

President's Remarks By: Erica Greer

Sometimes being the president of an organization, even one as great as ours, can be a frustrating job. I have been typing up the annual calendar that the board created for our events this year to include in this issue of The Akron Voter. We came up with some great ideas for new events and ideas for different venues at which to have them. The only thing we are missing is the help to work on them and help bring them to fruition.

tion, who is responsible for taking care of the phone, email, and handbook; a Voter registration chair, and any functioning committees. This makes every-one on the board's job that much harder, because we are all having to pitch in to take up the slack. We are also looking for one more member for the Nominating Committee.

helping to plan the 90th birthday party for the League of Women Voters in February. Those plans year? Would you be willing to participate on a telephone committee to remind thing to celebrate, and we want it to be an event worthy of all that events?

It can be very discouraging to realize that all the great ideas in the world won't help us carry on our work or grow our organization if we can't get together enough people willing to help out. Thus far this year, we are operating without a Vice President Organiza-

I am happy to say that we have had a good response from people willing to help out with the study for the recall provisions in the Akron City Charter.

There are so many ways, both large and small, that you could be of service to and our democracy. Call the League office or send in your member profile when you send in your dues, help register someone will contact you. Please find a little time to help put labels on the City or County Democracy Work! Council meeting as a League

Diana Kingsbury and Mary Lou Gault are co-chairing the effort and will be contacting those interested very soon, if they haven't already.

Erica

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D.C. Voting Rights—Test your Knowledge (From the LWVUS website)

The League of Women Voters, in March 1982. civil rights denied depending on where they live in the United States.

So where are we now? Take the quiz below and see how much you know about D.C. voting rights! (See answers: page 3)

T/F 3. The framers of the Constitution intended to deny District residents congressional voting rights.

T/F 1. Washington D.C. is just a city.

T/F 2. Americans can have their T/F 4. D.C. citizens pay

federal and local taxes even though they have no voting representation in Congress.

T/F 5. The population of D.C. is not large enough to have representation.

T/F 6. Because most of Washington D.C. is government land, the District cannot have representation.

T/F 7. Most Washington residents have lived in the District for more than 20 years.

T/F 8. D.C. cannot achieve voting rights.

T/F 9. D.C. citizens have worked hard throughout history to gain equal rights.

T/F 10. People who live in D.C. have more influence because they are closer to the President and Congress.

The League Supports Full Census Count (From the LWV Ohio website)

As we approach the 2010 Census—which will likely result in decreased Congressional representation for Ohio—it is important to ensure that every Ohio resident is counted. The League of Ohio is involved in that effort on two fronts.

First, the League of Ohio is a member of the statewide Ohio Complete Count Committee (CCC) established by Governor Strickland to increase awareness about the 2010 Census and educate/motivate Ohioans to participate. The committee will work collaboratively with local Complete Count Committees

And the U.S. Census Bureau to:

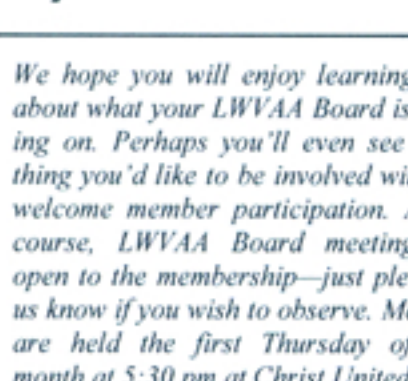
1. Ensure a complete count through education and promotion.
2. Increase counts in hard-to-count areas, and
3. Increase mail-back rates of census materials.

LWVUS is also a CCC partner at the national level. For more information, go to the CCC website: <http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/ccGuide.pdf>

Second, the League is participating on the statewide Ohio Census Initiative—You Can Count On Me, a non-profit committee working to increase participation by focusing on 300 of the most difficult census tracts for intensive efforts to get an accurate count. Many of LWV/EF's coalition partners are also participating, e.g. Ohio Citizen Action Fund, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing (COHHIO), Ohio Votes, etc.

For more information on the Census, go to: www.census.ohio.gov or www.nonprofitscount.org

LWVAA Member Spotlight on...Jean Questel



I joined LWVAA in 1987, the year I quit teaching at the University of Akron. (The word "retire" is what you do to cars.) I had always admired my neighbor who was a stay-at-home mom and belonged to the Cuyahoga Falls League.

She was current on political issues and the most stimulating woman in the neighborhood.

Sally York was president of LWVAA when I became one of 3 new Board members. And suddenly I was chairman of the State Finance Study. I didn't even know what a study was! In following years I was elected secretary, program vice president, and finally president. I was a delegate to several state and national conventions, and there I watched the most capable, motivated women I had ever seen working to achieve the purpose of the League: to understand political issues and present the information to citizens so they can be informed voters.

The Motor Voter is a prime example of an issue LWV helped to enact. I wanted to be like those women: knowledgeable, concisely articulate, and pragmatic. Every issue presented at the conventions was scrutinized and debated on whether it was pertinent, achievable, and affordable considering the size of our membership and funds.

One example of LWV's pragmatism and insistence on protecting the League's reputation as a non-partisan political organization was their withdrawal from the national presidential debates. For several

-Continued on next page-

LWVAA Member Spotlight on...Jean Questel (continued)

the League organized the debate following their rules for all candidates' nights: a brief opening statement, questions to each candidate with a timed answering period, a timed closing statement, written questions from the audience asked by the moderator.

At the August Board meeting, Martha Lester was elected to fill out the required number of elected Directors. Gerry Hall agreed to be one of the two board members for the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee. Ned DeLamatre will be directing the efforts of the Observer Corps, replacing departed board member and previous coordinator Jean Questel. Lois Arnold has agreed to coordinate an LWVAA fundraiser at Weathervane

When the Democratic and Republican Parties decided the candidates must have the questions in advance, which they would select, that the candidate be allowed to rebut the opponent's answer, and the parties would select the moderator, the League refused

Ned DeLamatre reported on observing the Public Health Feasibility Study Committee, chaired by William Considine, which is looking at the possibility of merging the Akron and Summit Counties, and possibly Barberton Health Departments. There will be informational meetings to educate the public about this potential change, and Ned reported that the Committee would like the League to be involved in these informational meetings.

LWVAA will provide moderators, question screeners, and time keepers for a candidates' forum in Richfield. The Board decided against a candidates' night for the Council primaries because of time constraints and the size of the candidate fields.

to participate. They had reserved the TV time and had to pay for canceling, but they would not be associated with campaign speeches pretending to be debates. Such integrity is why I am proud to belong to the League of Women Voters.

Gerry Hall reported that a Voters Guide for the primary elections is available on the LWVAA website: www.lwvaa.org. There will not be a printed edition for the primaries, but there will be a print version as usual for the general election in November.

LWVAA will be participating in the Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade, and we hope LWV Hudson and Tallmadge will join us. Plans are underway. Please contact Mary Lou Gault if you would like to help!

Board Briefs By: Erica Greer

We hope you will enjoy learning more about what your LWVAA Board is working on. Perhaps you'll even see something you'd like to be involved with—we welcome member participation. And of course, LWVAA Board meetings are open to the membership—just please let us know if you wish to observe. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 380 Mineola Ave. in Akron.

The Board continued work on the annual calendar. Arrangements for the annual picnic were finalized.

The LWVAA study of the recall parameters in the Akron City Charter is getting underway. Diana Kingsbury and Mary Lou Gault will be co-chairing the committee. Please contact either of them if you would like to be involved in this timely and important study.

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Webmaster Report By: Bruce Greer

We have recently posted the Voters Guide for the 2009 Primary Elections, focusing on the 56 candidates vying for 13 open seats on Akron City Council. This is the first time that we have issued the Voters Guide exclusively on our website without a printed version. Unfortunately, not all the candidates take advantage of the opportunity to state their positions, but many people seek out this information as indicated by the spike

in activity on our site. Just as an example, there was a 100% increase in the number of visitors this August as compared to August 2008. We hope you will take advantage of this online Voters Guide to help you sort through the confusing array of candidates in this primary election cycle.

We can measure the effectiveness of our website based on a vast array of user statistics. These "web stats" include an incredible amount of information. Did you know that we have visitors to our website from around the world? During the month of August, we had visits from 17 countries including the Russian Federation, China, Romania, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, France, Austria, Israel, Great Britain, South Korea, Spain, India, Bulgaria, Poland, and the Czech Republic. I wonder what they were looking for, and I hope they found it!

Public Health Committee Report By: Ned DeLamatre

I attended the August 3 meeting for the proposed Akron-Summit County Health Department merger. The Center for Community Services in Cleveland has been hired to help facilitate the process. There will be community forums held and interest was expressed in the LWVAA participating.

There are some legal questions which must be investigated concerning the County and City charters and how employees will be effected. The Mayor of Barberton has also expressed interest in merging their health department with Summit County as well. Dayton and Toledo have already consolidated their health departments with their re-

spective counties and will be used as models. Mr. Considine noted there is a good chance of convincing voters to support this effort. However, there are stakeholders who could prevent it from happening. The window of opportunity may be brief, and yet, at the same time, the process should not be rushed.

D.C. Voting Rights Quiz: Answers

1.) **False:** D.C. is most accurately described as a District. The D.C. government is responsible for most jobs of a city, county, and state. D.C. runs a police force, school system, and is treated as a state in more than 500 federal laws. Like states, D.C. also has its own legal code.

2.) **True:** Unlike the 50 states, Congress has complete control over D.C.'s laws. D.C. citizens are denied equal representation in Congress, a right enjoyed by citizens in all of the 50 states. This means D.C. residents have no voice in the legislative body that determines its laws and budget.

3.) **False:** At the time the Constitution was written, the federal government needed the state for protection if there was a revolt. That was why the federal government wanted to have control over D.C. The record shows that the founders were concerned about the rights of District citizens and left open the responsibility that future generations could address the inequity.

4.) **True:** D.C. citizens pay about \$5 billion per year in District taxes. This money is sent to Congress and is given back to D.C. to pay for the city's budget. In addition, D.C. citizens pay federal taxes at one of the highest per capita rates in the nation.

5.) **False:** All states—regardless of size—have equal representation in the Senate. In the House, representation is determined by population size. There are seven states that, like D.C., have a population of less than one million, and D.C. has a larger population than Wyoming, which has two senators and one representative.

6.) **False:** The "National Capital Service Area" is home to Congress, the White House, the Supreme Court, and the Smithsonian museums. This area takes up 63 percent of the city. In comparison, the federal government owns 88 percent of Nevada, 68 percent of Utah, 67 percent of Arkansas, and 65 percent of Idaho. However, citizens of those states retain full voting rights. In fact, the U.S. is the only democratic country where citizens of its capital have no voice in the national legislature.

7.) **True:** Most people who live in D.C. (nearly 600,000) are permanent residents. More than 50 percent have lived in D.C. for 20 years or more.

8.) **False:** Earlier in our history, people said women and African-Americans would never achieve voting rights. Through a lot of hard work, sacrifice, demonstrations, and legislation, women and African-Americans were granted the right they deserved. District residents can too.

9.) **True:** D.C. citizens have worked since 1800 to achieve political rights, each generation writing letters, protesting, and filing lawsuits. To this day, D.C. citizens continue to educate others about their unique relationship with Congress.

10.) **False:** This may have been true before the advent of jet planes, telephones, faxes, and e-mail. Most federal officials now know more about and are more interested in people from their state, as well as national and international affairs, than in D.C. issues.

Submissions for the October *Voter* should be submitted to Diana Kingsbury by September 15th. You can submit articles via e-mail at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or mail at 1309 Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH 44708. Thank you!

2009 Annual Picnic Report: A Perfect Picnic Potluck By: Jodie DeLamatre

The annual potluck picnic was successfully organized this year by Harriet Cutler. As usual, the food was provided by members for members, and was luscious.

In commemoration of Women's Equality Day, this year's guest speaker was Debra Johanyak, Professor of English at the University of Akron and author of "Behind the Veil". She spoke on her experiences living in Iran during the years of 1978 to 1980. As a young mother in another culture, Johanyak had many adjustments to make and learned a great deal about the differences and similarities between the United States and Iran. She noted that the Persians are not Arab and speak Farsi. She gave a quick overview of Iranian/Persian history including the role of the United States' support in the 1950's election and our support for the Shah, and how repercussions are still being felt. The comfort of visitors and guests is foremost in the culture and she was welcomed

by her husband's family. The level of religiosity of individuals affected dress and relationships. While her sons and former husband are all in this country, all would like to go back to Iran when things settle down, which she anticipates is slowly occurring.

In the business portion of the night, LWVAA voted to form a committee to review the Recall parameters in the city charter. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Of late and in part due to our visibility at both city and county council meetings thanks to Jean Questel's re-establishment of the Observer Corps, LWVAA has been invited to participate in a couple of community issues. President Erica Greer noted that the National Conference of Mayors contacted her to comment on recalls in general because of her letter that appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal on that topic.

On a related note, Greer reiterated that these acknowledgements by community and governmental entities substantiate the value of the League. And while that is vital, so is increasing involvement of our membership to serve on committees, as well as increasing our membership rolls. To that end, please consider participating in one of the many committees working for the betterment of our community beginning this fall with Voter Services (Gerry Hall), Voter Registration, the Recall Revision Study (Mary Lou Gault/Diana Kingsbury), Observer Corps of Akron City Council or Summit County Council (Ned DeLamatre), or Membership (Jodie DeLamatre).

And don't forget to ask people to JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AKRON AREA!



Just a Reminder...

It's that time again! LWVAA annual dues are—what else?—due! You should have received a notice from Treasurer Sharley Greer, which contains the breakdown on dues, as well as an opportunity to give a donation to help support League. Donations may be made at one of the named levels, but if that is out of your price range, any extra you can spare would be greatly appreciated—just check "Other" and indicate the amount. Please take a moment while you are thinking about it

and make your check out to LWVAA. Send it to the League office at 380 Mineola Ave. Akron, OH 44320 (attention Sharley Greer).

out with this year. Every contribution of time and energy is appreciated, and helps to make us a more dynamic and stronger organization.

You should also have a received a member profile along with the dues notice. Please take a couple of minutes to fill it out. Any corrections to your information in the handbook can be made there. It's also your chance to indicate which program or organizational areas you would like to help

As always, thank you for all you do for League!

<p>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®</p> <p>380 Mineola Akron, OH 44320-1399</p> <p>President: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106</p> <p>Membership: Jodie DeLamatre (330) 376-0399</p> <p>Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555</p>	<p>NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID AKRON, OHIO PERMIT NO. 445</p> <p>ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED</p>
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IMPORTANT DATES

September 3 : Board meeting, 5:30 at CUMC

September 8 : Primary elections

September 17: Constitution Day

October 1 : Candidates' Night

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 OH 44320