

The Akron Voter



Volume 3, Issue 8

May, 2011



President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

As a grass-roots organization, the League thrives on the involvement of its dedicated members and the energy of its volunteers. It is always with excitement that I look forward to the spring and summer months, as it is a time for the League to celebrate its successes from the past year, as well as look ahead to future accomplishments.

On Thursday, June 2nd, LWVAA will hold its annual meeting at Samira's restaurant in Cuyahoga Falls (formerly The River Brasserie and Le Fever's). The annual meeting is a time to both conduct business and enjoy the company of other League members. Fea-

tured in this issue of The Voter is the proposed 2011-2012 budget that will be brought to a vote at the annual meeting, in addition to the proposed program and priorities for LWVAA. You will also find the slate of new officers and directors to be elected at this time.

The annual meeting is a time for all members of LWVAA to gather and conduct business that will assist in guiding League activities for the coming year. It is events like this where the importance of the contributions of each member cannot be underestimated. Additionally, while we utilize the annual meeting to accomplish League business, the conversation and fellowship that is fostered is

also wonderful. I encourage you to attend this year's annual meeting and to bring a guest!

Also, this month will usher in the LWVO state convention to be held the weekend of May 13th - 15th at Maumee State Park in northwest Ohio. I hope to report back from convention with many new ideas and lots of energy for all things League! Stay tuned to the next issue of The Voter for a full convention report.

As we draw closer to the annual meeting and as our attention turns to the warmth of the summer months, I (as always) encourage you to consider how you might give back

to the League. I believe that the contributions of organizations like ours are so important in encouraging citizen involvement in the political process. For all the times we've heard our friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues express dissatisfaction with the state of political affairs, we should be proud to know the League works hard to promote a more open, civil, and civic political process.

The League relies on the dedication of its members to achieve many things--it's what has kept us going strong for over 90 years!

Diana

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Proposed Program 2011-2012

by Harriet Cutler

The League members who participated in program planning in January, 2011, sent the following recommendations to the board, which approved the following proposed program to be submitted for approval to the general membership at the Annual Meeting:

City of Akron Program

Retain all current positions for City of Akron

Akron Area Program

Retain all current positions on Water Quality, Schools, and Tax Sharing

Regional Program

LWVAA positions should be retained on environment, land use, mass transit, county government, social policy.

Priorities

- 1) Use our positions to educate and advocate on local issues.
- 2) Conduct a study on privatization of public entities.

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 April board meeting we discussed the following:

- Getting LWVAA volunteers to register students to vote at Street Law Day on May 4th, 2011
- Plans for the Annual Meeting on

Thursday, June 2

- The LWVO State Convention on May 13-15
- The 2011-2012 proposed budget, which was reviewed and approved by the board
- The addition of nine new members
- The 2011-2013 slate of officers and directors
- Results of the March 19 imPACT event

- Anti-virus software for the office computer
- Descriptions of board responsibilities



Slate of Officers and Directors 2011-2013

To be elected at the Annual Meeting on June 2, 2011 for a 2 year term 2011-2013:

OFFICERS

Vice President Organization
Maureen Sullivan

Secretary
Martha Lester

President Elect
Unfilled

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Membership
Ardith Keck

Observer Corps
Helen Humphrys

Voter Registration
Mary King

Health Care
Roberta Aber

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tina Merlitti, Chair
Jodie DeLamatre

2010-2011 Nominating Committee:
Gerry Hall, Chair
Sharon Gandee
Erica Greer

Acme CashBack Final Report

by Janice Jacobs

Our CashBack check for 2010-2011, in the amount of \$161.71, is in process and should be received soon. I am happy to report that this is the largest amount since the 2005-2006 season. It is also the best we have done with the changed format and shortened time period that was instituted a few years ago.

Since the inception of this program contributions have been made to thousands of area community non-profit organizations.

Information on future CashBack programs is not currently available. I will let you know about all the particulars for next season as soon as possible.

Many thanks to all Leaguers & Friends for faithfully saving and submitting their tapes. A special tip of the Ed Fund beret to Erica Greer for diligently getting the articles I submitted into the Newsletter on a timely basis.

It all happens because of you!!

Many thanks to the fine folks at Acme, and to the following members and friends:

Anonymous	Sieglinde Hays	Amy Mitch
Lois Arnold	Rayeann Helms	Jean & John Questel
Jodie & Ned DeLamatre	Bonnie Horovitz	Jane Sanders
Margaret Dietz	Janice Jacobs	Warren L. Skidmore
Christine Freitag	Ardith & Bill Keck	Rosemary Spindler
Sharon Gandee	Mary King	Maureen Sullivan
Mary Lou Gault	Diana Kingsbury	Marge Thiell
Erica Greer	Gloria Markuten	Paula Warner
Gerry Hall	Gloria Massa	

Member Spotlight On.....

Jodie DeLamatre

When did you join the League?

I think it was 1991 or 1992.

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

I was always interested in the League since learning about it in history classes in high school. But I never knew of anyone who belonged. Then a friend, Susan Vogelsang, joined the Akron Area League, so that's how I learned about the local chapter. And so I joined.

I have stayed in League because I still love the idea and ideals that the League stands for. The League does important work that no one else is doing. And I love the terrific people in League.

What positions, if any, have you held within the League?

I have been Secretary, chair of the Education Committee, Publicity chair, Membership chair, and chair of the Observer Corps.

As chair of the Education Committee, I led the Akron portion of an LWVO study of community schools. I also served on the committee which studied site-based management as it was being imple-

mented by Akron Public Schools.

With LWVAA Education Fund, I am currently secretary, and I also worked on Project "YES," which I believe stood for Youth in Elections Systems. At any rate, we worked to get high school kids registered to vote. The schools eventually took over that job, so the project ended.

Now that I am working full time, I still try to help out any way I can, even if it is just screening questions at an event, or helping to distribute voters guides. Even small contributions are important.

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

The camaraderie in the process of doing good community work. I'm not sure I agree with the choice of the word "rewarding." The work is satisfying and affirming, but there is no external reward — the rewards are intrinsic. But either way, it is nice to be part of an organization that is so well thought of.

What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

Access to quality information is the biggest issues voters face, I believe. And

And this is only going to get more difficult.

Are you involved in any other community organizations?

I was very active in the PTA when my kids were in school, and I'm active in other organizations, but I'm not sure they would qualify as community organizations.

What other interests do you have outside of the League?

I play goalie for a local soccer team. That's very important to me. Other interests are biking, hiking, walking, gardening, reading, knitting cooking, and learning about wine. Recently I have also gotten interested in yoga.

I also have two grandsons in Yellow Springs, Ohio — they are such an incredible joy!



LWVUS Studies

from Leaders' Update 4-7-2011

At National Convention last June, delegates approved a study of privatization, a growing trend around the country, and on Governor Kasich's agenda here in Ohio. A study on the role of the federal government in education, also approved at National Convention, is also underway.

"The LWVUS Board approved the following as the scope for this study: 'The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good.'

be developing resource materials and preparing consensus questions, to be available in late fall 2011. Local Leagues will have from late fall 2011 until early spring 2012 to complete their study and take consensus."

Last year, LWVAA approved a study of privatization at the annual meeting, but no one came forward to chair it, so it never got underway. This study topic is also a priority for 2011-2012. This LWVUS study provides the perfect opportunity for LWVAA to "piggyback" and conduct this study at the local level.

Delegates to National Convention also approved a study of the role of the Federal Government in education. The League of Women Voters National Study on the Federal Government's role in pre-K through

grade 12 public education will study the issues of equity, funding, and standards/assessment. The LWVUS Board has approved the consensus questions for the Education Study.

Beginning this month, supporting research information will be posted on the LWVUS website, followed by posting of the consensus questions, a Leaders Guide and additional short papers. These will be announced in upcoming Leaders' Updates. The deadline for completing consensus by local Leagues will be the end of November 2011.

If you would be interested in learning more about being involved in either of these studies at the local level, please contact President Diana Kingsbury at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com.

The [LWVUS] Study Committee will

Proposed Budget 2011-2012

REVENUE	2010-2011	Actual YTD	2011-2012
Dues	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 6,301.08	\$ 6,000.00
Contributions			
Community			
Memorials			
Membership	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 386.00	\$ 500.00
LWVO Phonathon		\$ 118.00	\$ 150.00
Ed Fund			
Operating	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,004.92	\$ 1,100.00
PMP		\$ 1,225.13	
Interest	\$ 225.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Fund Raising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,375.00	\$ 9,235.23	\$ 10,900.00

The proposed budget was submitted by the Budget Committee to the LWVAA board at the April board meeting. The proposed budget was approved by the board, subject to the approval of the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 2, 2011.

The 2010-2011 Budget Committee:

Tina Merlitti, Chair
 Sharley Greer, Treasurer
 Erica Greer
 Diana Kingsbury, *ex officio*



EXPENSES	2010-2011	Actual YTD	2011-2012
Operating			
Maintenance/Insurance	\$ 300.00	\$297.00	\$300.00
Supplies/Misc./Printing	\$ 300.00	\$22.51	\$165.00
Postage	\$ 700.00	\$305.95	\$500.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 700.00	\$794.25	\$700.00
Rent	\$ 900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
Computer/Operations	\$ 100.00	\$134.16	\$100.00
New Media Maintenance			
Total Operating	\$ 3,185.00	\$2,453.87	\$2,665.00
Board			
President's Fund	\$ 200.00		\$200.00
Publication for Board	\$ 120.00		\$120.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ 320.00	\$0.00	\$320.00
Administrative Committees			
Membership	\$ 600.00	\$74.34	\$450.00
PayPal	\$ 50.00	\$5.00	\$20.00
PR/ Fund Raising	\$ 500.00		\$300.00
Meetings/Programs	\$ 500.00	\$87.50	\$500.00
Room Rentals	\$ 200.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Activities Reservations			
Legislative Breakfast	\$ 100.00		\$0.00
Annual Dinner			
Total Administrative	\$ 1,950.00	\$561.84	\$1,470.00

EXPENSES (con't.)	2010-2011	Actual YTD	2011-2012
Delegates			
National Convention			\$1,500.00
State Convention	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Workshops	\$ 300.00	\$70.00	\$150.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$ 1,300.00	\$1,070.00	\$1,650.00
Assessments/Dues			
National PMP	\$ 2,100.00	\$2,450.25	\$1,500.00
State PMP	\$ 2,725.00	\$1,469.53	\$1,500.00
Lake Erie Basin Com.	\$ 30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Total Assessment/Dues	\$ 4,855.00	\$3,949.78	\$3,030.00
Communications			
Newsletter			
Printing	\$ 1,000.00	\$767.25	\$1,000.00
Postage	moved to		
Bulk mail fee	operating		
Handbook	\$ 400.00	\$366.00	\$400.00
New Media			
New media equipment	\$ 365.00		\$365.00
Total Communications	\$1,765.00	\$1,133.25	\$1,765.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 13,375.00	\$9,168.74	\$10,900.00

Editor's Note

The deadline for the June newsletter is May 15. Please email submissions to erica@greerzone, or mail them to Erica Greer at 408 Ott Drive, Clinton Ohio 44216.

LWVUS Weighs in on Budget Debate in Congress

The following is a letter sent to the United States Senate from Elisabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS (at right) on April 21, 2011, expressing the League's position on the 2012 Budget Resolution passed by the House of Representatives.

As the Senate considers the 2012 Budget Resolution, the League of Women Voters asks that you carefully contemplate the underlying equity and policy decisions that are reflected in the budget. We believe it is important for the Senate to consider responsible and fact-based approaches to taxes and spending for thorough and thoughtful debate.

That has not been the case in the House of Representatives. The 2012 Budget Resolution passed by the House earlier this month ignores the need for increased revenue and well thought-out cuts in a number of government programs. Instead, it makes 2/3rds of the cuts in programs that impact low-income Americans, those who can least afford it.

The House-passed resolution ignores the need to rescind the excessive tax cuts of the past decade which have decimated the federal budget and vastly increased the federal deficit.

The cuts in taxes on capital gains and dividends and the scaling back of the estate tax have contributed significantly to our financial problems. Applying the Social Security payroll tax to incomes over \$106,800 and repealing or reducing the income tax cuts for high earners would return some equity to our tax system.

Instead, the House resolution balances the budget on the backs of the very poor and senior citizens by among other things, decimating the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The House-passed budget will turn Medicaid into a block grant program and then cut the program by \$1.4 trillion over 10 years. The cuts will include repeal of the Affordable Care Act's expansion of the Medicaid program. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, these cuts would harm the low-income children, people with disabilities and seniors who make up the bulk of the program's beneficiaries.

The House plan would also end Medicare as an insurance program that pays for a defined set of benefits and make it into one that provides vouchers, beginning in 2022. The program would provide only a pre-determined

amount toward the cost of private health insurance in the open market, shifting all additional costs to retirees.

The Budget Resolution is more than a financial document. It is a blueprint for how the leaders of the United States want to allocate our resources. The House Budget Resolution is a reflection of a country that shifts funding from programs serving middle and low income Americans in order to provide tax benefits to the wealthiest citizens and corporations. The League of Women Voters believes that the Senate can do better.

It is time for Congress to reinstate taxes for the top earning Americans and corporations and to make careful cuts in programs throughout the budget that will not jeopardize the economy or those who can least afford to absorb the cuts.



Notable Quotable

"There is no such thing as being non-political. Just by making a decision to stay out of politics you are making the decision to allow others to shape politics and exert power over you. And if you are alienated from the current political system, then just by staying out of it you do nothing to change it, you simply entrench it."

Joan Kirner, Australian politician, Adelaide, Australia, October 1994





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Membership: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106

Editor: Position is open at this time; contact Diana Kingsbury if you are interested

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 3:** Primary Elections
- May 4:** Street Law Day 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
University of Akron Quaker Square Inn
- May 5:** LWVAA Board meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron
- May 13-15:** LWV Ohio 59th State Convention
Maumee State Park, Toledo
- June 9:** LWVAA Annual Meeting 5:30 PM
Samira's Restaurant, 2291 Riverfront
Parkway, Cuyahoga Falls (formerly
Le Fever's)



**Join the nation's most respected grassroots political organization —
Become a member of the League of Women Voters!**

Membership in the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, is open to any citizen of voting age, male or female. 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: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

**Make checks payable to LWVAA and send with this completed form to:
LWVAA, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron, OH 44320
or join online on our website: www.lwvaa.org**



**Stand up and
be counted!**