



President's Remarks

By: Erica Greer

As we begin the new League year, we are in the middle of one of the most historic and important presidential elections in history. The role of the League of Women Voters, as a respected source of unbiased, non-partisan information for voters has never been more important.

Unfortunately, like many other organizations, LWVAA is facing increased difficulty finding members willing and able to give time and energy to do the work of the League. Given that we all agree that our work is important, it follows then that we must focus on revitalizing our League, and particularly on increasing active membership, so that LWVAA can be a vibrant, well-respected, highly visible

organization and community resource.

Because our manpower and resources are limited this will mean conducting fewer meetings this year than we have done in the recent past. It will also mean choosing activities with the greatest opportunity for promoting membership and raising League's visibility in the community. As was emphasized in the president's training at Convention, it may sometimes be necessary to say "No, for now." We may recognize that an issue or opportunity is important, but if we don't have the people power, we will just have to say "no." Instead, for now, we must focus our efforts on our core mission, doing fewer things, but doing them really well. As active membership in-

creases, we will be able to take on more projects.

Not coincidentally, you'll notice our plans for LWVAA's annual picnic include an opportunity for everyone to get involved with a committee. This need not be a burdensome or overwhelming investment of time and energy. Many committee chairs have smaller, more limited ways in which members could be of service. Come and learn more about it, and consider playing a more active role in League this year. Also, think about bringing along a prospective member, or calling one of our newer members and inviting them to accompany you. Let's roll up our sleeves and grow our organization!

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Unless we succeed in increasing the number of active, working members, I don't think it's unrealistic to say that LWVAA will cease to function as a meaningful League in five years or so. The board and I plan to do all within our power to prevent that from happening, but we can't do it all by ourselves. If you too believe in the importance of League, won't you try to help out in some way - large or small - this year? After all, many members contributing in little ways can add up to great things!



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A Note From Your Editor...

In order to better serve the League membership and members of the community, the layout and design of the Akron Voter has been updated.

In an effort to enhance the Voter's role as an im-

portant resource and membership tool, each edition will include relevant and interesting information about the League's purpose, history, and functions, as well as important feature stories and reports.

Your feedback about (and contributions to) the Voter are always appreciated!

Please contact me at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com

What's Going on at LWVO?

By: Ardith Keck

There are a couple of things happening at the state LWV that you will want to be aware of. First is the need to plan for your learning experience on taxation and finance policies throughout Ohio.

Before your eyes glaze over, let me tell you that you asked for an update on the LWV position on taxation and finance in Ohio back at the 2005 convention. What you say? I didn't! Well someone did and the vote was to update our position. We've had an ad hoc committee working on this for the last year and half and they will be giving us information beginning in October in e-mails. The e-mails will divide up the topics, giving us small pieces to digest each

month until January.

The state board will get the consensus questions to you early in January and will need a response by March 1. Why the rush? The Taxation & Finance Committee can't finish their work before January, and, in order to mail the information to members 6 weeks before the 2009 Convention (May 1-3) (that's according to the bylaws), we will need you consensus by March 1. Your leaders are planning for that Consensus meeting. You can do your part by reading the material so you will understand what's happening.

The second exciting happening at the

state LWV is the planning for a Supreme Court candidate debate in October. There are two positions open on the Ohio Supreme Court. We anticipate that the four candidates (two are incumbents) will participate and that it will be televised throughout the state. As you know, this will help you to make informed choices in these races. More on this later!

Ardith Keck, Vice President, LWVO Board of Directors

League Lingo

Action Alert

A request from the state or national LWV that members take specific action on legislation or related matters in support of LWV positions.

Consensus

Collective opinion of a substantial number of members, representative of the membership as a whole, developed after objective study of an issue.

action on issues.

Education Fund

The tax-deductible arm of a League which handles funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for

Did You Know?
One of the earliest chapters of the League of Women Voters was founded in Cleveland, OH. (April, 1920)

Program

Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state, and national levels for study and action.

FYI

Public Education Listening Forum

Tuesday, August 19th, 2008

7 to 8:30 PM

Hudson High School

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the September newsletter may be e-mailed to Diana Kingsbury at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or mailed to 1309 Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH 44708 by August 15th.

Thank You!

History of the League

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt shortly before the ratification of the 19th Amendment which bestowed women with the right to vote. Originally designed to educate women on their new right, the League has since grown into a remarkable grassroots organization of civic engagement and political activism that persistently relies upon the passion for democracy and civic action displayed by its membership to advocate for the well-being of all citizens. The League's nonpartisan stance, adopted at its founding, has persisted, allowing the organization to truly advocate for democratic responsibility at all levels of politics.

Currently, the League operates in all 50

states, as well as in Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong. As a tiered organization, the League's mission is supported at the national, state, and local level. Perhaps the most enduring aspect of the League's undertakings is the changing nature of society. It is a priority of the League to act on those issues most relevant and current to the citizenry, which contributes to the vast legacy the organization has left behind.

(Information gathered from LWVUS and LWVO).

Inspiring Words

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."
-John Quincy Adams

"The margin is narrow, but the responsibility is clear."
-John F. Kennedy

"Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

About the League

- LWV is nonpartisan; we do not support or oppose candidates.
- LWV mobilizes and encourages the informed and active participation in government.
- LWV is where hands-on work to

safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

- As an LWV member, you are part of an organization where smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities.



The Akron Voter Needs You!

In keeping with the League's mission of active participation in affairs relating to both the government and the community, your help is needed to form a newsletter committee!

If you are interested in assisting the editor in matters related to the production, design, and distribution of

the LWVAA newsletter, please either call or e-mail Diana Kingsbury at 330.309.7555 or kingsbury.diana@gmail.com with your contact information and area of interest.

To maintain the newsletter's quality and purpose as a membership

tool and source of League information, your dedicated service to the maintenance of the Akron Voter is greatly needed and appreciated!

Thank You!



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President: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106

Membership: Jodie DeLamatre

Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

RELEVANT DATES

August 7: Board Meeting 5:30 pm

August 14: Annual Picnic 6-9 pm Shady Hollow Pavilion

August 19: Public Listening Forum 7-8:30 pm Hudson High School

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LWV MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Become a Member Today!

Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. Annual dues of \$50 include local, state and national membership, including newsletters from each. Dues are \$25 for those under 30 years of age. Household membership (same address) is \$50 for first member, \$25 for each additional member.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____
(Home) (Work)

Send to:
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