May, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 6

President's Remarks By: Erica Greer It barely seems possible, but the budget, election of officers In this issue you will also find the changes will require your

drawing to a close. As the bylaws, and proposed program. culmination of the League

the coming year.

seen for awhile, and take care we are a great organization! of the necessary business of Inside this issue:

We'll come back recharged year's, but it nonetheless pro- at the Annual Meeting. and ready to wrap up this year jects a rebound in our member-

Proposed Program for LWVAA 2009-2010 CITY OF AKRON PROGRAM Land Use, Planning and Zoning:

another League year is rapidly and directors, changes to the proposed program for 2009-2010, vote at the Annual Meeting Remember, in League speak, pro- in order to be implemented. gram refers to the issues for study year, Diana Kingsbury, your In this issue of the Voter, you and action selected as our focus I hope to see many of you Voter editor, and I will be will find several important for the upcoming year. These at LeFever's on Thursday,

heading to Dublin, Ohio for items. One is the proposed ideas were generated by LWVAA June 4. Dinner is at 6:00, the LWVO Convention. Con- budget. In keeping with the members at the annual program with a cash bar at 5:30. If vention is always an amazing economic times, the budget is planning meeting in January, and you can't make the dinner and energizing experience, significantly smaller than last our membership will vote on them portion, plan to attend just the business meeting, which will begin at approximately at the Annual Meeting on ship numbers as a result of par- Another important item is the pro- 6:45. One of the wonderful June 4, and full of ideas for ticipating in the Membership posed changes to our bylaws, things about League is its

Recruitment Initiative. The goal There are several significant pro- grassroots nature; your atis a 5% net increase in member- posed changes which were spelled tendance and input at the The Annual Meeting will be ship, which will require board out in the April Voter. Perhaps the Annual Meeting is imporat LeFever's River Grille in members and non-board mem- most important one is to switch tant to keep it grassroots, Cuyahoga Falls this year. It's bers alike to help out in the election of the President from and to help provide direca lovely venue, and this meet- campaign. The number one way odd-numbered years to even- tion for the coming year. ing is always a good time to you can help? ASK PEOPLE numbered years. The reason for reflect back on our achieve- TO JOIN. Be prepared to tell this change is so that presidents ments in the past year, catch them why you are so enthusias- can receive training at LWVUS See you there! up with members we haven't tic about the League-because Convention before they begin their

term of office, rather than after a Erica year into their term. Again, these

from Stow Program not covered and Summit County Health

by Regional Program into the Departments.

2008-2009

PRIORITIES

Study (see above)

CUYAHOGA FALLS UNIT Environment : Retain Eliminate as a separate entity, Land Use: Retain and add to #8 2. Educate the public re-Member Spotlight but incorporate any program "unless it is part of a planned garding the MRDD system,

Municipal Government : Retain Observer Corps Acme CashBack Nominating Cmte LWVUS Health Care Thank You! REVENUE 2008-2009 Dues \$7,080.00

items from Cuyahoga Falls gional into the Regional Pro- Social Policy : Retain gram. STOW UNIT 08-09 2009-2010 "Actual"

\$7,890.00

\$4,630.00

community". Program not covered by Re- County Government : Retain PROPOSED STUDY Eliminate as separate entity, but A study of the costs and benefits community by providing incorporate any program items of merging the Akron, Barberton, education or taking action.

Regional Program. REGIONAL PROGRAM

EXPENSES

(continued)

ADMIN CMTES

particularly regarding changes in funding and priorities. Focus on emerging issues of importance to the 08-09 2009-2010 "Actual"

Contributions	0	0	0	Membership	\$500.00	\$425.00	\$600.00
Community	0	0	0	Postage	0	\$75.00	\$150.00
Memorials	0	\$40.00	0	PayPal	0	0	\$100.00
Membership	\$2,000.00	\$2,215.00	\$1,700.00	Voter Guide ad	0	\$48.00	0
ED Fund		0	0	Member Directory*	(Moved)	0	0
Operating	\$1,400.00	0	\$1,365.00	PR/Fund Raising	\$500.00	0	\$1,000.00
1/4 PMP LWVUS	\$826.00	0	0	Meetings/Programs	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$200.00
1/4 PMP LWVO	\$694.00	0	0	Room rentals	\$250.00	0	\$250.00
Reimbursement	0	\$133.00	0	Legislative Breakfast	0	0	0
Interest	\$350.00	0	0	Annual Meeting	0	0	0
Fund Raising	\$2,000.00	\$160.00	\$1,500.00	TOTAL	\$1,350.00	\$658.00	\$2,300.00
Activities/Reservations	0	0	0	DELEGATES			
Annual Meeting	0	0	0	National Convention	0	0	\$1,500.00
Legislative Breakfast	\$200.00	0	0	State Convention	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	0
NSF Reimbursement	0	0	0	Workshops	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Memorials	0	0	0	TOTAL	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,600.00
Misc. LWVO	0	\$188.00	\$100.00	ASSESSMENTS- DUES			
Reserves	\$2,270.00	0	0	National PMP	\$3,304.00	\$1,541.00	\$1,758.00
TOTAL	\$16,820.00	\$7,366.00	\$12,555.00	State PMP	\$2,773.00	\$1,867.00	\$2,054.00
EXPENSES	2008-2009	Year-to-Date	2009-2010	Lake Erie Basin	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
OPERATING				TOTAL	\$6,102.00	\$3,438.00	\$3,842.00
Maint/Insurance	\$300.00	\$297.00	\$300.00	COMMUNICATIONS			
Supplies/Misc/Printing	\$400.00	\$223.00	\$600.00	Newsletter			
Postage	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	Printing	\$1,000.00	\$728.00	\$800.00
Telephone/Internet	\$900.00	\$726.00	\$700.00	Postage	\$1,000.00	0	0
Rent	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	Bulk Mail Fee	\$168.00	(Moved)	0
Computer/Operations	\$200.00	\$105.00	\$200.00	Member Directory	\$350.00	\$307.00	\$200.00
New Media*	(Moved)			New Media*	0	0	0
Maintenance	\$1,200.00	0	0	Equipment	0	\$500.00	\$683.00
Bulk Mail Fee	0	\$180.00	\$180.00	New Media Design	\$1,500.00	0	0
TOTAL	\$4,050.00	\$2,481.00	\$2,930.00	TOTAL	\$4,018.00	\$1,535.00	\$1,683.00
BOARD				TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,820.00	\$9,237.00	\$12,555.00
President's Fund	\$200.00	\$125.00	\$200.00				
Publications for Board	0	0	0	LWVAA	BUDGET		
TOTAL BOARD	\$200.00	\$125.00	\$200.00				
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time after everyone was done to explain introduced a resolution congratulating how the minority contracting guidelines work. He also admonished some for not

the University of Akron Men's basketball team for winning its first Mid-American Conference Tournament

passed creating Rita Dove Lane and

Mary Peavy Eagle Court. These are the

April 6—Councilwoman Merletti,

March 30, 2009—Councilman Cox

Waiting for the markets to improve

point of the amendment). Council-

quests. Councilwoman Merletti introduced a resolution recognizing the St. Vincent/St. Mary's Boys basketball team as state champions. (The Councilwoman is an alumnus

March 23, 2009-The changes to the first streets in Akron to be named for now at Kent State, has won the 400 meter Goodyear project were approved, auwomen (Rita Dove, in addition to being at multiple meets and was the first "Kent thorizing the issuance of bonds earlier in Poet Laureate during the Clinton Ad-Stater" to be named MVP at the MAC Inthe project than initially planned, due to ministration, was a classmate of Marco door Championship for Track & Field. the credit crunch from the current eco-Sommerville at Buchtel High School.) And, as Councilwoman Greene noted,

the public hearing on how to spend could be catastrophic (which was the

came to speak wanted jobs and opportu- woman Crawford had her name added

shopping at Acme #1 instead of Henry's Championship. Also, an ordinance

Observer Corps Report By: Jean Questel Observers for Akron City Council in report that someone had suggested using March were Georgia Witte, Ned De- stimulus money to register young voters. Lamatre, Bonnie Horovitz, and Ethel She assured him that LWVAA is very Chambers. At the March 16 Committee ready to fulfill such a need. meetings, Ned heard Mayor Plusquellic's

March 16, 2009—This meeting included

stimulus money. Most of the people who

approaching, and jobs for minorities.

Council President Sommerville took

supporting their own community by

nomic crisis. Councilman Kilby made a

statement about "supporting with reser-

vations," because if it wasn't passed,

nities for youth, especially with summer to the amendment.

the council members as she saw them nities' governance. Bruce also provided she had no difficulty hearing the Council addressing the problems of their constitu- the website addresses to get additional members; all used their microphones

THE AKRON VOTER

Chair of the Finance Committee

Main page: http://www.co.summit.oh.us/ council/index.htm List of meeting dates: http:// www.co.summit.oh.us/council/ calendar.asp concern that cities may receive a lower Maureen Sullivan, Kathleen Arthur, and Meeting agendas: http:// proportion of stimulus funds than the Bruce Greer attended Summit County www.co.summit.oh.us/council/agenda.asp suburbs and rural areas regardless of the Council meetings in March. Their reports Meeting minutes: population. On March 23, the Parks and were sent to be displayed on LWVAA's www.co.summit.oh.us/council/ Recreation Committee approved money webpage. Bruce found the warm greeting minutes.asp to continue the outdoor concerts in 2009, of Council President Nick Kostandaris including the Akron Art Museum and the very friendly and his appreciation of Or call 330.643.2725 Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival. League's interest and attendance at the Georgia Witte found attending the Coun- Council meetings a nice reward for our cil meeting changed her perspective of effort to become involved in our commu-In addition, Maureen did comment that

related highlights of Max Rothal's report

to the Finance Committee on the unprece-

dented overtime and increased workload

required of the Law Department due to the

dramatic increase in special records re-

of St.V, where she also played basketball.)

Councilwoman Renee Greene introduced a

resolution recognizing the achievements of

Curtis Eaton Jr. He won multiple letters for

Track & Field and Football at Buchtel, and

"most importantly", Curtis made the

Dean's List last semester.

ents so seriously. Ethel Chambers asked information about Summit County proc- whenever they spoke. Marco Sommerville about the Beacon's Submissions for the June newsletter may be e-mailed to Diana Kingsbury kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or mailed to 1309

Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH 44708 by May 15th. Thank You!

Member Spotlight on.....50 Year Member Marjorie Thiell

one receives in not only the structure of the local and state government but also the political background from League's nonpartisan and well-researched information. Supplying this information solves one of the biggest issues facing a voter: obtaining nonpartisan facts, figures, and reasons. Another advantage of League membership is the pleasure of meeting and working with likeminded, active, intelligent women. Over the years, between my membership in LWV of Kent (6 years) and LWVAA (44 years) I have held every office and board position except that I have never chaired a National study item. My first responsibility

in Kent was a study of the local tax structure. Nowhere else where I have lived had I heard of inside and outside millage but one of my favorite positions was chairing the LWVO ACME CASHBACK = \$\$\$ FOR LEAGUE for next year are not yet available, but it's a good idea to start saving your tapes again around September 1st. You may notice the little "Acme Cash Back" print-

out and amount at the bottom of each reg-

Of course, the credit really goes to all the

Leaguers & friends who save their tapes

throughout the year. Once again, thank

Jodie DeLamatre

Emma Ferrin

ister receipt. I'll let you know ASAP.

you, to all who contributed!!

Lois Arnold

Linda Blake

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study of the Ohio Constitution-that

really was an eye-opener. My favorite

committee is, of course, the Govern-

Other community organizations I've

been active in are Stan Hywet Hall and

ment Committee.

Gardens (WAB and Board of Trustees), Akron Woman's City Club, Friends of Children's Hospital, Women's Committee of the University of Akron, Garden Lovers Garden Club and the Cuyahoga Valley Civil War Roundtable. And I've had the enjoyment of being a Girl Scout Troop Leader, a Cub Scout Den mother and a Sunday School teacher.

I love to read and garden and do word

puzzles of all kinds. And I have just

Amy Mitch

Judy Nicely

Jane Noble

Jeanne Orr

Jean Questel

Sandra Rossi

Jane Sanders

Betty Taylor

Marjorie Thiell

Paula Warner

Susan Vogelsang

Joanne Shippy Rosemary Spindler

Maureen Sullivan

discovered Sudoku!

Sharon Gandee

Mary Lou Gault

Erica Greer

Gerry Hall

Sharley Green

Sieglinde Hays Rayeann Helms

Bonnie Horovitz

Marjorie Laning

Pat Lepingwell

Gloria Massa

floor.

Gloria Markuten

new bylaw

Janice Jacobs

Ardith Keck

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There is a marked increase in the num-

ber of adults having difficulty paying

Nominations (with the permission of the nominee) will be entertained from the

**One year term, based on passage of

ALL TERMS ARE TWO YEARS

UNLESS DESIGNATED (*)

With a family interested in govern-League. In the early years of building a marment and politics, a major in Governriage and a family, League helps keep your ment at Barnard, and an interest in mind alive. Another factor is the education

governmental structure, I was very

aware of the League of Women Vot-

ers but it was not until 1958 when we

came to Ohio (the 7th state I've lived

in) that I had the opportunity to be-

come a member. I still might not have

done so except for a member I met at dinner for Newcomers in Kent. A fel-

low diner was questioning me about my background and when she heard I

had majored in Government (it was

not called Political Science then)

asked me if I was interested in the

League. When I answered affirma-

tively, she took me right from the din-

ner to a League meeting that night

while my dear husband baby-sat.

That was only one factor in joining

By: Janice Jacobs

Our cash back check for 2008-2009, in

Good recruitment technique.

PAGE 4

the amount of \$153,40, has been received. This is about \$39.00 more than last year. I'm not sure why we did a bit better. The program and time frame were structured very much like last year. Many thanks to the fine folks at Acme. Throughout the inception of this program contributions of more than \$1.6 million have been made to various nonprofit Akron area community organizations. The dates and other particulars LWVAA 2009-2010 Nominating Committee Slate V.P. Program Erica Greer ** Harriet Cutler* V.P. Organization Secretary Maureen Sullivan VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

By: Janis McMillen

Data from multiple sources agree that in

2007, 47 million Americans (15.6 per-

cent of the total U.S. Population) lacked

any kind of health insurance coverage.

When these numbers are adjusted for age

(excluding those 65 years and older), the

uninsured percentage of the population

rises to 17.9 percent. Moreover, it is esti-

mated that 25 million adults under age

65 were underinsured during 2007, de-

spite having insurance all year. In total,

42 percent of all adults (86.7 million)

were either uninsured or underinsured

Putting a face on persons who were un-

Age: One of three people under age 65

were uninsured for some or all of 2007

and 2008; of the total uninsured popula-

tion, 60.1 million were adults (between

Duration: Among the underinsured/

uninsured, 74.5 percent were uninsured

for nine or more months and one-quarter

Employment status: 80 percent of indi-

viduals who were uninsured were in

working families and only 16 percent

were not in the labor force (due to dis-

abilities, chronic illness, or serving as

Lois Arnold

Ann Duff

Sara Gibbs

Jodie DeLamatre

Mary Lou Gault

Erica & Bruce Greer

President: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106

were uninsured the entire 24 months.

derinsured during 2007 and 2008.*

19 and 64 years of age).

during 2007.

Nominating Committee Board of Directors Rhonda Davis Sally York Gerry Hall Martha Nelson Joann Robb THE AKRON VOTER At Risk Americans: The Uninsured and Underinsured

family caregivers.)

sured.

Income: Nearly 60 percent were in fami-

lies with incomes below the federal pov-

erty level (FPL: \$21,200/year for a family

of four); 52 percent with incomes between

100 to 200 percent of FPL went without

Racial and Ethnic origin: 55 percent of

Hispanics/Latinos, 40.3 percent of African

Americans and 34 percent of other racial or

ethnic minorities had no health insurance

in 2007/2008, compared to 25.8 percent of

whites. While racial and ethnic minorities

are more likely to be uninsured, whites

accounted for 49.8 percent of the unin-

Age breakdown: The likelihood of being

uninsured declines with age; 49.5 percent

of those 19-24 years old, 36.3 percent of

those 25-44 years old, 32.5 percent of

those 45-54 years old and 21.2 percent of

those 55-64 years old were uninsured over

this two-year time period. The 55-64 year

old age group consumes more health care

on average than younger adults. For all

ethnic and racial groups, lower-income

families and individuals were more likely

to be uninsured than lower-income whites.

This disparity continues even as incomes

rise in all groups.

mocracy Work!

Gerry Hall

health insurance in 2007/2008.

medical bills-the most visible consequence of the weakening insurance coverage. In 2007, 41 percent of adults (72 million people) reported problems paying medical bills, faced bill collectors or were in debt for medical care. up from 34 percent or 58 million in 2005. The majority had insurance at the time these bills were incurred**-well in advance of the economic downturn. *All statistics above and below are from http://www.familiesusa.org/ resources/publications/reports/ americans-at-risk-findings.html **The statistics in this paragraph are from http://

www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/

Testimony-Insurance-Design-Matters-

Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board mem-

LWVUS Health Care Education Task

Produced by the LWVUS Health Care

ber and LWVKS) is chair of the

Education Task Force, 2009

Publications/Testimonies/2009/Feb/

Underinsured-Trends-Health-and-

Financial-Risks.aspx

Force.

Sieglinde Hays Jane Noble Ardith & Bill Keck Bonnie Parks Diana Kingsbury Willette Riley Gloria Massa Joann Robb Kathryn Michael Jane Sanders

Amy Mitch

In grateful appreciation, LWVAA would like to recognize the following members who made contributions over and above their membership dues. Together, their donations totaled \$1245 to benefit LWVAA. Your support helps Make De-Many thanks to all of you! Sandra Smith Rosemary Spindler Marjorie Thiell

Susan Vogelsang

Anonymous (6)

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Sally York

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS⁸ 380 Mineola Akron, OH 44320-1399

May 10: Mother's Day

May 15: Newsletter Deadline

June 4: Annual Meeting at LeFever's River Grille

Membership: Jodie DeLamatre (330) 376-0399 Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

ment, works to increase understanding of major public policy May 1: Law Day cacy. May 1-3: LWV Ohio Convention

LWV MISSION IMPORTANT DATES The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in govern-

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 ad-

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!!

dress) is \$30 for each additional member.

Zip: Phone:

issues, and influences public policy through education and advo-

Name: Address:

Send to:

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