November/December, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 3/4

## By: Erica Greer

President's Remarks

### Whew! What an election sea- ward that end is always a goal In addition to the Voters' Guide, help inform voters, and it's son it has been!

candidates for the 41st Ohio In the longest, most expensive work better for all of us. political campaign in American history, history was also League was incredibly busy candidates' night for candidates break for the holidays, as made in a much more impor- during this election season as for the Summit County Court of there are no meetings or

hard to

which this event is significant. www.lwvaa.org. What a tre- lot.

Inside this issue: Voter Service Report Town Hall Mtg Report

Webmaster Report Recommended Books

PAGE 2 By: Gerry Hall

League for many hours of dedication to

producing a Voters' Guide. Once again,

Paula Warner did a great job typing the

guide into our format. The especially

long guide took up to 27 pages! We

were hoping for just 16 pages in the

printed guide, but were happy to con-

tions/replies to one, with the extra questions/replies used for our website

guide. We included the LWVO infor-

mation on state issues without any con-

densing and have the Sewers for Schol-

Observer Corps

Candidates' Night

What is a League Study

of the League, because engaged League moderated a debate, spon- nice to have our work rec-

don't know about all of you, various venues around the tance of the Summit County Asso- cember. However, plans are but I never really thought I country. And you probably no- ciation for Justice Alpha Kappa in process for our annual

mendous amount of work that unlike anything I had ever ting everything together so that people fond the meeting very in- newsletter. witnessed. Let's hope that Summit County voters could formative, and appreciated the people who got involved in have non-partisan information fairness and even-handedness of Have a safe and happy holithe democratic process for the about candidates and issues. We the format. It was especially grati- day seasonfirst time in this election will know the community really fying to see the write-up in the continue to be engaged and appreciates these efforts, as so Beacon Journal, and hear coverage Exica

active citizens. Working to- many of them take the time and on WKSU. League members work trouble to tell us so.

By: Gerry Hall

Financed by the LWVAA Edu-

cation Fund, our Voters' Guide

to the candidates and issues on

the November ballot was avail-

able in printed form and expan-

citizens make our democracy sored by Kiwanis, between the ognized. House district. We also hosted a We will be taking a bit of a tant and impressive way. I well. We registered voters at Common Pleas, with the assis- events scheduled for De-

would see an African- ticed that the Voters' Guide was Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho program planning meeting American elected President in much more extensive than sororities. League members also coming up in January. That my lifetime. In some ways, I usual, especially if you checked spoke to various organizations to meeting will cover state and am simply unable to wrap my out the expanded version that help their members better under- local positions and priorimind around all the ways in was available on our website, stand the many issues on the bal- ties this time around. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 31st, and plan I never really expected to see entailed! Many thanks to LWV Speaking of issues, League's town to make your concerns the American electorate so Hudson, who collaborated with hall meeting, "Sewers for Scholar- heard as we make plans for charged up in my lifetime us on the project, and especial ship Dollars?" on City of Akron the upcoming year. More either. The excitement sur- thanks to Gerry Hall, who Issues 8 and 9 was really well at- information will be forthrounding this election was worked so long and hard put- tended. Evaluations showed that coming in the January

-Continued on next page-

Public Library, the forum was moder-

ated by Ardith Keck, who always does

an excellent job. League members

Diana Kingsbury and Brenda Preer

were the timers, while Nikki March-

mon-Boykin and Willette Riley

League members provide voter information by answering the phone at the

League office during the week before

the November election. This year's

we received were encouraging.

Office Staff

THE AKRON VOTER

**Voter Service Report** 

Voters Guide

Voter Service Report (continued)

Bruce!

Candidate Forums

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3/4 auditorium of the main Akron-Summit

ded version on our website, There were a few computer

www.lwvaa.org. We coordi- glitches, but we owe a spe-

nated our efforts with the Hud- cial thank you to Bonnie

son LWV to avoid sending du- Evans, Roseanne Thomas

plicate questionnaires to all the and Barbara Bos of the Hud-

candidates in Summit County. son

screened questions. We also had sevdense the information to 20 pages. This wanis Club, the debate was attended by was probably the longest printed guide an overflow crowd at a luncheon meeteral students from the University of Akron serve as ushers. Thanks to all! we have ever published! The candiing at the Portage Country Club. Both The attendance at this forum, about 50, dates' responses were just as we recandidates agreed to debate, then asked was disappointing, but the evaluations ceived them, but we limited the questhe League to moderate. League mem-

On Thursday, October 9th, we moder-

ated a debate between Randy Cole and

Brian Williams, candidates for Ohio's

41st District. Cosponsored by the Ki-

bers Amy Mitch, Sharon Gandee and

Kathy Arthur helped with timing and

question screening and Gerry Hall

LWVAA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Soror-

ity, Summit County Association for

Justice, and Sigma Gamma Rho Soror-

ity cosponsored a candidate's forum for

the Summit County Court of Common

Pleas. With two new judgeships estab-

lished in the county, there were 12 can-

didates for six positions. Held in the

arship committee to thank for the pros and cons on Akron's Issues 8 and 9. We also owe a big thank you to Bruce Greer for all of his work on putting the election information on our website. It was a very time consuming job, since the Hudson League uses a completely different program than we do. Thanks Sewers for Scholarship Dollars? Town Hall Meeting Report By: Susan Vogelsang Approximately 100 citizens attended LWVAA's Town Hall meeting at the American Red Cross Center on W.

Market Street in Akron, Saturday October 18th. The purpose of the town

hall, co-sponsored by the Akron Bar

Association and East Akron Commu-

nity House, was to provide voters the

opportunity to learn more about two

competing issues that were on the No-

vember ballot, prior to casting their

Richard Merolla, the City of Akron's

Director of Public Service, and Wil-

liam H. Considine, President of Akron

Children's Hospital, spoke on behalf of

Issue 8, which would establish a last-

dollar scholarship fund for Akron students to attend approved post secon-

dary education in Akron, through pro-

ceeds from leasing the sewer system.

served as moderator.

On Wednesday, October 15th,

Jack Sombati, Campaign Chairman Ohio Council 8, AFSCME/Save Our Sewer and Water Committee and Wenonah Hauter, the Executive Director of Food & Water Watch, represented Issue 9, which would require voter approval in order to lease, sell, or transfer any part of any interest in any city owned utility.

The panelists were asked to prepare

their remarks and responses to help

meeting participants gain a deeper un-

derstanding of: the ballot issues; the

likely repercussions should their ballot

issue pass or fail; why they believed it

was in their best interest of our commu-

nity to vote "yes" for their issue and

"no" for the other; and, to share with

voters where they could go to seek ad-

ditional information. First, each "side"

had 15 minutes for opening comments.

engine was used, their country of origin

(we get hits from all over the world), if

they reached us via a link from another

website (we get referrals from many dif-

ferent websites such as LWV, LWVOhio,

Vote411, SmartVoter, WKYC, Akron

Summit County Public Library, etc), and

even if they added us to their "favorites"

list. As one might expect, our Voters' Guide is the most popular destination, and

"Illegal People: How Globalization

Creates Migration and Criminalizes

"Lost at School: Why Our Behaviorally

Challenging Kids are Falling Through the Cracks and How We Can Help

"Never Been a Time: The 1917 Race

The weekly Summit County Council meetings are much more convenient

and easier to understand than the Akron

City Council schedule. All of the Sum-

mit County Council Committees- 8 of

them (Personnel, Public Works, Plan-

ning, Education & Development, Pub-

Services) -meet one week on Monday

at 4:30 pm. The entire Council hears

departments and discusses the resolu-

tions that are presented by these offi-

THE AKRON VOTER

requests from various agencies and

lic Safety, Rules, Health & Human

Riot that Sparked the Civil Rights

Movement" By: Harper Barnes

ning our city and county.

Immigrants" By: David Bacon

Them" By: Ross Greene

this year was no exception.

THE AKRON VOTER addition to defining the total number of unique visitors, we can determine such details as what specific pages were viewed and for how long, what search volunteers were: Mary Lou Gault, Jodie DeLamatre, Joanne Robb, Harriet Cutler, Sally York, Susan Vogelsang, Amy Mitch, Erica Greer, and Gerry Hall. Thanks to all! Then attendees participated in table discussions, facilitated by LWVAA members and our co-sponsors, with each table agreeing on three questions they wanted more information on in order to decide

2007

2008\*

gress in increasing our audience:

# VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3/4

Webmaster Report By: Bruce Greer It has been just a little over one year since we revamped our website, just in time for the 2007 November elections. Our goal has been to make the website a more viable resource for information about our League's activities, not only for our members but for the general public as well.

We can measure the effectiveness of

our website based on a vast array of

user statistics. These stats include an incredible number of details that are

helpful tools for monitoring our progress as we move into the future. In

"Alice" By: Stacy A. Cordery

chael Brune

"Coming Clean: Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal" By: Mi-

"The Duel: Pakistan on the Flight Path

"Green Goes With Everything: Simple

Steps to a Healthier Life and A Cleaner

of American Power" By: Tariq Ali

Recommended Reading

By: Jodie M. DeLamatre

Planet" By: Soan Barnett Observer Corps Report By: Jean Questel Summit County Council and Akron City Council members are now very aware that LWVAA has an Observer

Corps. They have noted our regular

tatives who are easy to spot because at

the end of the meetings they are often

observers have not become authorities on local government, but we do know

now how to find the respective meeting

rooms, where to park, and recognize

some of our elected Council members

as well as a little bit about how the 2

Councils conduct the business of run-

By: Jean Questel

The Akron City Council meetings are more difficult to attend and follow the

legislative process. All of their committee meetings-8 different groups simi-

lar to County Council-meet to discuss

their resolutions. These members dis-

cuss the business among themselves,

often forgetting to use their microphones and speak so the few people

(our Observers) can hear the com-

Their decisions about the resolutions

are presented at the 7:00 pm Council meeting that night. This schedule, 2-

4:00 pm and then return at 7:00 pm is far too time consuming for our Observ-

ers. In October, Elizabeth Lander, Pat

Lepingwell, and Mary Felver attended

the afternoon committee meetings.

They found the meetings interesting,

informative, and the Council members

most hospitable, but the resolution

process hard to follow. Mary was im-

pressed by the beautiful mahogany

I attended both committee and County

Council meetings for October and No-

The committee meetings, where items

are voted on to be rejected or returned

to council for vote, begin at 4:30 pm.

Generally, if the committee approved

an item, the council also followed with

approval too. Both meetings provide the opportunity for input from support-

ers and opponents. The Council mem-

bers tended to question any contract proposals and bids that did not involve

44708. Thank you! Happy Holidays!

Beginning in September and continuing

through October, LWVAA was involved with several educational en-

deavors. One of the most provocative

was the October 15 Common Pleas

It isn't often that voters have the oppor-

tunity to 'meet' judicial candidates, but

LWVAA has frequently created that

Speakers' Bureau Report

What is a League Study?

opportunity for the community.

By: Jean Questel

All requests for speakers to explain the

voting process and register voters was

fulfilled by Diana Kingsbury, She

spoke to the women at the Battered Women's Shelter and Project Learn.

Requests to explain ballot issues were

The League's hallmark is its grassroots

approach to study and action. Leagues

ticipating in the consensus process,

developing a consensus of our mem-

bers to report to LWVO by March 1,

2009. The consensus meeting will be

held as part of an open board meeting

on Thursday, February 5, 2009. Study

reports will be coming out soon, and there will be more information in the

Many of you know what all of these League terms mean, but for those who

do not, here's a brief glossary, taken from the Pasadena Area League's web-

next Voter.

Judge Candidates' Night.

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By: Bruce Greer

PAGE 4

ments.

vember.

their conclusion.

the only people in the audience. Our

attendance and welcomed our represen-

Observer Corps: (continued) paneling in the chamber and delighted to hear at the Novmeber 3 meeting that

Mayor Plusquellic had again reminded the Council of the continued need for a grocery store in the Highland Square

ing report in September:

Sharon Gandee, our first Akron City

Council Observer submitted the follow-

The afternoon meetings are informative, but the real action takes place at night when items are passed or rejected. However, I don't feel one sees the real workings of government by attending the evening meetings; you LWVAA Observer Corps Observations (Summit Co. Council)

so quickly that my head spun.

THE AKRON VOTER 2008 Candidate's Nights & More By: Jodie M. DeLamatre

Summit County companies or resi-

dents. In one case, they apparently

withheld (tabled) approval of a federal

grant for road work because of ques-

tions about the bid going to a Zanes-

Further information is available at the

Main page -http://www.summit.oh.us/

Summit County website:

council/index.htm

attend and allows our observers to follow the resolutions from their introduction to Continued on next page-

I attended only one Akron City Council meeting. The real activity and discussion, such as it is, takes place in the afternoon committee meetings from 2:00 to 4:00. At 7:00, I returned for the Council meeting where items were read, quickly discussed, and dispensed Greer, and Ann Duff continued to observe Summit County Council. Ann Going to both meetings is too much. Duff commented that it was a very

All 12 candidates were present. In order to elicit as much information as possible and ask optimum number of audience questions, each pair were

asked different questions. The end, if

there was a question that had been

asked of another candidate, they could

The questions included their opinions on partisan judicial races, assessing

their opponent, asking them their skill set that they bring to the court, judicial

made by Rocky Knoll, Chambrel,

AARP, Akron Business & Professional

Women, and Cuyahoga Falls Methodist Church. Mary Lou Gault and Jean Que-

stel let the discussions on the issues. The Speakers' Bureau is one committee

CONSENSUS—Substantial member

then respond to it.

mailed to Diana Kingsbury at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or mailed to 1309 Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH

that copies the motto "Have Gun-Will Travel". Our motto is "Have Talk-Will Deliver." Try us!!

### agreement preferably reached through at every level have positions based on group discussion. Consensus is the study and consensus among members. sense of the group rather than a major-Currently, LWV Ohio is conducting an ity opinion. Discussion is based on update of League positions on taxation information prepared by a study comand finance in Ohio. The League uses these positions to advocate for public mittee and is guided by consensus questions. policy changes. LWVAA will be par-

site.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® 380 Mineola Akron, OH 44320-1399

President: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106

Membership: Jodie DeLamatre (330) 376-0399

STUDY—The process of gathering information for discussion by members with a view of reaching consensus and establishing positions on a subject adopted by convention or annual meet-

issues, and influences public policy through education and advo-

LWV MISSION

cacy.

December 15: Newsletter Deadline

January 31: Annual Program Planning meeting, 9:30 AM at

December 4: Board Meeting

dress) is \$30 for each additional member.

380 Mineola Avenue, Akron OH 44320

Name:

Address:

City:

Send to: League of Women Voters of the Akron Area (LWVAA)

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip:\_\_

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!!

how to vote. Next, the panel was reconvened to answer as many questions as time permitted. Each "side" then had five minutes to make closing remarks. Questions that individuals handed in on index

cards, in the event we had time to ask

them (we didn't), were posted on our

website as a means of helping others

think about questions they might need

answered in order to determine how to

Based on some post election interest that

has been recently expressed, we may

convene a follow-up to this town hall

meeting-stay tuned!

PAGE 3 Here are a few stats that show our pro-

2819 3118 4843 Unique Visitors 7121 Total Visits 4286 5365 Pages Viewed 8399 | 13712 28529 18.2% 42.4% Added to Favorites \*through November 15

2006

"You are Here: The Surprising Link Between What We Do and What it Does to Our Planet" By: Thomas M. Kostigen

"Resistance: A Woman's Journal of

Struggle and Defiance in Occupied

"Waiting for an Ordinary Day: The

Unraveling of Life in Iraq" By: Far-

France" By: Agnes Humbert

naz Fassihi

rejected, or tabled. On September 22, all 24 resolutions that were introduced were passed. The following week, September Summit County Council met at 5:30 pm, and the 24 resolutions, all marked 1st readings, were voted on by the entire Council and 23 were passed. This sched-

ule, 4:30 pm committee meetings one

week and County Council meetings at

5:30 pm the following week, is easy to

cials. The Committee members then vote whether the resolution should be passed,

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see only the result. If I had time to con-

tinue to attend all meetings, I might

Committees

as where to get the \$5,000,000 to continue their employment with the city. All resolutions (about 14) passed. In October, Kathleen Arthur, Bruce

beneficial learning experience. She was

impressed by the graciousness of Coun-

cil President Kostandaris and his praise

List of meeting dates-http://

www.co.summit.oh.us/council/

Meeting agendas -http:// www.co.summit.oh.us/council/

Meeting minutes -http://

www.co.summit.oh.us/council/

Parking in the Ohio Building lot is free,

calendar.asp

agenda.asp

minutes.asp

of LWVAA in the community.

but you must have your ticket stamped The deadline for article submissions for the January newsletter is December 15th. These items may be e-

> served, and how do you plan to address what you perceive to be the most pressing issue for the Court of Common Pleas. As usual, it was fair and informative for all who participated.

> review versus legislating from the

bench, the role of the media in court

cases and its effect on justice being

2. CONSENSUS QUESTIONS— Specific questions prepared by a study committee to stimulate interaction, focus discussion and facilitate conclusions by the group. Questions vary in positions for local board approval. style from open-ended to multiple choice. Questions are approved by the cation dealing with a current study prepared by a national, state or interappropriate League board. League organization committee provid-

of League.

Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555 The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy RELEVANT DATES

CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave. February 9: Open board meeting, consensus meeting on LWVO study on taxation and revenue, 5:30 PM at CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave.

AKRON, OHIO PERMIT NO. 445

eventually become informed. September 29th (Committee meeting) 3 I now understand that items from previous agendas return for further discus-1. Contentious discussion of the sewer issue and its effect on workers as well

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entation at meetings, determines how the material will be presented and serves as a resource. The study committee analyzes recorders' reports and drafts consensus questions and drafts 5. STUDY GUIDE-A League publi-

ing information and suggestions to as-

sist local League study committees.

NON-PROFIT OGRANIZATION U.S.POSTAGE

PAID

Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. Annual dues of \$60 include local, state and national membership, including newsletters from each. Dues are \$30 for those under 30 years of age. Household membership (same ad-

Phone:

ing. Studies are conducted at all levels 4. STUDY COMMITTEE—A group of local League members that meets regularly to carry out a current League study. The committee researches the subject, prepares the information for members, selects the material for pres-