

President's Remarks

By: Erica Greer

Even though League members tend to be fairly well informed on election issues, those who attended LWVAA's annual picnic on August 14 had plenty of questions for our guests, Sarah Skapin and Mark Jackson from the Department of Community Outreach of the Summit County Board of Elections (BOE). Standing in for BOE Director Marjican Donofrio who was ill, they updated us on the latest voter registration, voter ID, and absentee voting information.

There will be open voter registration conducted by the Summit County BOE on October 3, 4, and 6, which is the final day to register in order to vote in the general election on November 4.

There will be NO absentee

voting at the Board of Elections this year. Their facility was completely overwhelmed by the turnout to vote absentee in the last time, they were not counted. Please remember that the law has not been changed, so if you are unsure your ballot will be delivered in time, it may be best to take it to the Board of Elections yourself.

Another item of importance to LWVAA is that voter registration forms must be returned to the Board of Elections within 10 days of being filled out or they become invalid. If you register voters on behalf of the League, be sure to deliver them to the Board of Elections in a timely fashion. Additionally, undated registration forms will no longer be accepted, so please make certain that forms are filled out completely.

Absentee voting begins on September 30, 35 days prior to Election Day. The last day to apply to vote absentee is Saturday, November 1. By law, absentee ballots must be received by the BOE not later than 7:30 pm on election night. You may remember that last election some 200 absentee

ballots were not delivered by the Post Office by the deadline, so even though the ballots were postmarked in time, they were not counted. Please remember that the law has not been changed, so if you are unsure your ballot will be delivered in time, it may be best to take it to the Board of Elections yourself.

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There has been one change in voter ID requirements: while a military ID is still an acceptable form of ID to present at the polls, it is no longer required to show the service person's current address as it was in the past. This change was necessitated by the fact that military ID's have never shown the service person's address, which resulted in some confusion at the polls in the last election.

If you have any other questions regarding voter ID, voter registration, or absentee voting, and for a complete list of acceptable identification for voting, procedures for voting absentee, etc., please visit the Summit County Board of Elections website at www.summitcountyboe.com or the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us.

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LWVUS Convention Report

By: Erica Greer

Besides all the interesting causes, workshops, and networking with other League delegates, a lot of business was accomplished at National Convention, held in Portland, Oregon in June.

The League Principles were amended by concurrence. The following Principle was added: *"The League of Women Voters government: legislative, executive and judicial."* *that all powers of the U.S. go-*

vernment should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial." *-Continued on page 2-*

LWVUS Convention report (continued from previous page)

By: Erica Greer

There were several changes to the by-laws: (for complete wording, please see the LWVUS website: www.lwv.org).

* A provision was added allowing for electronic meetings (such as via conference call) to be held in the event there is an issue needing a decision before a meeting is scheduled.

* Council to be held approximately 12 months after Convention, and state League presidents will be notified at least six months prior to the date chosen; local League presidents and ILOs will be notified at the same time.

* Emergency council meetings may be called provided a special call specifying purpose, time and place is sent to state League presidents at least 30 days prior to the date specified, with local League presidents and ILOs notified at the same time.

* The nominating committee was reduced from 7 members to 5, with three who are not members of the national board to be elected at convention, and two appointed promptly after convention and who may be current or former members of the national board. All will serve a two-year term.

* A provision was added to allow the national board, as well as any League, to propose the adoption or amendment of a national League position by concurrence on the floor of convention.

An increase in the PMP to \$28.00 for fiscal year 2008-2009 was adopted. A PMP of \$29.20 was adopted for the fiscal year 2009-2010.

The following program was adopted:

* Retain all positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

* A Health Care committee to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.

* A Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change.

* Non-recommended study item: "The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President."

Resolution: that LWVUS propose a resolution to be discussed at Council 2009 as a possible rule for Convention 2010 was passed. All other resolutions failed.

Fall Forums

By: Jodie DeLamatre

Two forums pertinent to the November election will be held at the Hudson Library & Historical Society. They are co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area and Hudson.

"Buying Justice: Money and the Ethics of Judicial Campaigning" will be held on September 30 in the Flood Family Meeting Room at 7 p.m. Panelists include Dr. Christopher Banks, author of *Courts & Judicial Policymaking* and professor of Political Science at Kent State University; Rick Dove, the Ohio Supreme Court Assistant Administrative Director. He is a frequent presenter at seminars regarding legal and judicial ethics, and judicial campaign practices. Keith Lake is with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Ac-

tion Committee and is in charge of their Candidate Recruitment and Education Committee. The program will be moderated by the Ohio League of Women Voters, Nancy Brown.

On October 7, Dr. Stephen Brooks at the University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics will present the latest findings of the "Buckeye Poll" of Ohio voters. He will discuss the mood of Ohio this election cycle. Following will be a discussion panel featuring area media responding to how they report and cover the issues that are important to voters. They include Ted Diadum, Ombudsman for the Plain Dealer and M.L. Shultz, WKSU News Director. Other speakers TBA.

Both programs begin at 7 pm, at the

Hudson Library & Historical Society, 96 Library Street Hudson, OH. They are free and open to the public. Each program will include an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the panelists. For more information, contact the Reference Department at (330) 653-6658 x 1010.

WITH SYMPATHY.....

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area wishes to extend our sympathy to long-time member Elizabeth Seiberling in the loss of her husband, John Seiberling. As a Congressman, John Seiberling was a man of integrity and principle who was unafraid to reach across party lines in order to make democracy work. Our community lost a true advocate with his passing.

Annual Picnic Report

By: Susan Vogelsang

This year's annual picnic, held at Shady Hollow Pavilion, was attended by old and new League members and potential League members. As usual, the potluck dinner was delicious as it was diverse. Our speakers for the evening were Mark Jackson and Sarah Skapin, Community Outreach of the Summit County Board of Elections (BOE). We heard the most up to date information on the following topics:

- Voter ID requirements
- Voter registration
- Voting absentee
- Becoming a poll worker

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! Also at the picnic, we learned about the work of the various committees listed

below and the specific ways in which volunteers could help the committee chairs (see the next issue of the Akron Voter for more details). We were reminded that the work of the League is only done through volunteers. The more people that come forward to help on these committees, the more work we will be able to accomplish and the more civic service we are able to provide to our community.

Below are the various committees, the chairs of those committees and their contact information. The chairs indicated there is plenty of work to do—small tasks, long term tasks, work that requires committee meetings, and work that can be done from the comfort of your own home.

Voter Service

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Gerry Hall (330) 688-1375

Voter Registration
Willette Riley (330) 864-0031

Membership
Jodie DeLamatre (330) 376-0399

Observer Corps
Jean Questel (330) 923-0358

Newsletter
Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

IT/Website
Sara Gibbs (330) 869-8169

Please give the chairs a call to find out how you can help our League deliver on its mission, a vital one in a healthy democracy.

Observer Corps: Vital to LWVAA

By: Jean Questel

On Wednesday, July 23, Summit County Executive Russell Pry and the Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce partnered to hold a forum entitled "Sharing Resources to Better Economic Development" at Stow City Hall. The purpose of the forum was to allow citizens to meet with public officials and participate in a discussion

about economic development in the City of Stow.

While I was unable to attend, I requested information regarding the meeting, which Mayor of Stow (and LWVAA member) Karen Fritschel and her office kindly provided.

Richard Cordray, Treasurer of Ohio, addressed the purpose of the meeting—to encourage new businesses to locate to the region—but he also stressed the importance of retaining current companies in Stow and throughout Summit County, as small business is primarily responsible for creating jobs in the area.

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Observer Corps: Vital to LWVAA (continued from previous page)

By: Jean Questel

Mr. Cordray also noted that the state owns thousands of properties that could be given back to communities for improvement and development. The Clean Ohio Fund, which will be on the ballot in November, should aid in funding for Brownfield areas and encourage redevelopment in more populated communities.

In the past, Ohio's tax structure has hindered collaborative development among communities, but new thinking, "Creative Agreement", encourages counties to work regionally and share revenue as businesses move to different communities or to new developments.

The city of Stow has responded to the regional concept and is working with Cuyahoga Falls and Hudson to form a JEDZ (Joint Economic Development Zone) near the Seasons Road Interchange off Route 8. The three communities will equally share in the costs for

a proposed state-of-the-art hospital on the 400 undeveloped acres at the Seasons Road site. They have applied for a \$5 million state grant and hope to begin building in 2009.

All of these discussions raised questions in my mind. Progress? Urban sprawl? Tax abatements? I feel strongly that LWVAA should have been represented at this meeting! We are a non-partisan political organization with the purpose of educating citizens so they can be informed voters, but we must first inform ourselves.

To that end, we must get Observer Corps to gain the eyes and ears of LWVAA, covering the meetings related to government and education, as well as special meetings like the Economic Development Forum.

I hope you will volunteer to be a part of this important venture. As a member of

the Observer Corps, you would be a part of a team attending weekly Akron City Council or Summit County Council meetings, each team being assigned one month (4 meetings). Each team would then report back about the business before council. As Observer Corps chair, I will see that the information is reported in each month's newsletter and on the website so that all of LWVAA can be aware of the actions of our local governing bodies.

Not only will the information you obtain be vital to LWVAA as we plan for the future, your presence at meetings will also raise the visibility of League to our legislators and the community—and help you be informed at the same time.

Please contact Jean Questel, 330.923.0358 to get involved!

Long-time League Member Receives "My Brother's Keeper Award"

By: Susan Vogelsang

On Thursday, August 7, 2008 long-time LWVAA member Ethel Chambers received the "My Brother's Keeper" Individual Award from the Nazareth Housing Development Corporation. The program for their Annual Meeting

and Recognition Dinner states the following as the reasons for giving Ethel this award: "Ethel L. Chambers, Founder of Perkins Street Block Club, is the spiritual grandmother of University Park Allian-

ce, chair of the Housing Committee of the League of Women Voters, and a strong advocate for meeting housing needs for all. Mrs. Chambers and her family have worked tirelessly for decades to sustain and improve the near eastside of Akron and in the process, she has given us back Grace Park, seven vital churches and a sense of pride.

Many of the LWVAA were present at the awards ceremony to congratulate Ethel

Ethel & Nanci Self, Director of Nazareth Housing Development Corporation

Ethel and some of her family members

Membership Committee, Please Help!

By: Jodie DeLamatre

If we need your help! Membership is an ongoing activity that transcends the committee chair and committee. It is the responsibility of all League members to recruit new, active members. Since at present I do not have a committee, any volunteers would be much appreciated!

If you are a member and are reading this, please consider asking neighbors, friends, acquaintances to become a member of one of the rarest non-partisan political organizations around. If you know of new members, invite them to participate in one of our meetings or committees. It's the only way

only way to make sure the League continues to thrive and grow. Its the 'retention' part of Membership.

If you are a new member or perspective member reading this as a sampler, please consider becoming an active member and joining one of our committees such as Voter Registration, Guide to Prepare the Voter's Handbook, Helping to attend the upcoming Forums and Candidates' Nights planned for the Fall election season or better yet, join us in organizing and running them. It's a great opportunity to learn how the League works and see its value to its value to the community.

the community.

During this and every campaign season, the League of Women Voters is relied upon for unbiased information. Like other organizations, we need an active membership to maintain our high quality community activity. Contact me at 330.376.0399 or jmgd3@neo.rr.com if you've got the political bug! Either I'll sign you on as a member or see you your

Observer Corps Report: Citizen Advisory Meeting

By: Jean Questel

The Department of Job and Family Services, in conjunction with County Executive Russell M. Pry, is holding a series of Community Forums for citizens to "...explore cost-saving programs and services and learn more about community services." The programs are entitled "Bridging the Gap." Dates: Aug. 20, Aug. 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 6, Sept. 10.

- **Jason Dodson**, also from the Summit County Executive's office, serves as the liaison between the County Executive and County Council. He keeps the Executive apprised of the operations of at least eight County Service offices and projects involving the County such as "... the VA Building, Bridgestone Firestone, Goodyear, etc."
- **Greg Bachman**, Summit County Engineer, described various road projects and is certain that all bridges within Summit County have been tested and are safe. He has regular "Bike w/Bachman" inspections of County Roads and invited the audience to join him in Bath Sept. 6, at 8:00 a.m.
- **Cynthia Sich**, Director of Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs and LWVAA member, explained that her office handles complaints from consumers "...involving unfair, deceptive, or unconscionable practices" such as home repair travelers, fake lottery tickets, or telemarketers as well as information about foreclosures. In the past three years her office has returned more

- than \$100,000.00 to consumers.
- **Steve Libby**, Deputy Director of Summit County Department of Public Safety and Criminal Justice, focused on "streamlining resources" — ways that his department improves services and technology for public safety. Summit County can adequately house all of its prisoners, not a common practice in many counties, and this foresight saves our county time and expenses that are incurred elsewhere.
- **Annette Petranic**, a Coordinator in the Emergency Management Agency, explained that her department is responsible for emergency and disaster planning and the 911 system. Her agency has been selected for the pandemic flu test project.
- **R.G.Stein** of the Fiscal Office, Weights & Measures, inspects scales meters, scanning equipment and packaged products to ensure their accuracy. Summit County is the only county in Ohio that tests for fuel quality to protect consumers.

RELEVANT DATES

September 4: Board Meeting

September 15: Newsletter Deadline

September 30: Hudson Forum, 7 pm Hudson Library

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!!

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 address) is \$30 for each additional member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Send to:

League of Women Voters of the Akron Area (LWVAA)

380 Mineola Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44320-1399

For more information call: 330.836.7079 Email: lwvaa@aol.com Website: <http://www.lwvaa.org>

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