Also, please note on the attached:**

- Your League will need to "personalize" the form, i.e., name / address, etc., where indicated.
- Not all Leagues have education funds, so options for that are included, as indicated.
- Not all Leagues have a phone number, so that is included as an option. However, be sure to include contact information, whether it is a phone number or email address.

**Finally, following is LWVEF guidance to local Leagues regarding paying for a donation form and/or membership ad in their Voters' Guide (see [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)):**

Education Fund monies may be used to underwrite the costs of most, if not all, of your Voters' Guide. You are encouraged to use general League operating funds to cover the specific cost of including a League membership "ad" and donation form in your Voters' Guide. For example, if your Voters' Guide is 10 pages long and you include a half-page membership ad, then 5% of the total cost of producing your Voters' Guide (printing and distribution) should be paid for with general League funds. Be sure legal constraints on giving and receiving money for election-related activities are fully understood especially tax-deductible contributions.

**\*\*NEW\*\* PMP Invoices Delivered and Early Pay Discount Reminder**

Thank you to those local Leagues that have already submitted their PMP payments for this fiscal year. Please remember that you are asked to submit your payment in **TWO SEPARATE CHECKS** that correspond to the **TWO INVOICES** you received. If you are paying in full before October 5, 2010, you are entitled to a 5% discount so please calculate that discount if you submit your full years PMP and it is postmarked by October 1, 2010.

If you have not received your invoice it is because the office does not have **current contact information** on your League's president or treasurer. All invoices were sent to the president and treasurer that we have on file. You can update that information by submitting the [Local League Board Contact Form](#) which is attached to this League Leader Update.

Remember that PMP should be paid quarterly if the early pay option is not exercised. Quarterly due dates are October 1, January 1, April 1 & July 1.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding PMP, please feel free to contact the state office at 1-877-598-6446 or 1-877-LWV-OHIO.

**\*\*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 with Legislative Sessions. 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**

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

***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](mailto:leg@lwvohio.org)***