

The Akron Voter



Volume 3, Issue 2

October, 2010

President's Remarks By: Diana Kingsbury

As we enter the month of October and watch campaigns unfold on the way to Election Day, it is more important than ever to keep in mind the mission and principles of the League. Remembering the importance of grassroots involvement in the democratic process and striving for a non-partisan, objective voice increases in significance. While voter education is a priority for the League 12 months out of the year, this month is particularly important as voters prepare to cast their votes on November 2nd.

Voter Service chair Gerry Hall has been hard at work preparing this year's Voter's Guide, with the assistance of the Hudson and Trumbull County Leagues. By pooling efforts, our Leagues will be able to feature information on

candidates and issues that fall within our shared jurisdictions. The Voter's Guide will once again be distributed to numerous community organizations, interested individuals, and public libraries, and will also be featured on our website (www.lwvaa.org). Please encourage your neighbors to take advantage of this great resource!

In addition to the Voter's Guide, the month of October will also feature several voter education forums. On Thursday, October 14th, LWVAA will co-sponsor a debate between Frank Communale and Frank LaRose, candidates for the Ohio State Senate's 27th District with the Kiwanis and Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce. Information regarding this event can be found elsewhere in this edition of *The Voter*. LWVAA also assisted the Township Association of Summit County by providing a

moderator and timers for debates featuring the candidates for state senate in the 27th District, candidates for state representative in the 41st and 43rd Districts, and the at-large candidates for Summit County Council.

This month, I also had the opportunity to attend the swearing-in ceremony for new citizens on September 17th. Witnessing such a special occasion in the lives of those embarking on their new U.S. citizenship was memorable and offers a valuable perspective on what it means to foster good citizenship within the community.

Looking ahead to future events, LWVAA will participate in an update of the LWVO position on taxation and finance. In collaboration with LWV Hudson, members of LWVAA are encouraged to attend the consensus meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 11th at the Hudson Library, Flood Meeting Room. This meeting will give us the opportunity

to revisit LWVO's position on this issue and reach consensus on the proposed updates.

As always, I encourage you to consider donating your time to LWVAA. In order to continue delivering educational forums and completing the work we've set out to do, LWVAA needs the people power to make it happen! Please take a look at the volunteer descriptions found on our website to see where there's a need and the commitment involved. The work to be done is varied, and your involvement can be determined by the amount of time you're able to give! Giving back to League is an investment that pays big dividends! I also encourage you to check out the calendar of events for the year (page 3) and make plans to attend these exciting events!

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LWV Display at Bath Township Museum!

From Sunday, October 24th to Sunday, November 7th, the Bath Township Museum (located at 1241 N. Cleveland-Massillon Road, Akron OH) will feature a small display honoring the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote AND the creation of the League of Women Voters. The museum is open on Sundays from 1-4 pm and Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-11:30 am and admission is free.

If you have small items related to League history or the passage of the 19th Amendment that you'd be interesting in loaning to the display, please contact Diana Kingsbury at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or (330) 309-7555.

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.

At the September meeting:

- The president reported on her visit with LWVO imPACT coordinator.
- Discussed plans for the LWVO Educ-

ation Finance position update.

- Discussed venues for the Legislative Brunch and Women in Journalism events.
- Reported that the second dues notice will be mailed to members in October.
- Approved a dues assistance plan as proposed by E. Greer.

- Discussed upcoming Voter Service activities and the Voter's Guide.
- Discussed the inclusion of the calendar of events on the LWVAA website.



LWVAA Member Spotlight On.....Susan Vogelsang

When did you join the League?

I joined sometime in the 1990s, I cannot remember the exact year.

Why did you join LWVAA? And why have you stayed in League?

I joined the LWVAA after listening to impassioned comments made by League member Gerry Hall at the beginning of a school board candidate debate the League was moderating. I remember Gerry saying something about aging League members and how younger people who appreciate these kinds of debates and who want to take a more active role in strengthening our democracy should join the League of Women Voters so this work can continue. I've stayed in the League for several reasons: 1) I want to take an active role in strengthening our democracy; 2) I think it is highly important for voters to be informed on issues and candidates before they vote, in the most non-partisan way possible—that is the League's forte, through its moderated debates and Voter's Guide; 3) I appreciate the opportunity to conduct studies on local emerging issues that matter to our membership and our community; 4) I enjoy the intellectual rigor; 5) I love politics and increasingly dislike the heightened antagonistic tone of partisan politics; the League allows me the venue to be actively involved in local politics without being divisive; 6) I enjoy relating to others who share the same passion.

What positions have you held within the League?

First VP (organization), Education Chair,

Board member, and general member.

What do you find most rewarding about being a League member?

Being able to take an active role in local politics and creating/providing non-partisan opportunities for voters and others to become informed decision makers.

What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

1) Developing a clear understanding of what kind of policies, procedures, leadership, and oversight are necessary to strengthen our democracy particularly as it becomes increasingly diverse; 2) Getting the facts—tuning out the rhetoric before they vote; 3) Transparency of the message and the “facts” is highly important and sadly, increasingly hidden.

Are you involved in any other community organizations?

I used to be very involved in PTA when my children were in school. I mentor several college students now. I am involved with Project GRAD and Alchemy, Inc.

What other interests do you have outside of League?

My children—I am very much enjoying watching all three of them morph into incredible adults.

I just became a grandma this year and am looking forward to my son, his wife, and our first grandbaby relocating from Kenya (where our son has been for the past 5 years) to the U.S.



Moderator and Chairperson, Susan Vogelsang

I am co-manager for the Akron Neighborhood Trust—a consulting entity that is focused on strengthening trust and collaboration with Akron Public Schools to help plan a community engagement process. The focus of this process is to determine what programs, services, and activities to put in place at the newly built schools, [which have been renamed Community Learning Centers (CLCs)] to serve the neighborhood's vision, and to determine how those programs, services, and activities will be implemented and assessed. If the grant funding for the planned work is received, my colleague and I will oversee the pilot implementation of this process in seven CLCs. The work is based on democratic deliberative principles and organizing.

My hubby and I enjoy walking, hiking, bicycle riding and camping, when we get the chance.

Acme Cash Back Report

By: Janice Jacobs

Hello once again, from your "Acme Cash Back Coordinator." The Acme folks gave a new title out a few years ago. The program this year is expected to be similar to last year, and lasts from September 25th to February 19, 2011.

Previously, we received 5% on Acme Fresh Market, Academix, Domestix, Electrix, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, Top Care, ValuTime, World Classics & other Acme brand purchases.

Shelf tags in the stores should alert shoppers to the cash back qualifying items. At the end of each register receipt tape the "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. A total of \$1,629,000 has been distributed since the inception of this program.

I do know the qualifying dates this year are: **(09-25-10 thru 02-19-11)**. This program has been a small but consistent winner for us over the years. Many thanks to all Leaguers & Friends for faithfully saving these tapes. For more information, visit: <http://www.acmestores.com/cashback2010.php>.

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

LWVAA Calendar of Events



Please note: The location, subject, and dates of meetings may be subject to change. Please see the most current issue of the newsletter, visit our website at www.lwvaa.org, or contact VP Program Harriet Cutler at (330) 836-9036 for up-to-date information.

Thursday, October 14, 2010

Candidate's Debate: 27th District State Senator; Co-sponsored with the Greater Akron Chamber and the Kiwanis; 11:30 am—1:00 pm, Greystone Hall, 103 South High Street, Akron, OH; (330) 762-0999.

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Consensus Meeting: LWVO position on taxation and finance; Co-sponsored with LWV Hudson; 7:00 —8:30 pm, Hudson Library Flood Meeting Room, 96 Library Street, Hudson, OH; (330) 653-6658.

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Holiday Gathering; 7:00—9:00 pm, the home of Sara Gibbs, 2405 Covington Road, Akron OH; (330) 869-8169

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Program Planning; 9:30 am—12:00 pm, West Hill (Highland Square) Library, 807 West Market Street, Akron OH; (330) 376-2927.

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Legislative Brunch; TBA

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Women in Journalism Brunch; 10:00 am—12:30 pm, Fairlawn Country Club, 200 North Wheaton Road Akron, OH; (330) 836-5541.

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Human Trafficking/Immigration forum; TBA

Friday, May 13—Sunday, May 15, 2011

LWVO Convention; Maumee State Park, Toledo OH.

Monday, May 31, 2011

Memorial Day Parade; Cuyahoga Falls

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Annual Meeting; 6:00—8:30 pm, River Brasserie (formerly LeFever's) 2291 Riverfront Parkway, Cuyahoga Falls OH.

Inspirational Words

"People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote—a very different thing."

—Walter H. Judd (1898-1994, Congressman (Minnesota))



Submissions for the November newsletter may be submitted to Diana Kingsbury at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or 1309 Perry Dr. NW Canton, OH 44708 by October 15th.

Fair Elections Now Act (caucus presented by LWV of Boulder County, Colorado at LWVUS Convention)

In response to the highly controversial recent Supreme Court ruling *Citizens United v. FEC*, two immediate pieces of legislation have been proposed:

- 1) The DISCLOSE Act, designed to control the influence of special interests on elections, came to a vote this summer. While LWVUS lobbied hard for its passage, this bill was defeated.
- 2) The FAIR Elections Now Act (S.752 and H.R. 1826) was introduced in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Arlen Specter (D-PA), and in the House of Representatives by Rep. John Larson (D-CT) and Rep. Walter Jones, Jr. (R-NC). The House bill has 153 co-sponsors and they are looking for 175; the Senate bill has 20. A vote is expected this summer. A Senate filibuster is expected.

The Fair Elections Now Act (FEN), a small-donor approach to Congressional campaign finance, would require candidates electing to participate to collect a certain number of qualifying contributions of \$5 to \$100 each. They would then

receive a start up grant for the primary competition and additional capped matching funds of \$4 for every \$1 raised. Candidates may raise additional unmatched contributions up to \$100 each on an unlimited basis. The winner of the primary gets limited competitive matching funds again for the General Election (again, \$4 for every \$1 raised on in-state donations up to \$100) and may again raise additional unmatched contributions up to \$100 each on an unlimited basis.

Participating candidates would receive discounted media rates in the run-up to the primary and the General Election. Candidates must agree to take part in public debates. An independent office of the FEC would administer the Fair Elections Program. Estimated cost is \$1-\$1.5 billion per year. The Senate bill funds it by a surcharge on government contracts. The House bill funds it from 10% of the proceeds of broadcast spectrum auctions. The funding is dedicated but Congress decides where money is ultimately spent.

The FAIR ELECTIONS NOW ACT, if passed, could take effect for the 2012 e-

lections. But, there is concern about Supreme Court rulings around fair elections and campaign finance reform at the state level that are happening and likely to happen. For example, Arizona's Fair Elections Public Finance System was recently overturned.

Because of these concerns, FEN may not be a real solution to the Supreme Court ruling. A speaker from Free Speech for the People gave a stirring presentation, pointing out that the only legal way to correct an egregiously wrong ruling by the Supreme Court is through a constitutional amendment reserving free speech rights to the people, rather than corporations. MoveTo Amend and FreeSpeechForPeople are two organizations who recommend two different constitutional amendments limiting corporate influence in elections. To watch a video on this subject, link to Free Speech For People: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx81TeELcik&feature=player_embedded



Voting Procedures for November Election (Summit BOE Press Release)

Voters in Summit County can avoid long lines on Election Day by casting an early, absentee ballot by mail or in-person at the board's early voting site located in The Job Center, 1040 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron OH. Absentee and early voting will take place September 28th—November 1st.

Voting Early at The Job Center

To accommodate the heavy voter turn-out expected during the Gubernatorial Election, the board of elections has designated an early voting site at The Job Center, 1040 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, OH. Voters are invited to visit The Job Center to conveniently cast an early ballot, beginning September 28th. Hours for The Job

Center are as follows: Monday—Friday 8 am-8 pm, Saturday & Sunday 12 pm—4pm.

Voting by Mail

Voters also have the option to cast their ballot comfortably from home, by requesting an absentee ballot by mail. To receive an absentee ballot in the mail, a voter must complete an absentee request application before October 30th at 12 pm. Applications can be found online (www.summitcountyboe.com) or mailed to you by a Board of Elections representative, call the main office at (330) 643-5200. Return postage for an absentee ballot is the responsibility of the voter and costs a little

more than \$1.

Historically, absentee voting was only available to voters who were unable to vote at the polls on Election Day due to travel, hospitalization, or age/disability. In 2006, "no-fault absentee" enabled voters to request and vote an absentee ballot without reason. And today, vote centers such as Summit County's Job Center, provides voters with the convenience of voting early.

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Your Rights as a Voter (from LWVO)

Before Election Day, you have the right to:
Avoid lines and vote early.

On Election Day, you have the right to:

Avoid lines and vote early

You can vote in person using an absentee ballot at your Local Board of Elections (or their designated site). Or you can mail your absentee ballot, but it must be postmarked on or before Monday, November 1. If you forgot to mail your absentee ballot by Election Day, you can drop it off at the Board of Elections (or their designated site) during voting hours on Election Day. However, you cannot drop it at your polling place. See the Secretary of State's website on where to vote: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/wheretovote.aspx.

Vote regular ballot if you are a valid registered voter

A valid registered voter means a United States citizen who is a resident of Ohio, who is at least 18 years of age and not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony, and who is registered to vote at his or her current residence address. See the Secretary of State's website on voter eligibility: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterEligibility.aspx.

Request a replacement ballot

If you tear, soil, deface, or erroneously mark a ballot, you may return it to a poll worker. The poll worker must issue a second ballot. You may also request a third ballot for the same reasons, but no more than three ballots may be issued to one person.

Ask for assistance

If you have a disability, physical limitations, trouble reading or writing or need language assistance, you may have the person of your choice (except a candidate, employer, or union rep) assist you in voting. As an alternative, two poll workers fr-

om two different political parties may also assist you. You may also vote with a curbside ballot if you cannot physically enter the polling location. See the Secretary of State's website on voters needing assistance: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterswithdisabilities.aspx.

Vote a secret ballot

You have the right to cast a secret ballot free from intimidation. Representatives from the media and election observers are permitted inside the polling location, but they must not interfere with or compromise the secrecy of your ballot.

Use paper ballot instead of a machine

You can choose to use a paper ballot to vote instead of a machine, regardless of whether there is direct recording electronic or optical scan voting machines.

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Vote provisional ballot if your name is not listed in the voting poll book

You can vote a provisional ballot on Election Day if your name and current address does not appear in the registration book in your precinct or if you do not have acceptable identification with you. See the Secretary of State's website on provisional ballots: www.sos.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx.

Vote a regular ballot if you moved within the same precinct

If you moved within the same precinct but did not update your registration record, you can vote with a regular ballot—at your precinct polling place or the Board of Elections (or their designated site).

Vote a provisional ballot if you moved to a different precinct

If you have moved to a different precinct or county within Ohio without updating your registration record, you can vote a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will count as long as you complete a change of address and affirmation. You may vote at either your new precinct polling place or at the Board of Elections (or their designated site).

Request a list of write-in candidates

You can request a list of names of candidates and offices that are officially eligible as write-in candidates.

Vote if you are an ex-felon

If you have been convicted of a felony, you may vote if you are not in prison or on parole. See the Secretary of State's website on voter eligibility: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/voterInformation/voterEligibility.aspx

Vote after the polls close if you are in line

If you are in line when the polls close, you have the right to stay and vote a regular ballot. If time for voting is extended by court order and you arrive after the regular voting time, you may vote a provisional ballot.

Vote provisionally if you are challenged

Only a poll worker can challenge your right to vote on Election Day. You may only be challenged for your age (must be 18) or your residency (must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the county). If challenged, you still have the right to vote a provisional ballot after swearing truthfully to the facts of your eligibility. See the Secretary of State's website on provisional ballots: www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voterInformation/provisional.aspx

For information on local candidates and issues featured in the November election, please see our **Voter's Guide** at www.lwvaa.org. You can also request a hard copy by contacting the League office at (330) 836-7079 or lwvaa@lwvaa.org. Please visit www.lwvohio.org for a **state-wide Voter's Guide**.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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Akron, OH
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President: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

Membership: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106

Editor: Vacant

IMPORTANT DATES

October 7: Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

October 14: State Senate District 27 Debate, 11:15 am,
Greystone Hall, 103 S. High St. Akron, OH

October 24-November 7: Women's suffrage display,
Bath Township Museum, 1241 N. Cleve-Mass Road,
Akron, OH

November 2: Election Day

November 11: LWVO Consensus Meeting, 7:00 pm, 96
Library Street, Hudson, OH

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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