



# The Akron Voter

Volume 3, Issue 9

June-July 2011



## President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

Greetings!

Prior to the Annual Meeting and combined board/calendar planning, I had the opportunity to attend the League of Women Voters Ohio State Convention on May 13th - 15th at Maumee State Park in Northwest Ohio. I met with so many inspiring League leaders from both the state and local Leagues, in addition to attending truly thought-provoking lectures and workshops. I left energized and inspired by what Leagues and League members from around the state have achieved and contributed to their communities. [A full convention report is included elsewhere in this issue of *The Akron Voter*.]

At the Annual Meeting, we elected a new slate of officers, approved the budget and program, including the newly developed position on recall elections, and heard about plans for a redesign and redistribution of our Voter's Guide. For those in attendance, the chance to hear more about how we might expand the distribution area of the Voter's Guide and print it in a colorful, eye-catching format

was very valuable. More information about the redesign of the Voter's Guide will appear in upcoming issues of *The Voter*, and we will also share with you information on how you might assist in its distribution. My thanks go to all who assisted in making the Annual Meeting a success.

At last week's combined board/calendar planning, incoming and outgoing League officers and directors had the opportunity to conduct business together, while discussing plans for the upcoming year. During the calendar planning portion of the meeting, we made plans for the events we will hold in the coming year and how we might best focus our efforts within the community. More information about our upcoming events will also be included in future editions of the newsletter, as well as printed in the 2011-2012 handbook.

Another noteworthy event that was held this summer was the League's participation in the naturalization ceremony of

new citizens on June 11th at the downtown library. League members Mary King (Voter Registration chair), Jodie DeLamatre, and Karyn Katz participated by registering the new citizens to vote after the ceremony was completed. It has been a League tradition to provide voter registration to those in attendance and we were pleased to assist in such an important event.

As we plan our Voter Service activities for the coming fall election, I encourage you to stay tuned to future editions of *The Voter*. You can also check our website ([www.lwvaa.org](http://www.lwvaa.org)), Facebook (League of Women Voters of the Akron Area), and Twitter account (@LWV\_AkronArea) for more information about upcoming events. Please contact me for more information or if you're interested in serving on a committee. I look forward to seeing you at future events!

Diana

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## Save the Date: Thursday, August 25, 2011

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the annual LWVAA picnic on Thursday, August 25 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM at Shady Hollow Shelter in Sand Run MetroPark.

Our annual potluck will include a celebration of Women's Equality Day, which marks the day in 1920 when women were finally granted the right to vote, and became full citizens of the

United States.

Besides fun, great food and stimulating conversation, watch for announcement of our special guest speaker coming soon!

## 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. The next board meeting will be August 4.

At the May board meeting we discussed the following:

- The League's participation in the 9th Annual Street Law Day, an opportunity to register high school students to vote

- Final plans for the annual meeting
- The state convention
- The League's participation in the June naturalization ceremony, an opportunity to register new citizens to vote
- The launch of the LWVAA Twitter account (@LWV\_AkronArea)
- Plans for the combined board/calendar planning meeting and the Annual Picnic in August

- Plans for the new Voter's Guide



## Street Law Student Summit

by Mary King

League members Gerry Hall and Mary King attended the Ninth Annual Summit County High School Street Law Student Summit on May 4, to offer voter registration to the one hundred or so high school students present. As it turned out, many attendees were already registered through their schools or would not be 18 by voting day in November. But a number were glad of the opportunity to register, and we were glad to talk with them.

The day began with a brief talk by University of Akron School of Law Professor J. Dean Carro, "The Legacy of John Adams from Boston to Guantanamo." John Adams earned the opprobrium of Boston patriots by agreeing to represent the eight British soldiers accused of perpetrating the 1770 Boston Massacre, in the interest of assuring a fair trial. The soldiers had fired into a mob of colonists who were threatening them. The soldiers killed five and wounded 11.

Pointing out that the soldiers were being attacked at close quarters, Adams convinced the court to acquit six of the accused and to reduce the charge from murder to manslaughter for the remaining two and the penalty from hanging to branding on the thumb.

Professor Carro called John Adams, our first lawyer president, a great believer in the rule of law. Adams believed that lawyers are *supposed* to represent people at the bottom, people like these soldiers, whom no Boston lawyers were willing to defend, and people like the Guantanamo detainees.

A panel of judges spoke briefly, explaining the functions of their courts and their own judicial philosophies. Judges who volunteered their time for this student event were Municipal Court Administrative Judge Patricia Cosgrove, Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, and Municipal Court Judge Annalisa Wil-

liams.

The judges were impressed with the quality of the students' questions, which gave the judges opportunity to provide thoughtful, informative responses.

An actual appeals case was argued by Professor Carro before Judges Eve Belfance, Carla Moore, and Beth Whitmore, giving the students an unusual opportunity to experience the proceedings of the appellate court and learn the preparations judges make in order to decide each case.

Again, students asked questions that elicited clear examples of judicial thinking as well as judges' personal responses to the professional demands of legal research, determining the legal issues in cases, and appropriate application of law.



## Notable Quotable

**"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal..."**

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton, July 20, 1848  
From The Declaration of Rights and Sentiments  
Seneca Falls, New York*



# LWVAA Thanks you!

LWVAA wishes to thank those individuals and companies who went above and beyond, either in the form of cash contributions or in-kind gifts during the 2010-2011 League year. Your assistance helped us to continue working on the League mission to provide non-partisan voter service in our community. Many thanks to all of you!



Roberta Aber	Libby Jacobs	Martha Nelson	Margery Walcott
Sophie Albrecht	Karyn Katz	Jane Noble	Annalisa Williams
Lois Arnold	Ardith & Bill Keck	Joann Robb	Sally York
Jodie DeLamatre	Diana Kingsbury	Jane Sanders	Acme
Mary Lou Gault	Sandra Kurt	Sandra Smith	Akron Education Assn.
Sara Gibbs	Lucinda & Carl Meador	Rosemary Spindler	EJa's Copies
Erica & Bruce Greer	Amy Mitch	Marjorie Thiehl	Main Street Muffins
Sieglinde Hays	Carla Moore	Susan Z. Vogelsang	Starbucks

## 2011 Annual Meeting

by Gerry Hall

The 2011 LWVAA Annual Meeting was held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Samira's on the river in Cuyahoga Falls. Bruce Greer's wonderful slide show of all the League's activities for the year ran continually throughout the evening.

After dinner and the usual good League conversation, there was a presentation on the proposed changes to the 2011 Voters Guide. The League Board has been investigating ways to make the guide more eye-catching and colorful.

Mitch Allen, President of *Mimi Vanderhaven*, a monthly publication mailed to households in West Akron, Bath, Copley,

Fairlawn and Richfield, has agreed to design a new Voters Guide. The material in the guide, candidate and issue information, will be the same; the appearance will be better. Mr. Allen and his daughter Morgan Lasher presented their ideas for an updated guide.

The guide would be a separate pull-out section in the October issue of *Mimi Vanderhaven*. League will be able to purchase extra copies for distribution to our usual locations – libraries and Acme stores.

Following Mr. Allen's presentation, League President Diana Kingsbury called the LWVAA Annual Meeting to order.

The proposed local program was adopted with the addition of the new recall position under the City of Akron section. The 2011-12 budget was amended to include \$1800 for the increased cost of the new Voters Guide. LWVAA Education Fund will contribute \$2000 toward the updated guide. The proposed nominated slate was elected.

New board members will be Roberta Aber, Ardith Keck, Helen Humphrys, and Mary King. Maureen Sullivan will be VP Organization and Martha Lester, Secretary. The 2011-13 Nominating Committee will be Tina Merlitti, Chair, and Jodie DeLamatre.



## LWVO 2011 Convention Report

by *Diana Kingsbury*

This past May, local Leagues from across the state of Ohio gathered at Maumee Bay State Park to celebrate the 59th biennial convention of the League of Women Voters Ohio. Held in odd-numbered years, the state convention is an opportunity for local Leagues to work with the state League to conduct business and set the agenda for the next two years.

The weekend began with a drive up to Northwest Ohio, where I was greeted with the beautiful scenery and glimpses of Lake Erie. If you've ever attended a state or national convention, however, you know that the days are usually action-packed with little time for sight-seeing. It is all worth it, however, when you leave feeling that you've learned so many new things about the League of Women Voters! I was proud to represent the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area throughout the weekend and had the opportunity to share our successes.

LWVO Convention consists of caucuses, where local Leagues can advocate for non-recommended studies, workshops for promoting member and League development, plenary sessions where the business of approving a League budget and program for the upcoming biennium is done, and luncheons and banquets which provide a venue for interesting speakers.

On Friday evening, I attended a caucus, sponsored by LWV Delaware County, proposing a non-recommended study item

on human trafficking. It was interesting to sit in on the caucus and hear the enthusiasm representatives from across the state have for this issue and to learn how the League might become more involved through the study process. As there is no state position on the issue of human trafficking a study would be required to develop the position that is necessary for taking action on this issue.

Workshops included "A Conversation with Local Leagues: LWVO 2050 - What should the State League Do...Be...Become?" This workshop, conducted by LWVO President Meg Flack and LWVO board member Nancy Brown, gave local League members the chance to offer their thoughts and recommendations on how the League and its work can be sustained well into the future.

Another workshop, "Leading and Growing the Modern League," facilitated by LWVUS Board Member Cheryl Graeve, was a brainstorming session to suggest ideas about how we might encourage community members to join the League and to increase our activity. There is a lot of untapped potential within our community and it was encouraging to hear how we might make our organization the best it can be.

The theme of the convention was "Sustainable Democracy Through Sustainable Communities" and each of the speakers for the weekend addressed concerns about the environment and how important

protecting the environment is to our nation's future. Speakers included our luncheon guest, environmental writer Tom Henry of the *Toledo Blade*, and banquet speaker Lynn Henning, who is considered a leading activist in Northwest Ohio for her work in fighting large factory farms in the area and working to prevent the environmental and health hazards that are associated with them. For her work, Henning won the 2010 Goldman Prize for North America, which is considered the "Nobel Prize for environmental activism." She is proof of what committed citizens are capable of achieving!

At plenary, recommended and non-recommended program, the slate of officers, the budget, and the bylaws were discussed, debated, and eventually passed, including the non-recommended study on human trafficking. More details about the study will be forthcoming at a later time.

While the weekend was full of activity from the start of the day to the end, it was a wonderful experience. I learned so much and left with many fresh ideas. I had the pleasure of meeting League members from across the state, and it is wonderful to learn how active our local Leagues are. I left convention with an even deeper appreciation for our organization and a great deal of energy to keep up our work.



A speaker at the "pro" mike during plenary, LWVO convention



LWVAA member Ardith Keck (*far right*) and other outgoing LWVO board members. Ardith served on the LWVO board for 6 years.

# Member Spotlight On.....

# Gloria Massa

*This month's Spotlight member was born and raised in New York City, and did not come to Akron until the late 1960's. She wished to take a different approach to the Spotlight, and highlight some impressions of politics in the Big Apple, versus politics in Akron.*

When I moved here from New York, I was very impressed with how close people felt to their government. Once when I was grocery shopping, I looked up and there was the mayor, getting his groceries too! That could never happen to you in New York!

I found it wasn't unusual for people to know their councilman personally, and to call them with concerns. I found that people here feel like they can make a difference — as indeed they can. You feel much more removed from government in a big city like New York, as though your voice will not be heard.

Another thing — even though people hardly knew me because I had just moved here, they were very welcoming, not only inviting me to join their organizations, such as the League, but even inviting me

to take on leadership positions. That was really great!

Being from New York, I had a much more multicultural background. I think that triggered my interest in international issues, and International Relations within the League.

**When did you join the League?**

I don't really remember — probably in the 1970's sometime.

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

I have served on the Nominating Committee, and other committees. I was President from 2005-2007. My interest in International Relations led me to invite our League observer to the United Nations to discuss the Millennium Goals at a League sponsored meeting, as you may remember.

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

I think it is being with other women who want to make a difference in the quality of life, not only here in Akron, but elsewhere in Ohio as well.

**What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?**

To prepare our workforce for modern industrial needs, thereby increasing employment opportunities. When shaping foreign policy, especially matters of war and peace, we should heed the advice of our foreign service, not internal pressure groups.



**Are you involved in any other community organizations?**

I belong to the Akron Council on World Affairs. I am also a member of the Tuesday Musical Association, and have held various leadership positions within that group.

**What other interests do you have outside of the League?**

I enjoy traveling, and have visited the Middle East, and even went to Gaza. I am also very involved with my music — I play piano and organ.

## The Federal Role in Education (Study)

*from LWVUS website*

At National Convention last June, delegates approved a study of the federal role in education. The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

The study committee consists of the following League members from various

Leagues around the country:

- Peggy Hill**, Co-Chair, Texas
- Joanne Leavitt**, Co-Chair, California
- Pat Aaron** Illinois
- Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins** Colorado
- Patricia Libutti**, New Jersey
- Sanford Ostroy**, Massachusetts
- Jean Pierce**, Illinois
- Janelle Rivers**, South Carolina

LWVUS Education Study Committee members are researching and writing background papers to help Leagues educate members and communities about the Role of the federal government in public education issues. The following back-

ground papers are available on the LWVUS website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org):

- Common Core Standards and Assessment; Early Childhood Education Equity and Funding; Funding and Equity Issues; Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who Are Disadvantaged; and Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives.*

If you are interested in chairing or participating on an LWVAA study committee on the role of the federal government in education, following and using the LWVUS study materials, please contact Diana Kingsbury.

**The deadline for the August newsletter is July 15. Please email any materials to editor Erica Greer at [erica@greerzone.com](mailto:erica@greerzone.com).**

## LWVAA Officers and Directors 2011-2012

The following are the officers and directors of LWVAA for the coming League year, 2011-2012. Those elected at the annual meeting to two-year terms, expiring in 2013, are indicated with an asterisk.

### OFFICERS

President	<i>Diana Kingsbury</i>
Vice President Program	<i>Harriet Cutler</i>
*Vice President Organization	<i>*Maureen Sullivan</i>
Treasurer	<i>Sharley Greer</i>
* Secretary	<i>*Martha Lester</i>

### DIRECTORS

* Health Care	<i>*Roberta Aber</i>
* Membership	<i>*Ardith Keck</i>
Newsletter	<i>Erica Greer</i>
* Observer Corps	<i>*Helen Humphrys</i>
Publicity	<i>Sara Gibbs</i>
* Voter Registration	<i>*Mary King</i>
Voter Service	<i>Gerry Hall</i>
Webmaster	<i>Bruce Greer</i>



### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tina Merlitti, Chair	<i>Jodie DeLamatre</i>
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## LWV Ohio Officers and Directors 2011-2013

### Officers

Co-President	<i>Nancy Brown, LWV Metro Columbus</i>
Co-President	<i>Meg Flack, LWV Metro Columbus</i>
Vice President	<i>Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, LWV Oberlin Area</i>
Vice President	<i>Gary Leppla, LWV Greater Dayton</i>
Secretary	<i>Beverly Dorson, LWV Hudson</i>
Treasurer	<i>Nena Hankins, LWV Kent</i>

### Directors

<i>Yvette Duguay, LWV Clermont County</i>	<i>Marlene Muse, LWV Cincinnati Area</i>
<i>Sharon Harmer, LWV Greater Dayton</i>	<i>Carol Patterson, LWV Athens County</i>
<i>Ann Henkener, LWV Metro Columbus</i>	<i>Terrie Tarchinski-Nielsen, LWV Kent</i>
<i>Janet Kershaw, LWV Cuyahoga Area</i>	<i>Kristin Vessey, LWV Bowling Green</i>



Executive Director: Jennifer Williams (term begins August 1, 2011)

## LWV Ohio Speaks Out Against Photo ID Requirement

*The following press release was issued by LWVO on June 21, 2011 and is reprinted from the LWVO website, www.lwvohio.org.*

### Ohio Voters Are Not a Bunch of Crooks: League of Women Voters of Ohio Calls on the Ohio Senate to Reject Photo ID Requirement

Founded in 1920 after a decades-long fight to enfranchise women, voting rights have been a core principle of the League of Women Voters of Ohio for the 91 years of our existence. Therefore, the League strongly opposes the photo identification requirement which, at the last moment, was inserted in Sub. H.B. 194. This provision will disenfranchise legitimate voters and discourage them from exercising this

vital right -- and it will cost a lot of money that Ohio does not have to solve a problem that does not exist.

Proponents of the restrictive requirement have expressed concern that illegal votes will dilute legal votes, but they cannot point to any evidence of illegal voting -- certainly not to voter impersonation, which is what voter id is purportedly designed to address, nor to any evidence of the need for draconian ID requirements. In other words, the current voter-verification system at the polls works.

"Voter impersonation fraud at the polls is a non-problem in Ohio," LWV-Ohio Co-President Nancy Brown said. "Yet in order to address this nonexistent problem, this restrictive requirement creates barriers to voting for the estimated 11 percent of

voter-age Ohioans who lack government-issued photo ID. This particularly affects the elderly, the disabled, students, minorities, the homeless, those of low income and new citizens. Furthermore, implementing this statute could cost the state millions of dollars -- dollars Ohio does not have as it struggles to address an immense budget deficit."

Rather than putting up artificial barriers like the photo ID requirement that will restrict qualified Ohioans' access to the polls, shouldn't the Ohio Senate and House be seeking ways to maximize Ohioans' ability to exercise their most basic constitutional right -- the right to vote? Isn't that what a democracy is based on? The League of Women Voters of Ohio thinks so.

## LWVUS Opposes Termination of Election Assistance Commission

*The LWVUS issued this press release opposing HR 672 to terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). HR 672 was voted on June 23 and failed by 48 votes.*

The League of Women Voters today urged Members of Congress to oppose HR 672, proposed legislation which would terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and transfer some of its functions to the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

"Seventeen months before the next Presidential election is not the time to shut down the nation's elections agency," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League of Women Voters. "Instead of eliminating the EAC, Congress should strengthen the commission and expand its responsibilities."

"Unfortunately, elections in our country are still not well-run, and we are concerned that many states and localities are not doing a good job ensuring federally-

protected voting rights," added MacNamara. "A GAO report on the 2008 election said that there are significant problems for persons with disabilities in gaining access to the polls and 31 states reported that ensuring polling place accessibility was 'challenging.'" And there are other areas of concern outlined in the League's letter to the U.S. House of Representatives last week.

"The value of the EAC far outweighs its monetary costs; in fact, the costs of poorly run elections are intolerable. It is time for election administration to move into the 21st Century, not back toward the 19th," MacNamara said. "With these continuing problems, now is certainly not the time for Congress to turn its back on federal efforts to ensure election integrity and improve voter access to the polls and election systems."

In addition to terminating the EAC, HR 672 would transfer significant responsibilities to the Federal Election Commission.

"This is a remarkably bad idea," stated MacNamara. "The FEC is a dysfunctional agency. It is overwhelmed by its current responsibilities, as evidenced by repeated court orders to correct its regulations to bring them in line with the laws of the United States. The FEC is starkly divided on partisan lines, making it particularly inappropriate for election administration responsibilities. And the FEC is increasingly unable to make decisions or even to agree on staff-negotiated recommendations."

"Elections are the life blood of a democracy," concluded MacNamara. "The League strongly urges Members of the House of Representatives to strengthen the Election Assistance Commission instead of terminating it. Now is not the time for the federal government to step back from its responsibilities for federal elections."





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erica@greerzone.com

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- June 14:** Flag Day
- July 4:** Independence Day
- July 19-20, 1848:** First Women's Rights Convention  
Seneca Falls, New York
- August 4:** LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 pm  
Christ United Methodist Church  
380 Mineola Avenue, Akron
- August 25:** LWVAA Annual Picnic, 6:00 pm  
Shady Hollow Shelter  
Sand Run MetroPark, Akron



**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.

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**Vote for civility in  
civic discourse —**

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LWVAA, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron, OH 44320  
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**Join the League  
Today!**