The Akron Voter



Volume 2, Issue 5 January, 2009

President's Remarks By: Erica Greer

A very Happy New Year to the League of Women Voters ons, determine if any of those very tough economic condiyou the same.

noticing commentary about and national organizations. voice he recent election, talking course about how different the We have a couple of opportuni- ahead. "bottom-up" have noted that such a bot- February 5. tom-up campaign is inher-

Well, as I hope you are aware, look over state and local positi- ment of Ohio in these Inside this issue:

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ently more democratic.

Observer Corps

Akron Metro

Editor's Note

Consensus Meeting

vide input for setting positions, agendas for action, and priori-

Howard Dean in 2004) had meeting, which will be held on These were true grassroots AM at Christ United Methodist efforts, with support coming Church on Mineloa Avenue in ing, and then we will consider the in small amounts from a wide Akron. The second opportunity the very few. Commentators League of Ohio on Thursday,

Observer Corps Report

By: Mary Felver

the varied carols I hear.

you and yours! I hope your is, and always has been, such a need updated or changed, to pro-tions. holidays were blessed with "bottom-up" (small d) democ- pose topics for study at either the tions that come out of these peace and good health, and ratic organization. Individual state or local level, and to provide consensus meetings that the New Year will bring members of local Leagues pro- input on what should be our local enable LWVO to lobby on priorities for the upcoming year, behalf of changes in Ohio's Last year we had great attendance taxation and finance sys-As President-Elect Obama's ties not only for their home and very lively discussion. Don't tems-the changes transition unfolds, I have been Leagues, but also for the state miss this chance to make your think are important, if you voice heard, and to help chart the make your voice heard at course for LWVAA in the year the consensus meeting.

Obama campaign was com- ties coming up to provide our I hope to see many of you pared to other campaigns. The League's input here in the first The consensus meeting on taxa- at both meetings—difference cited is often that two months of 2009. First up is tion and finance will be in the remember, your voice is Obama (and to a lesser extent, the annual program planning form of an open board meeting on important for League to Thursday, February 5 at 5:30 PM continue to be a democratic campaigns. Saturday, January 31 at 9:30 at the church of Mineola. There voice in politics! will be a short regular board meet-

the Chambers where the Council lie courtroom "Bench"

committee meetings take place where Akron legal history

consensus questions regarding Erica base, instead of the opposite: is the consensus meeting on LWVO's review of their positions support in large amounts from taxation and finance for the on taxation and finance. While this is perhaps not everyone's cup of tea, there is no denying that taxation and finance are crucial issues The annual Program Planning for the state of Ohio, in order to meeting is your opportunity to facilitate the economic redevelop-

For me, that was the theme of every Monday from 2:00 to 4:00 must surely have been Regionalism Meeting the special opportunity given to PM. Council members face each made in the past. Relevant Dates me to monitor Akron City Coun- other at long tables with microcil Meetings this fall. this was a phones before them, which they This Chamber has astound-Membership Form

golden chance to observe our can adjust for sound. -Continued on next page-

As Walt Whitman put it so beau- democracy in action. I was awed But the great focus of this tifully, "I hear America singing, first by the paneled splendor of room is the raised judicial-

THE AKRON VOTER VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

Observer Corps Report (continued)

By: Mary Felver ing acoustics- in earlier times I'm sure meanor of the Council members, their

of the Chamber. This was the problem I had in hearing most of Council's proceedings. I was eager to learn the nuts and bolts of their deliberations. I could read an agenda, but so much was unintelligible and I do not suffer from loss of hearing!

"no microphones needed to apply!"

Today, there seems to be a reliance on

technical devices that is thwarting the ability to project the voice to the back

Visually, I was fascinated by the historic chamber, the business-like denimity as a body. Audibly, though, I felt a "Great Divide." I am happy to report that things have improved! After that first visit to Council, Pat Lepingwell, Elizabeth Lander

infinite knowledge of the issues con-

fronting them, and their apparent equa-

and I spoke with Tina Merlitti, Council member and LWVAA member, and Marco Summerville, Council President, and asked if they could speak up, or address the visitors' area where citizens participate. On a subsequent visit on November 3, there seemed to be a "sea Consensus Meeting on Taxation & Finance

change" - we observers could hear!

Mayor Plusquellic for the establish-ment of a grocery store at Highland Square. I am now receiving council's Newslet-

That meeting ended with a proposal by

ter. My afternoons in this august assembly have given me a renewed sense of citizenship because America is still singing - long may its voices be raised.

Ohio was asked to update their positions on taxation and finance in Ohio so that state and local Leagues could advocate for changes in Ohio tax and finance policy. The study report has been completed

At the last State Convention, LWV

and will be emailed to all members who have email capability. For those of you who don't have email, there

would like a paper copy of the report, please call the League office, 330-836-7079, and request a copy be We will consider the LWV Ohio consensus questions at an open board meeting on Thursday, February 5 at

will be a link to the report on the

you don't have a computer and

LWVAA website, www.lwvaa.org. If

Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority

Your ideas and input are needed - consensus is the process that makes League a

5:30 PM at Christ United Methodist

Church, 380 Mineola Avenue, Akron.

model of democracy in action. Plan to attend so that we can provide input to League of Ohio on this issue so critical to the economic future of Ohio!

By: Mary Lou Gault Save Saturday, March 14, 2009, for a visit to the NEW Metro facility located where Bartges Street deadends to the east at High

have accomplished. We'll have more information for you in future newsletters.

Editor's Note

Street in downtown Akron. We're planning a morning meeting (9:30 a.m. to noon) for members and friends to see what they

The deadline for article submissions for the February newsletter is January 15th. These items may be e-

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

44708. Thank you!

THE AKRON VOTER

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

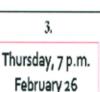
Regionalism: United We Stand, Divided We Fall? Find out @ The Hudson Library & Historical Society

with The League of Women Voters of Hudson



Free-No Registration Required

Thursday, 7 p.m. February 12 What is the economic future for



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Competition or Cooperation?

1.

Northeast OH?

What is regionalism?

Laura Steinbrink Director of regional partnerships for the Fund for Our Economic Future of Advance Northeast Ohio

College of Urban Studies

LEAGUE OF

380 Mineola

Akron, OH 44320-1399

WOMEN VOTERS

President: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106

Membership: Jodie DeLamatre (330) 376-0399

Dr. James Robey

Vice President, Research Team NBO

Adjunct Cleveland State University Levin



Mayor Jay Williams, Youngstown Mahoning County

Mayor Bill Robertson, Rittman

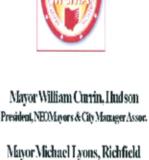
Wayne County

96 Library Street

Hudson, OH 44236 330/653-6658 x 1010 www.hudsonlibrary.org

February 26

Regional Prosperity Initiative



& Revenue Initiative Ohio Department of Development

Phase II Regional Economic Planning

LWV MISSION

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Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

January 29: LWV Hudson meeting on regionalism 7 pm at the

Name

RELEVANT DATES

January 31: Program Planning 9:30-noon CUMC February 5: Consensus meeting on taxation and finance

5:30 pm CUMC

dress) is \$30 for each additional member.

February 12: LWV Hudson meeting on regional revenue sharing 7 pm at the Hudson Library

tion, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organiza-

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League of Women Voters of the Akron Area (LWVAA)

380 Mineola Avenue, Akron OH 44320