

The Akron Voter



Volume 2, Issue 15

May, 2010

President's Remarks

By: Erica Greer

This month marks the culmination of LWVAA's year-long study on recall parameters. The study committee, chaired by Diana Kingsbury and Mary Lou Gault and assisted by Ardith Keck, Maureen Sullivan, Sharley Greer and Susan Vogelsang, has been working hard doing the necessary research.

On Thursday, May 20, we will be meeting at the home of Sharley Greer, 7572 Cleveland-Massillon Rd. (old Rt. 21) in Clinton for our consensus meeting on this nuanced topic. I hope you have taken advantage of the research that has appeared in the February, March, and April *Voters*. Elsewhere in this issue you will find the consensus ques-

tions we will be considering. (If you have misplaced your *Voters*, please contact me and I will see that you get the information so that you can look it over prior to the consensus meeting.)

The goal of this process is to reach consensus so that LWVAA can develop a position on recall and thus be prepared and ready to advocate for or against any proposed Akron City Charter changes to the recall parameters that may come out of the charter review commission. It will also enable us to take a stand on any changes that may then later be proposed for the Summit County Charter.

This is time-honored League

work: study, consensus, position, attendance at the annual advocacy. However, this process doesn't work without participation by League members in the consensus meeting. Your attendance and input really matter! We are arranging for several members to offer car-pooling to Sharley's home, for those of you who don't want to make the drive to Clinton. You can meet at the League's office at 6:00 and ride together. If you are interested, please contact Susan Vogelsang or Ardith Keck.

Also in this issue of the *Voter* are those items required by the bylaws to be in members' hands at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting on Thursday, June 3: the proposed program, the proposed budget, and the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. Your

We can't be a grassroots organization without YOU! I hope to see many of you at both the consensus meeting and the annual meeting. And for our many newer members, these meetings offer a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the League and what makes League tick—and keep on ticking for 90 years!

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Slate of Officers and Directors: 2010-2011

OFFICERS

Two year term

1st Vice President—Organization: Martha Lester

Treasurer—Sharley Greer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Two year term

Newsletter Editor—Mexie Wilson

Membership—Erica Greer

Publicity—Sara Gibbs

Webmaster—Bruce Greer



Respectfully Submitted:

Sally York (chair)

Ardith Keck

Gerry Hall

Sara Gibbs

Iron-Jawed Angels

By: Jean Questel

LWV's 90th birthday, a perfect time to recognize our organization's past and consider our future. The brunch honoring the many women in Summit County who have become elected officials exemplified LWV's belief that women should be participants in our governmental process. LWVAA continued the celebration with a free screening of *Iron Jawed Angels* on April 6 at Weathervane Playhouse.

But inviting everyone to see *Iron Jawed Angels* was not the same sort of joyful, upbeat celebration event. It was a sobering, inspiring revelation of the heart-rending tenacious devotion of a few women who forced men in our government to give women the right to vote.

In 1918, just as women had been told in 1865 after the Civil War, conditions were too pressing to introduce such a great social change as allowing women to vote. The main women's organization, the National American Women's Suffrage Association, led by Carrie Chapman Catt, continued their ineffective but publicly acceptable methods of meeting with legislators and speaking to public groups to win their support for women to vote.

Recognizing that women were exploited as cheap labor and had no legal rights exempting those approved by loving, protective husbands, Alice Paul, a vital young member, urged Catt to force Woodrow Wilson to address the issue by marching a-

nd picketing the White House. How shocking and unwomanly! The public response by men was violence, and the government's response was to arrest the women and jail them. The suffering of Paul and these women dramatized their plight and the actual desire of governmental officials to never accept women as partners in democracy.

What a difficult struggle! And what a debt we owe to these women—not once every 90 years but every day! Become involved in the League and your government! Know the issues! Know the candidates! Be informed! **And Vote! This is the right these brave women won for us!**



Welcome New Members!

LWVAA welcomes more new members—and some returning former members too!

Kathi Arthur *
Tamela Lee

Janet Miller
Linda Omobien *

Linda Tucci Teodosio *
Beth Whitmore

*Former members who rejoined



LWVAA Unveils New Website

Please take a few minutes to check out LWVAA's brand new website. You'll find it at the usual web address: www.lwvaa.org. The fresh new look is thanks to a couple hundred hours of work donated by League webmaster Bruce Greer. Many thanks for his hard work!

Board Briefs

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at Christ United Methodist Church on Mineola Ave. in Akron and are open to the public.

Board was busy at the April 1 meeting, taking care of the following:

- Finalizing plans for the Tuesday, April 6 event, Voyage to the Vote: *Iron Jawed Angels*.
- Modifying and approving the budget as presented by budget chair, Rhonda Davis.

- Accepting the slate for next year's board from the Nominating Committee.

- Approving the list of consensus questions for the consensus meeting on the recall study.

- Discussing possible ways to enhance the Observer Corps.

- Reviewing the proposed changes to the LWVAA website as proposed by Bruce Greer.

- Discussing details for LWVAA, LWV Tallmadge, and LWV Hudson's parti-

icipation in the Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day parade, as reported by Mary Lou Gault.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 6 at Christ United Methodist Church, 380 Mineola Avenue, Akron. If you wish to attend, please use the entrance by the Mineola parking lot, rather than the entrance by the Crestview parking lot.

Natural Resources

Submitted by: Mary Lou Gault; EcoWatch, April-May 2010

Article by Richard T. Steubi—a founding principal of the advanced energy initiative at NorTech, where he is on loan from The Cleveland Foundation as its Fellow of Energy and Environmental Advancement. He is also a Managing Director in charge of cleantech investment activities at Early Stage Partners, a Cleveland-based venture capital firm.

For as long as I can remember, Lake Erie—and by extension, all of the Great Lakes of North America—symbolized water pollution. Sure, it was much worse 40 years ago, when the Cuyahoga River in downtown Cleveland caught on fire, but the reputation lingers. Although the Great Lakes is a boater's and fisher's haven, for many people, the thought of bathing in the waters or drinking them untreated remains pretty unappealing.

This is truly a pity for the Midwest, because the Great Lakes represents one of the most fundamental assets that a region can offer: fresh water in enormous quantities. For those who've never seen the Great Lakes, they are misnamed: these are inland seas, n-

ot lakes. The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's freshwater. Pause and think about that for a minute.

In recent decades, there has been an increase in attention paid to remediating the Great Lakes. A unique multi-government collaboration launched in 1955, the Great Lakes Commission was formed to oversee issues spanning the multiple U.S. states and Canadian provinces depending upon the Great Lakes. Founded 40 years ago, the Alliance for the Great Lakes was an early voice advocating environmental improvement in the Great Lakes. Most substantively, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency leads the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which targets "the most significant problems in the region, including invasive aquatic species, non-profit source pollution, and contaminated sediment."

Recently, the Obama Administration announced a five-year \$2.2 billion blueprint for cleaning up the Great Lakes, which aims by 2014 to (1) finish work at five "toxic hot spots" that have been known as problematic for two decades, (2) reduce the rate of new

invasive species by 40 percent, (3) decrease phosphorus runoff measurably, and (4) protect about 100,000 wetland acres.

As the central feature of the industrial North American Midwest, which gave birth to the industrial era of the 20th Century, the Great Lakes were long taken advantage of — often without much respect—and to achieve economic growth, increase standards of living, win wars, and establish the U.S. as the unparalleled leader in the world. \$2.2 billion may sound like a lot of money, but it's due time we give back to the Great Lakes, for all that they've given us.

The Lake Erie Basin Committee's Annual Meeting will be Wed., July 21, 10 am-2 pm at Beach House Condominiums, 22500 Lake Road, Rocky River, OH 44116

Inspirational Words

"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world."
—Joel Arthur Baker

EXPENSES	2009-2010	Year-to-Date	2010-2011		2009-2010	Year-to-Date	2010-2011
Operating				Communications			
Maintenance/Insurance	\$300.00	\$297.00	\$300.00	Newsletter			
Supplies/Misc./Printing	\$600.00	\$76.95	\$300.00	Printing	\$800.00	\$813.00	\$1,000.00
Postage	\$50.00	\$512.00	\$700.00	Handbook	\$300.00	\$313.00	\$400.00
Telephone/Internet	\$700.00	\$588.00	\$700.00	New Media			
Rent	\$900.00	\$675.00	\$900.00	New Media Equipment	\$683.00	\$ -	\$365.00
Computer/Operations	\$200.00	\$ -	\$100.00	Total Communications	\$2,983.00	\$1,127.23	\$1,765.00
Bulk Mail Fee	\$180.00	\$185.00	\$185.00				
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,930.00	\$ 2,333.95	\$3,185.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,655.00		\$13,375.00
Board				90th Birthday Events	\$2,000.00		
President's Fund	\$200.00	\$ -	\$200.00				
Publication for Board		\$ -	\$120.00	NEW TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,655.00		
Total Board Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$320.00				
				REVENUE		Year-to-Date	Revised proposed
Administrative Committees				Dues	\$7,890.00	\$5,760.00	\$8,400.00
Membership	\$600.00	\$141.00	\$600.00	Contributions			
Postage	\$150.00			Community			
Pay Pal	\$100.00	\$ -	\$50.00	Memorials			
Public Relations/Fund Raising	\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$500.00	Membership	\$1,800.00	\$1,360.00	\$1,550.00
Meetings/Programs	\$200.00	\$ -	\$500.00	Ed Fund			
Room Rentals	\$250.00	\$285.00	\$200.00	Operating	\$1,365.00	\$1,099.00	\$1,100.00
Activities Reservations				Interest		\$240.00	\$225.00
Legislative Breakfast		\$ -	\$100.00	Fundraising	\$1,500.00	\$ -	\$2,000.00
Annual Dinner		\$ -	\$ -	Leg Bkfst/annl mtg/pwr plg			
Total Administrative	\$ 2,300.00	\$426.00	\$1,950.00	Reserves			
				Misc LWVO	\$100.00	\$ -	\$100.00
Delegates				TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,655.00	\$8,459.00	\$13,375.00
National Convention	\$1,500.00	\$ -					
State Convention		\$ -	\$1,000.00	LWVAA BUDGET			
Workshops	\$100.00	\$ -	\$300.00				
Total Delegate Expenses	\$1,600.00	\$ -	\$1,300.00				
Assessments/Dues							
National PMP	\$1,758.00	\$1,291.00	\$2,100.00				
State PMP	\$2,054.00	\$1,563.67	\$2,725.00				
Lake Erie Basin Committee	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00				
Total Assessments/	\$3,842.00	\$2,884.67	\$4,855.00				

Consensus Questions

The following are the questions we will use to guide discussion at our upcoming consensus meeting on May 20. The questions were compiled by the recall study committee and were approved by the board at the April 1 board meeting. The questions are provided to members in advance so that thoughtful consideration may be given to the topic and to help us develop a sound position based on League principles. Please read and reflect, and come prepared to discuss these topics on May 20.

- 1.) Are you in favor of the city charter providing for recall provisions for elected officials? If so, why and what provisions ought to be included in the recall language? If not, why?
- 2.) Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of recall elections? Why?
- 3.) What constitutes sufficient reasons for citizens to undertake a recall of an elected official?
- 4.) What criteria should be necessary to initiate a recall election?
- 5.) Do you think recall elections protect or harm the democratic process?
- 6.) Should there be time limits within an elected official's term within which a recall may occur? If so, what would be appropriate parameters?

Additional Recall Information

At their best, recall elections are considered a method of direct democracy that allow citizens to express their dissatisfaction with an elected official by having the opportunity to remove them from office before the end of their term. At their worst, they are considered costly, excessive, and damaging to the actual workings of the government.

In general, recall elections are underutilized by citizens because they often simply wait until the next election to vote an official out of office. Recall elections are often unsuccessful as well, thus contributing to

their lack of use. While many citizens do not rely on recall elections, the opportunity to call for one exists in many state constitutions and in city and county charters (see last month's *Voter* to read recall provisions in the charters of Ohio's "Big Eight" cities.) As citizens, it is important to be aware of what constitutes a recall election and how they might be used in our local and state governments.

At the national level, members of the United States House and Senate, as well as the President and Vice-President are not subject to recalls. The United States Cons-

titution does not allow for the removal of federally elected officials by way of recall, though the concept was considered at the time of the Constitution's drafting. Impeachments at the federal and state level should not be confused with recall elections. Impeachments are the removal of a federal or state official by way of a constitutional body (i.e., the Supreme Court or state/national legislature). Recall elections are initiated by the citizens themselves. Please plan to attend our consensus meeting for more information on recall elections and to help create LWVAA's position.

ACME Cash Back

Our cash back check for 2009-2010, in the amount of \$91.81 has been received. This is a bit less than last year. I think it is probable that the economy played a part in the smaller amount, but I am not sure. The program and time frame were structured very much like last year.

We had a flurry of tapes received near the deadline of the CashBack period. I was concerned up until the very end that we might not have enough (\$1,500.00 in qualifying purchases) to file our claim.

As usual, 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 non-profit Akron area community organizations.

The dates and other particulars 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 CashBack" printout and amount at the bottom of each register receipt. I'll let you know ASAP.

Of course, the credit really goes to all the Leaguers & Friends who save their tapes throughout the year. Once again, thank you to all who contributed!

Lois Arnold	Linda Blake
Jodie DeLamatre	Christine Freitag
Sharon Gandee	Mary Lou Gault
Erica Greer	Sharley Greer
Gerry Hall	Sieglinde Hays
Rayeann Helms	Bonnie Horovitz
Janice Jacobs	Gloria Markuten
Gloria Massa	Amy Mitch
Jean Questel	Jane Sanders
Rosemary Spindler	Marjorie Thiehl
Susan Vogelsang	Paula Warner

Janice Jacobs
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Membership: Jodie DeLamatre (330) 376-0399

Editor: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

IMPORTANT DATES

April 30: Theater fundraiser, 7:00 pm, Weathervane Playhouse

May 4: Primary Election Day

May 6: Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, CUMC

May 20: Recall Study Consensus Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm, Sharley Greer's, 7572 Cleve-Massillon Road

June 3: Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm, River Brasserie, Cuyahoga Falls

June 11-15: LWVUS Convention, Atlanta, GA

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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