

Statehouse Day – 3/27/2019

Lobbying 101

Cheryl Johncox, Beyond Dirty Fuels Organizer at Sierra Club - Ohio Chapter
Sarah Warner, Legislation and Policy Fellow at the Salvation Army, and Chair of the State Public Affairs Committee at Junior League of Ohio.

Jen Miller, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Ohio, provided tips for lobbying.

- Make sure you thank the legislators for the meeting
- Thank the staff of the legislator
- Ask how much time they have to give you
- Indicate you're a constituent (if you are) or that you are representing LWVO. (Find a tie in, if possible)
- Remain civil. Nurture the relationship with the League
- Listen more than talk. Tell human stories
- Assign issues to people on visit and/or prioritize issues
- Remember to stay focused and avoid jargon
- Send thank you notes
- Let Nazek know if you are interested in joining the Lobby Corps

Jen noted that the League is a grassroots organization with power. If the Senator or Representative is already on our side, find out who to contact (on the "other" side) and what approach to use.

She then posed two questions to the panelists:

Tell me about a time a lobby visit did not go well and what did you do about it.

Responses were:

1. Be ready to respond to their distraction. Bring the focus back to the conversation you want/need to have.
2. Be prepared.

Tell me about a situation in which a member of the public is going to testify on a public policy issue

1. Did a drop by with members of Leagues across the state and was able to tell an aide what the issue was and where the group stood (after Legislator refused to meet).
2. Make consistent calls, letters and in person visits on the bill/issue.