



**President's Remarks**

*By: Erica Greer*

The Akron Voter

Podcasts, Youtube, blogs – what do these have to do with LWVAA? More than you might realize

On Monday, May 5 at 6:00 pm, Dr. Stephen Brooks's class on New Media will present their projects for LWVAA. The presentations will be in room 207 of Leigh Hall on the University of Akron campus. As I mentioned in the February Voter, the students have taken on LWVAA as their class project, and have been hard at work exploring ways that new media can work for LWVAA, to help us to reach a segment of our community for whom "old media" – newspapers and hard copy materials – have little appeal. We won't be abandoning traditional media outlets, but learning to add new media to our repertoire is an exciting and necessary step to broaden the League's appeal and thereby engage younger citizens in the political process.

Everyone in LWVAA is invited to attend the program. I think you'll be amazed and intrigued by the students' ideas, as well as the possibilities for us as a League to be on the "cutting edge" of new technology.

It's important that as many members as possible be on hand for the presentations. Not only do we want to show the students we appreciate their hard work and forward-looking ideas, but we also need as many Leaguers as possible to understand the concepts that we may be putting to work for League in the very near future. **Please call or email me if you plan to attend so that I can let Dr. Brooks know how many of us to expect.**

On a related note, the Board of LWVAA has approved a proposed dues increase to be submitted to the membership for approval at the annual meeting, from \$50 to \$60, with students and additional members of the same household paying \$30. This increase is reflected in the proposed budget, which you will find elsewhere in this issue. There are several reasons for this proposed increase: PMP, or our Per Member Payment to State and National will be increasing to a total of \$51.50, leaving a shortfall of \$1.50 per member at the current rate; we anticipate some initial expenses related to adopting some of the suggestions for use of new media; and we must raise our profile in the community in order to attract new members to carry out the work of the League.

This increase is in line with other Leagues in Ohio, who are facing many of the same issues we are. And while it may seem like a lot, it really only amounts to \$0.84 per month above our previous dues. I think supporting the important work of LWVAA is well worth an extra \$0.84 per month, don't you?

*Erica*

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## Election Reform Townhall Report

*By: Jean Questel*

Thanks to the many LWVAA members, Hudson LWV, (Rosanne Thomas and Barbara Bos, who televised our meeting!), and the support of our 13 sponsors, the LWVAA Town Hall Meeting on Election Reform was a stellar success. With the \$750.00 allotted from the Joyce Foundation to LWVO for each of the statewide town hall meetings, LWVAA could afford the Sheraton Ballroom with the assistance of our Women Studies sponsor at the University of Akron. The spacious room, the food service, the electronic gear (in place and tested) created a cheery atmosphere for the tables to begin discussing the election process in Ohio. The facilitators and recorders, representatives from the sponsoring groups (including 12 from the Bliss Institute), guided each of the 12 tables to compose a question expressing their greatest concern about voting in Ohio. These questions pertained to electronic voting and its tabulation, provisional ballots and how they are counted, and problems encountered at the polls on voting day.

Peg Rosenfield and Ann Henkener, LWVO Election Law Specialists, touched many of these topics in their pro/con presentation. They discussed ways to provide oversight on the Boards of Election to remove the appearance of partisanship, how to reduce the excessive use of provisional ballots in Ohio, improving poll worker training and attracting younger poll workers as well as extending the time for voting and location of sites.

Following the question/answer period of the meeting, each table was asked to prepare an action statement – something they could do to correct or improve an election flaw. Many tables focused on involving students as poll workers urging the Board of Election, The Board of Education, the University of Akron, and the PTA to develop programs for such service to be included in school activities and schedules.

To close the meeting Anne Nelson, Director of LWVO imPACT Town Hall Meetings, encouraged the audience to take action by demonstrating how easy it is to reach their legislators by using the imPACT website. Once on the website <http://www.ohioimpact.org> click on “Speak Up” to get the contact information for your legislators. She also complimented our Town Hall Meeting and said it is one of the best she has attended. *And as an additional accolade to our meeting, four people decided to join the League and help us with our efforts to encourage citizens to vote.*

Town Hall Committee: Harriet Cutler, Rachel Fowler, Sharon Gandee, Jeanne Orr

Advisers: LWVO, Ardith Keck, Pres. Erica Greer, Jean Questel: Chairman

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### Inspirational Thought:

**To safeguard democracy the people must have a keen sense of independence, self-respect, and their oneness. \*Mahatma Gandhi\***



## Ed Fund Report

By: Janice Jacobs

### 2007 - 2008 LWVAA EDUCATION FUND CONTRIBUTORS

We appreciate all the contributions made for the 2007 - 2008 fiscal year. Your generosity allows us to continue the valuable work of encouraging the entire Akron Area Community to engage in the process of democracy. Many thanks!!

#### Corporate

Akron Coating  
 Alpha Phi Alpha  
 Mary Rebecca Babcox First Energy  
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 M.G. O'Neil Foundation

#### Members & Friends

Albrecht, Sophie	Hummel, Kathy	Nelson, Martha
Arnold, Lois	Jacobs, Janice	Questel, Jean
Becker, Marna	Jacobs, Libby	Quinn, John
Chambers, Ethel	Keck, Ardith	Read, Judy
DeLamatre, Jodie	Koosed, Edward	Robb, Joann
Daniel, Louise	Kruder, Susan	Sanders, Jane T.
Dietz, Margaret	Laning, Marjorie	Shippy, Joanne
Duff, Ann	Lepingwell, Patricia	Spindler, Rosemary
Fair, Don	Lepp, Dorothy	Squires, Ruth
Gault, Don & MaryLou	Lloyd, Margaret	Thiell, Marjorie
Gibbs, Sara	Massa, Gloria	Vail, Ken
Glass, Julia	McGrath, Nancy	Vogelsang, Susan
Greer, Erica	Meeker, David & Anita	Walcott, Margery
Hall, Gerry	Miller, Marlene	Witte, Georgia D.
Hensley, Alberta	Mitch, Amy	Wojno-Forney, Virginia B.
Holloway, Janet	Mogen, John	York, Sally

We are anticipating (hopefully!) some additional donations before the end of our fiscal year on, June 30th. The political climate is highly charged this year, at the local, state & national level. Accordingly, the Education Fund expects to be very busy this election season and of course, funding is most necessary.

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## Nominating Committee Report

*Jodie DeLamatre (Chair), Janice Jacobs, Brenda Preer, Sharon Gandee, & Rhonda Davis*

Treasurer-Sharley Greer

President Elect-unfilled

2nd Vice President Programs-unfilled

Organization and 4 Board of Directors;

Newsletter Editor-Diana Kingsbury

Membership-Jodie DeLamatre

Voter Registration-Willette Riley

Public Relations-Sara Gibbs

I would like to thank the committee for their work and for those members who have agreed to serve on the LWVAA Board. As you can see, we have two crucial spots open. If you have any questions, please call me, at 330/376-0399. JMGD

\*\*This is an addendum to the above report: As noted, we have two large slots to fill. If you are reading this, you already are committed to LWVAA. If you have any experience in community/civic organizations, your talents and interests are needed now in order for the League to continue to remain a viable organization. Please consider getting involved at the board level of the League which currently meets on the first Thursday of each month. If you feel you need more experience before joining the board, please take a look at the committee list in your directory and getting involved that way. Thanks for your help, Jodie DeLamatre, Nominating Committee\*\*

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## Special Report: Bliss Institute Election Year Speaker Randy Brinson

*By: Jean Questel*

On April 10, the Bliss Institute presented Randy Brinson, a National Voter Registration Expert and Director of "Redeem the Vote", in their series of Election Year Speakers. Supported by Christian churches, his group has a large commercial bus decorated with their name. They attend rock concerts or other entertainment sites where young people gather and give them the opportunity to register to vote. His group was particularly successful in Iowa before the caucuses. As an aid to these young voters, his group would later call them to see which candidate they favored in either party. When the candidate was named, they would turn on a tape that explained the candidate's stance on such issues as gay rights and abortion. Huckabee did very well in Iowa. Mr. Brinson noted that Giuliani did not.

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## Editor's Note:

Submissions for the June newsletter should be submitted by May 15th, to [dmk24@uakron.edu](mailto:dmk24@uakron.edu) or 1309 Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH 44708. Thank you!

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## 2008 Program Planning Results

By: Erica Greer

### LWVUS

Proposed study: Predatory Lending

Social Policy (Equality of Opportunity)

Scope: Review the negative impact on individuals and communities created by the lack of responsible lending standards, and determine what measures the federal government should take to protect consumers.

### Local Program:

Proposed Review: City of Akron

Land Use

- 1 a) Review existing zoning and building policies to determine if they follow environmentally sound policy.
- 1b) Review permitting and licensing requirements to determine if they are reasonable, affordable, and address safety and health issues.

### LWVAA Priorities for 2008-2009

- 1) Proposed review of Land Use (1a and b above)
- 2) Consumer protection standards/ lending standards: Review the negative impact on individuals and our community created by the lack of responsible lending standards and determine what measures the local government should take to protect consumers.





## Website Report

By: Bruce Greer

A word about our website....

The LWVAA website ([www.lwvaa.org](http://www.lwvaa.org)) is alive and well! We are striving to keep it up-to-date so that it can become a dependable resource of information about our League's activities for both current members and the general public. Since being redesigned in October 2007, we have the following statistics on visitors to the site:

2007 Visitor Statistics				
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages Visited	Hits
Oct 2007	329	469	2069	2547
Nov 2007	526	636	1310	1884
Dec 2007	138	207	442	582
Total	993	1312	3821	5013

2008 Visitor Statistics				
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages Visited	Hits
Jan 2008	155	222	680	817
Feb 2008	285	370	1161	1685
Mar 2008	311	449	1264	1671
<b>Apr 15, 2008</b>	82	115	491	659
Total	833	1156	3596	4832

Aside from our home page, the most viewed pages in 2008 to date are as follows:

LWVAA Page	Total views
Voter Info	398
Meetings	236
About Us	196
Our Board	185
Advocacy	173
Contact Us	156
Join	146
Meeting Feb 08	80
Meeting Mar 08	77
Meeting Aug 07	71
Meeting Sep 07	69
Meeting Nov 07	68
Newsletters	51

# LWVAA Proposed Budget

Submitted by: Erica Greer

	2007-2008 Budget	TO DATE	2008-2009 Proposed
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Dues	\$ 5,550.00	\$5,000.00	\$ 7,080.00
Contributions			
Community		\$ 50.00	
Membership	\$ 900.00	\$1,100.00	\$ 2,000.00
ED Fund			
Operating	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,400.00
1/4 PMP LWVUS			\$ 826.00
1/4 PMP LWVO			\$ 694.00
Interest	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
Fund Raising			\$ 2,000.00
Activities/Reservations		\$ 628.00	
State Convention			
Millennium Dinner			
Legislative Breakfast			\$ 200.00
NSF reimbursement		\$ 10.00	
Memorials			
Misc. LWVO	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 29.25	
Reserves			\$ 2,270.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 9,970.00</b>	<b>\$6,867.25</b>	<b>\$ 16,820.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2007-2008 Budget</b>	<b>TO DATE</b>	<b>2008-2009 Proposed</b>
<b>OPERATING</b>			
Maint/Insurance	\$ 300.00	\$ 297.00	\$ 300.00
Supplies/Misc/Printing	\$ 250.00	\$ 58.38	\$ 400.00
Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ 24.60	\$ 150.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 500.00	\$ 505.36	\$ 900.00
Rent	\$ 900.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 900.00
Computer/Operations	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
New Media Maintenance			\$ 1,200.00
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$ 2,250.00</b>	<b>\$1,560.34</b>	<b>\$ 4,050.00</b>
<b>BOARD</b>			
President's Fund	\$ 50.00		\$ 200.00
Publications for Board	\$ 100.00		
<b>Total Board</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>		<b>\$ 200.00</b>

	2007-2008 Budget	TO DATE	2008-2009 Proposed
<b>EXPENSES (continued)</b>			
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES</b>			
Membership			\$ 500.00
Member Directory	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00	
PR/Fund Raising	\$ 175.00		\$ 500.00
Meetings/Programs	\$ 200.00	\$ 390.69	\$ 100.00
Room Rentals			\$ 250.00
Activities/Reservations		\$ 608.15	
Legislative Breakfast			
Annual Dinner			
<b>Total Committees</b>	<b>\$ 725.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,288.84</b>	<b>\$ 1,350.00</b>
<b>DELEGATES</b>			
National Convention	\$ 1,000.00		
State Convention			\$ 1,000.00
Workshops	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
<b>Total Delegates</b>	<b>\$ 1,100.00</b>		<b>\$ 1,100.00</b>
<b>ASSESSMENTS-DUES</b>			
National PMP	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 2,191.05	\$ 3,304.00
State PMP	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,732.09	\$ 2,773.00
Lake Erie Basin	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
<b>Total Assessments-Dues</b>	<b>\$ 3,985.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,948.14</b>	<b>\$ 6,102.00</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Newsletter			
Printing	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,029.06	\$ 1,000.00
Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 580.00	\$ 1,000.00
Bulk Mail Fee	\$ 160.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 168.00
<b>Member Directory</b>			<b>\$ 350.00</b>
<b>New Media</b>			
New media design			\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>\$ 1,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,784.06</b>	<b>\$ 4,018.00</b>
<b>VOTER SERVICE</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 9,970.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,581.04</b>	<b>\$ 16,820.00</b>





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**Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555**

**LWVAA office: (330) 836-7079**

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## Relevant Dates

**May 15th: June newsletter deadline**

**June 5th: Annual meeting**

**June 13th-17th: National Convention**

## ***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:**

League of Women Voters of the Akron Area (LWVAA)  
380 Mineola Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44320 1399

**LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
AKRON AREA**



**For more information call: 330.836.7079**

**Email: [lwvaa@aol.com](mailto:lwvaa@aol.com)**

**Website: <http://www.lwvaa.org>**