

## President's Remarks

By: Erica Greer

Another election season is behind us. Although we all know that League works hard in our "round to educate and inform voters, nonetheless, we seem to be most visible around elections. But have you ever wondered if voters really appreciate how important League's role is at election time? If you have ever felt just a little underappreciated, you will be interested in some of the feedback that resulted from our voter service work this year.

Another key component of mission to inform and educate voters—a job well done, once again. I want to thank you, whether as moderator, timekeeper, question screener, typist, or with a highly professional and helpful attitude, you are always with us. When the Voters' Guide is delivered to the li-braries, one librarian called it "felt like Christmas Day!" Greer, for his work in putting the expanded Voters' Guide online, and how quickly it is always available on our website, so it's nice to know that people are availing themselves of it.

So, once again, kudos to the various clusters in the Akron LWVAA for all our hard work at election time, to help carry out the League's mission to inform and educate voters—a job well done, once again. I want to thank you, whether as moderator, timekeeper, question screener, typist, or with a highly professional and helpful attitude, you are always with us. When the Voters' Guide is delivered to the li-braries, one librarian called it "felt like Christmas Day!" Greer, for his work in putting the expanded Voters' Guide online, and how quickly it is always available on our website, so it's nice to know that people are availing themselves of it.

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## Membership Contest and Dessert Reception

Just a reminder—it's not too late to get your names of possible new members for LWVAA to name) to the November 5, 7 p.m. dessert reception at Lois DeLamatre, for our Membership Drive and Contest. As you recall, we must increase our membership if we are to continue to carry on the important civic work the community has learned to expect from us.

The membership committee will send out an invitation (in your name) on the November 5, 7 p.m. gets the most people to join our membership chair, Jodie DeLamatre, for our Membership Drive and Contest. As you recall, we must increase our membership if we are to continue to carry on the important civic work the community has learned to expect from us.

Please send the names and addresses to Jodie as soon as possible, but no later than this week.

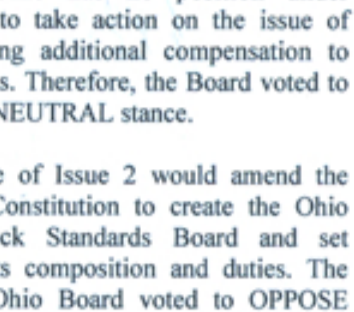
Remember, the program is *-Continued on next page-*

## Membership Contest and Dessert Reception (continued)

On November 5, 7 p.m. at Lois Arnold's. She needs an RSVP by October 30. LWVO President Meg Flack will attend and will update us on what the League has accomplished statewide on election reform, including the lawsuit which LWVO initiated and which was decided in their favor.

Two of our committees will also provide overviews: Observer Corps and the Akron Recall Study Committee, which has already received national attention.

Hope to see you on the 5th!



## Acme Cash Back Report

By: Janice Jacobs

Hello once again, from your "Acme Cash Back Coordinator". The Acme folks gave a new title out this year in their literature. But, the program this year is exactly the same as last year. We will receive 5% on Acme Fresh Market, Academix, Dining-In, Domestix, Electrix, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, Top Care, ValuTime, World Classic, & other Acme brand purchases.

Shelf tags in the stores will alert shoppers to the cash back qualifying items. At the end of each register receipt tape that "Acme Community Cash Back" total will reflect the balance of your qualifying purchases. The home-grown, Acme Fresh Markets deserve thanks from all the non-profits that benefit from this unique program.

The dates for this year are: 09-27-09 thru 02-20-10). This program has been a small but consistent winner for us over the years. Many thanks to all Leaguers & Friends for faithfully saving those tapes.

Please continue to send all tapes to me at: P.O. Box 26 Cuy Falls, OH 44222.

## League of Women Voters Take Positions on Ballot Issues (From LWVO website)

**Issue 1:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment to authorize the State to Issue Bonds to Provide Compensation to Veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts. **NEUTRAL**

**Issue 2:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. **OPPOSE**

**Issue 3:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Authorize a Casino in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo, Ohio. **OPPOSE**

In analyzing proposed constitutional amendments, the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV-Ohio) begins with consideration of whether the proposed constitutional amendments properly belong in the Ohio Constitution or more properly should be legislated by the General Assembly. LWV-Ohio does not believe the Constitution should be littered with post-it notes. Rather, LWV-Ohio's position on the Constitution, adopted in 1968, is that "a Constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles. It should provide for the flexible operation of government and be logically organized and internally consistent."

Passage of Issue 1 would amend the Ohio Constitution to provide additional compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts. Bonding authority that lasts longer than 2 years as in the proposed amendment must be set forth in the Constitution. However, the LWV-Ohio has no position under which to take action on the issue of providing additional compensation to veterans. Therefore, the Board voted to take a NEUTRAL stance.

Passage of Issue 2 would amend the Ohio Constitution to create the Ohio Livestock Standards Board and set forth its composition and duties. The LWV-Ohio Board voted to OPPOSE passage of this issue because the amendment contains too much specificity.

*-Continued on next page-*

## Words of Inspiration

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
-Margaret Mead

## League of Women Voters Take Positions on Ballot Issues (From LWVO website—continued)

ity to be in the Ohio Constitution. The League's position is based on its state position that the Ohio Constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles.

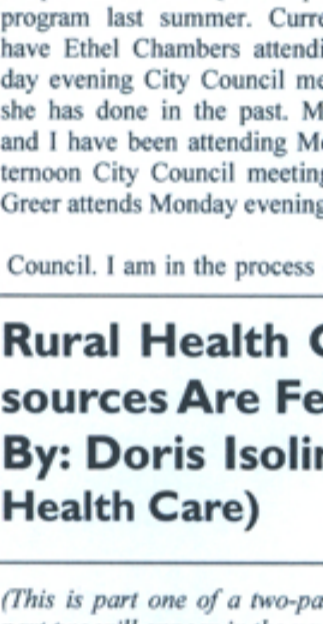
Passage of Issue 3 would authorize a casino in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo. The LWV-Ohio Board voted to OPPOSE passage of Issue 3 for the same reason it opposes Issue 2; the proposed casino amendment contains too much specificity to be included in the Ohio Constitution. In addition, Issue 3 violates the state League's position that the legislature should have flexibility in financing state programs, because the amendment directs how tax revenues will be allocated.

LWV-Ohio's Position on Government: State Government Finance, State Finance Criteria (Adopted 1989): LWV-Ohio supports the following tax principle as criteria to be used in evaluating individual taxes and the tax mix in Ohio. Taxes should:

1. Be fair and equitable;
2. Provide adequate resources for government programs while allowing flexibility for financing future program changes....

By going to [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org) you can access the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund November 2009 Ballot Issues Explanations.

## LWVAA Member Spotlight On....Ardith Keck



**What positions, if any, have you held with the League?**  
I have held various positions in LWVAA: President, VP Organization, VP Program, Publicity, and member of the government committee. I really loved doing the publicity. I have also been President and Project Director for Ed Fund. I served on the Nominating Committee for LWVO for four years, and then on the LWVO board for the past five years as 1st Vice President and Chair of the Issues Education Committee and also serve as LWVO liaison to three Leagues.

**What do you find most rewarding about being a League member?**  
The way others regard the League, the League's great reputation, makes me very proud to be a member. Others really admire our voter service and voter education work that we do and, as I mentioned, I feel that what League does is very important.

**What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?**  
I'm concerned that voters have to stand in long lines to exercise their right to vote. I also think that confusion remains about what is acceptable voter identification at the polls, so better poll-worker training is important.

**Are you involved in any other community organizations?**  
I produce TV and radio shows for Forum 360 every five or six weeks or so. The program is aired on WAKR, WONE, and Time-Warner Cable.

**What interests do you have outside of the League?**  
I enjoy tennis, bicycling, gardening, reading, and travelling. My husband and I have been to Cuba 12 times, and have lobbied for two bills before Congress that have bi-partisan support for lifting restrictions for Americans wanting to travel to Cuba.

## Editor's Note

The deadline to submit articles for the December Voter is November 15th. Articles may be e-mailed to [kingsbury.diana@gmail.com](mailto:kingsbury.diana@gmail.com) or mailed to 1309 Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH 44708. Thank you!

## Observer Corps Report

By: Ned DeLamatre

I took over as chair of the Observer Corps after Jean Questel retired the program last summer. Currently, we have Ethel Chambers attending Monday evening City Council meetings as she has done in the past. Mary King and I have been attending Monday afternoon City Council meetings. Bruce Greer attends Monday evening County Council. I am in the process of setting up Roberta Aber for City Council committee meetings and Jean Questel for County Council.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to be an observer, please let me know. You can sign up for as many or as few meetings as you would like. You do not need to take copious notes or write long reports, as most of the issues are routine matters. The important thing is that you are present as a member of the League and you can report when you feel necessary. It also helps to get to know the personalities of the participants and the process they go through every week.

We can also cover any other government body in the Akron area. I am currently attending meetings for the Summit County Health District Feasibility Study at Children's Hospital.

## Rural Health Care: Where the Needs Are Great and the Resources Are Few

By: Doris Isolini Nelson (of LWVCA and the LWVUS Task Force on Health Care)

*(This is part one of a two-part report; part two will appear in the next Voter.)*

The inadequacy of our fragmented, uncoordinated health care system is particularly acute in the rural areas of the United States. The National Rural Health Association notes in *Health Reform Priorities for Rural America* that health reform that expands health insurance coverage is necessary—rural Americans are both more likely to be uninsured and underinsured than urban Americans—but the greater crisis is the lack of access to health care. Coverage does not equal access.

**Lack of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists**  
Percentage of Primary Care Physicians Rural (10%) Urban (90%)  
Number of specialists per 100,000 population Rural (40) Urban (134)

**Lack of Mental Health Services**  
20 percent of rural counties lack mental health services versus 5 percent of metropolitan counties. In 1999, 87 percent of the 1,669 areas in the U.S. designated as Mental Health Professional Service Areas were in rural counties. The suicide rate among rural men and children is significantly higher than in urban areas.<sup>2</sup>

**Lack of Women's Access to Health Services**  
According to Rural/Frontier Women's Access to Health Services,<sup>3</sup> "All women in rural and frontier areas are affected by the lack of primary and specialty care. In addition, the lack of specialty care has a particular impact on women of child-bearing age and those having gynecological problems. The lack of oral care puts rural women at an increased risk for periodontal disease, which has been linked as a factor contributing to pre-term birth." The lack of preventive care makes it difficult to access reproductive services and preventive screenings, such as Pap tests and mammograms. When women do receive abnormal test results, they face difficulties following the prescribed treatment plan. With reduced access to health services, rural women delay prenatal care or receive none at all. Highest risk for receiving inadequate prenatal care.

**Family Physicians**  
Family physicians remain a crucial component of the provision of rural obstetric care, but the increase in medical malpractice costs have led many providers and local hospitals to discontinue obstetric services. Adverse perinatal outcomes and infant mortality are especially high in rural communities in the South and West.

**Access to family planning services**  
Access to these resources has been linked to a decrease in unplanned pregnancies, fewer infants born with low birth-weights, fewer infant and neonatal deaths and fewer abortions. Although community health centers are required to provide family planning services, a 1997 study found that only 60 percent actually provided the services. The rural South has the highest rate of teenage births.

**Services for older women**  
Rural areas lack many social and health services provided by primary care physicians training in gerontology and geriatrics. The economic conditions in many communities often result in their being unable to fund adult day care, respite care, or "Meals on Wheels".

**Mental Health Services**  
*-Continued on next page-*

## Rural Health Care: Where the Needs Are Great and the Resources Are Few (continued)

By: Doris Isolini Nelson (of LWVCA and the LWVUS Task Force on Health Care)

Barriers to women accessing mental health services include geographical distances, lack of transportation, cost of services, lack of insurance and shortage of providers. Rural women in western states commit suicide at a rate three times more than women living in urban areas.

**Health Information Technology Policy and Rural Hospitals**  
"Clinical errors result in at least 44,000 deaths and direct medical costs of \$1.8 billion annually, imposing a substantial burden on the health care system and society as a whole. Technologies such as administration records are designed to reduce opportunities for miscommunication among health care professionals." Electronic records may also provide effective communication between doctors and patients. In 2005, a report by the Institute of Medicine on the Future of Rural Health emphasized the importance of health information technology (HIT) for improving the quality and safety of health care. The report also listed the challenges many rural communities face in adopting HIT: financial constraints and limited access to capital; inadequate infrastructure; and limited HIT workforce support.

According to a study of HIT applications, rural hospitals in general and Critical Access Hospitals in particular continue to lag behind urban hospitals in HIT adoption.

1 <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/go/left/health-reform-and-advocacy/health-reform/health-reform-advocacy-toolkit/rural-reform-priorities>  
2 <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/go/left/about-rural-health/what-s-different-about-rural-health-care>  
3 <http://www.nrharural.org/go/rural-health-topics/frontier/>  
4 [http://www.uppermidwesthrce.org/pdf/policybrief\\_hit\\_policy.pdf](http://www.uppermidwesthrce.org/pdf/policybrief_hit_policy.pdf)

## Redistricting Ohio: Power to the People? (For Immediate Release—October 13, 2009)

Contact: Jodie DeLamatre

The Hudson Library & Historical Society and the Hudson League of Women Voters will present a program to discuss alternative ways to redistrict Ohio on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Not long ago, the Ohio Redistricting Competition proved that ordinary citizens do a better job of drawing legislative districts than the "pros" have been doing for decades. Could this revitalize Ohio politics? Come and judge for yourself.

To discuss the history of redistricting and alternatives to the current system will be Ann Henkener, Legislative Director for LWVO, specializing in redistricting and Joan W. Lawrence, past president of the LWVO who also served eight terms in the Ohio House of Representatives. They will discuss the recent contest that was held and the resulting winning reform.

As stated on the LWVO website, "Because of redistricting laws in Ohio, voters are not really choosing their representatives. The representatives are choosing their voters." Electoral district boundaries are manipulated for an unnatural electoral advantage which favors incumbents and leads to low voter turnout and apathy (<http://www.ohioimpact.org/redistricting/>).

Redistricting, or gerrymandering, is a function of state government to redraw the Ohio House and Senate seats every ten years. The current process conducted by the Ohio Apportionment Board is a partisan process that leads to the creation of "safe seats". Ohio has long been a leader in mismatched districts that do not reflect the political distribution of voter party affiliation. It has not mattered which party has redrawn the lines.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Flood Family Meeting room. It is free and open to the public, no registration is required. For more information, contact Jodie DeLamatre at 330/653-6658 ext. 1010, [www.hudsonlibrary.org](http://www.hudsonlibrary.org), [askus@hudson.lib.oh.us](mailto:askus@hudson.lib.oh.us) or the League of Women Voters of Hudson at [www.lwvhudsonohio.org](http://www.lwvhudsonohio.org) or League of Women Voters of the Akron Area at [www.lwvaa.org](http://www.lwvaa.org). This program is made possible, in part, with the help of the IMPACT Project, a consortium of the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund with grants from The Joyce Foundation, The Kettering Fund, and the League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund.

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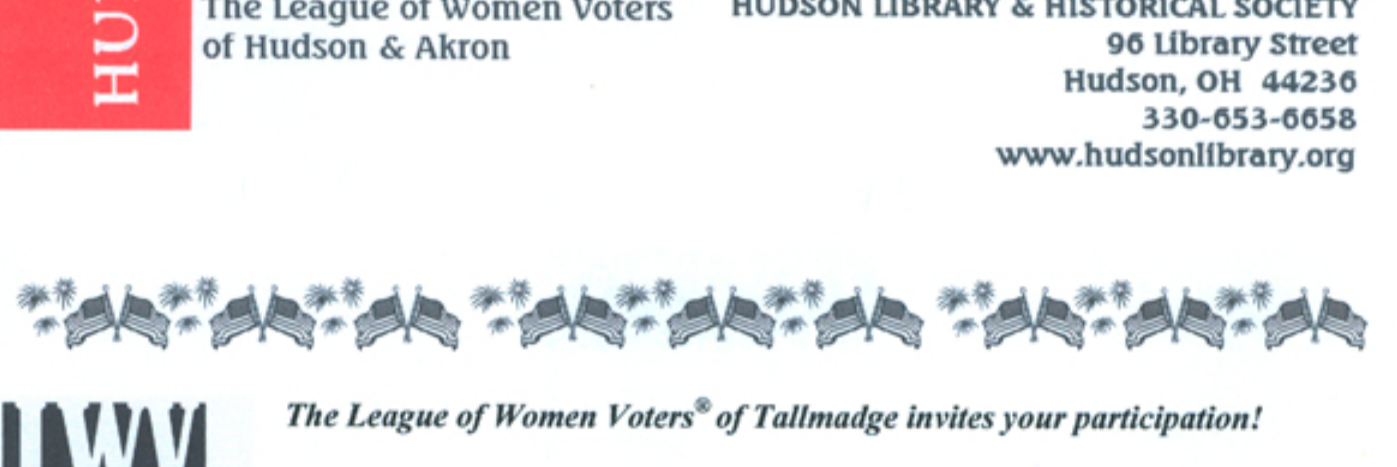
## POWER TO THE PEOPLE? Redistricting Ohio Redrawing our electoral boundaries

The Ohio Redistricting Competition proved that the ordinary citizens do a better job of drawing legislative districts than the "pros" have been doing for decades. Could this revitalize Ohio politics? Come and judge for yourself.

**Joan W. Lawrence,** former Ohio House of Representatives & Director of the Ohio Department of Aging

**Ann Henkener,** Legislative Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio & former Ohio Assistant Attorney General

**Thursday, November 12**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
Flood Family Meeting Room  
No registration required



The League of Women Voters of Hudson & Akron  
HUDSON LIBRARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
96 Library Street  
Hudson, OH 44236  
330-653-6658  
[www.hudsonlibrary.org](http://www.hudsonlibrary.org)

## THE 2010 CENSUS: A TOWN HALL MEETING

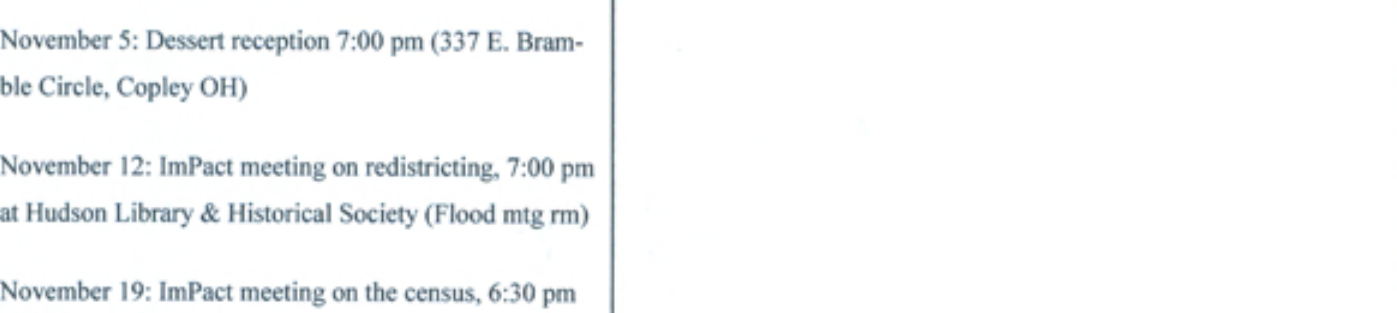
Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Tallmadge Community Center  
80 Community Road (off East Ave.)

COME AND LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- What happens with the Census information that is gathered?
- When and why does 'redistricting' happen?
- How will redistricting affect Tallmadge and surrounding communities?
- What happens if we lose representation within our senate & legislative boundaries?
- What happens if we lose federal and state money?

This program is presented by:  
The League of Women Voters of Tallmadge  
IMPACT  
Tallmadge Community Foundation

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