

The Akron Voter



Volume 4, Issue 1

August 2011



President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

I hope everyone has managed to beat the heat in some way this summer!

As the temperature rises, the League's plans for the fall's voter service activities are also heating up! Voter service is at the heart of what the League does, and we are pleased to once again have a full slate of projects that will assist the community at the polls—be they early, absentee, or tried-and-true Election Day voters.

This month, the League has teamed up as a co-sponsor with the Akron Press Club and the University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics in a Democratic mayoral primary debate. As an organization, the League has a long history with debates and it is our privilege to provide this important service to the

community. By working with other non-partisan organizations like the Akron Press Club and the Bliss Institute, it is our hope that voters not only receive the information they need, but also a non-partisan forum in which to obtain it. A potential debate between Republican candidates for mayor is also in the planning process.

Voter Service chair Gerry Hall is working hard at preparing the material for this year's Voters' Guide. A September Voters' Guide will be published on the League's website, so I encourage you to keep checking www.lwvaa.org for more information to be used in the primary election. In November, a hard copy of the Guide will be available with information on the candidates and issues specific to the general election, in addition to the online version. Elsewhere in this month's edition of *The Voter* is a description about the

new changes we will see to the printed guide that will not only increase its distribution, but also update its look. We will continue providing information about the Voters' Guide in upcoming editions of *The Voter* and I encourage you to keep checking the website. Also, please be sure to let your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors know about this great resource!

For other upcoming events, I encourage you to attend our Annual Picnic, scheduled for Thursday, August 25h at 6 pm at the Shady Hollow pavilion. It is a great opportunity to share some food and fellowship with other League members, in addition to what I think will be a dynamic program that will be led by our guest speakers—journalist M.L. Schultze and blogger Kathy Coleman. Please "save the date" and plan to attend!

And finally, the LWVAA calendar has been created and will be distributed with the 2011-2012 handbook, in addition to being posted on our website. The handbook is scheduled to be distributed in early September. I encourage you to look ahead to the League's upcoming activities and consider volunteering your time to one (or more) of these exciting events! If you're interested in increasing your involvement in the League's activities this year, please contact me at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com or (330) 309-7555. We have a great year ahead of us and I look forward to your participation!

See you at the picnic!

Diana

Inside This Issue

Board Briefs	2
Ed Fund Thanks You!	2
Notable Quotables	2
Member Spotlight	3
Women's Equality Picnic	3
LWVO Regional Meeting	4
What's New at LWVOHio	4
Voters Guide Updated!	4
Voter Info Websites	5

Commemorate Women's Equality Day with a Donation!

August 26, 2011 marks the 91st anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. On this date in 1920, by one vote, women finally became full citizens, and we recognize this momentous event as Women's Equality Day.

Women's Equality Day was promoted by Representative Bella Abzug and was instituted in 1971.

From the time of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, 72 years had passed before the goal of enfranchising women was realized. What a monumental struggle fought by thousands of women over so many years!

You can honor the memory of those incredibly dedicated women, and at the same time help League to "make democ-

racy work" with a gift to the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area in honor of Women's Equality Day.

Donations can be made on our website, www.lwvaa.org, or by sending your check made out to LWVAA to this address:

LWVAA
380 Mineola Ave.
Akron, OH 44320

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 July board meeting we discussed the following:

- Completed a yearly review of the League's non-partisan policy
- Plans for the orientation of incoming board members to be held before the

August board meeting

- The business conducted at the Annual Meeting
- Registering new citizens to vote at the June 11th Naturalization Ceremony
- Plans for the Annual Picnic, to be held Thursday, August 25th
- Developing questions for the 2011 Voters' Guide
- Feedback on the LWVAA website
- Plans to co-sponsor a Democratic ma-

yoral primary debate with the Akron Press Club and the Bliss Institute on August 8th



LWVAA Education Fund Thanks You!

The LWVAA Education Fund sincerely appreciates all the contributions made for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Your generosity allows us to continue the invaluable work of encouraging the entire Akron Area Community to engage in the process of democracy. Many thanks to all of you!!



Corporate Donors

F.W. Albrecht Family Foundation

Mary Rebecca Babcox Trust

R.C. & Katherine Musson Foundation

Alpha Phi Alpha Foundation of Akron

GOJO Industries

North Akron Savings

Reuther Mold and Manufacturing

LWVAA Members and Friends

Albrecht, Sophie

Gandee, Sharon

Keck, Ardith

Mogen, John

Arnold, Lois

Gault, Mary Lou

Kingsbury, Diana

Noble, Jane

Becker, Marna

Glass, Julia

Koosed, Edward

Questel, Jean

Daily, Ardell

Greer, Erica & Bruce

Kruder, Sue

Read, Judy

Daniel, Louise

Greer, Sharley

Lloyd, Margaret

Robb, Joann

DeLamatre, Jodie

Hall, Gerry

Makinson, Orlene

Sanders, Jane

Dietz, Margaret

Hunter, Judy

Massa, Gloria

Thiell, Marjorie

Duff, Ann

Jacobs, Janice

McGrath, Nancy

Walcott, Margery

Fair, Don

Jacobs, Libby

Merlitti, Karen

Wojno-Forney, Virginia

Notable Quotables

If we get a government that reflects more of what this country is really about, we can turn the century -- and the economy -- around.

Bella Abzug[1920-1998], founder of Women's Equality Day





Member Spotlight on Sara Gibbs

When did you join the League?

I think it was 2003 — Mary Lou Gault was president.

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

You'll laugh — I joined because Ardith Keck invited me to join. Then they needed someone to be secretary, and I got volunteered. I'm not quite sure how that happened!

I have stayed in League because I really believe in what the League does —the Voters Guides, the advocacy on issues, the meetings that we have to educate people on the issues, those are all important.

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

I think it's having a good meeting. You work really hard to put together a good panel and an informative forum. When you have a good showing of people, and they leave having found real value in it, it's a really good feeling. It makes you proud of what the League does.

What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

Oh boy — I think it's all the false advertising and the scare tactics. There is a lot of fear-mongering. I also think some candidates really lack credibility. And now they are trying to make voter ID an issue which makes voting harder for some people.

Are you involved in any other community organizations?

Not really, not anymore. I used to be.



What interests do you have outside of the League?

I love to travel. I made a trip to South Africa that was wonderful, and I'd love to go back. I also enjoy reading. Cooking is a hobby, too. My husband and I have won a couple of cooking contests at West Point Market, which was a lot of fun.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Women's Equality Day Observance and Annual Picnic

LWVAA is planning a special observance for Women's Equality Day as part of our annual picnic. On this 91st anniversary of the enfranchisement of American women, we have two distinguished speakers offering their perspective on the question, "Is there equality for American women in politics?"

M.L. Schultze, News Director for WKSU FM will present her take on that question. Ms. Schultze came to WKSU in July 2007 after 25 years at The [Canton] Repository, where she was managing editor since 1998. There, she covered schools, city government, crime, courts, politics and special projects. Her work included an examination of mismanagement of the local Head Start operation and public construction projects, and sweetheart contracts awarded to consulting firms that contributed heavily to local political campaigns.

Since coming to WKSU, she's enjoyed working with a crew of talented and motivated reporters on just about every kind of story, from the bocce ball competition to the national political conventions to the impact of the foreclosure crisis.

The WKSU newsroom was named the best in the state by the Society of Professional Journalists this year, and has won numerous other awards for reporting, anchoring and features.

Also providing her perspective is Cleveland journalist, activist, and blogger Kathy Wray Coleman.

Coleman is a former biology teacher and an investigative reporter and journalist of 18 years. She has completed all coursework toward a doctorate at the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio. She cov-

ered the 2008 Democratic primary and general elections for the Call & Post, Ohio's Black press with distributions in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

This includes a one-on-one interview with now U.S. President Barack Obama.

Coleman's articles address a wide array of issues from a Black perspective, including politics, urban education, legal news, and the legal system. Coleman is a journalist who believes in equal opportunity for all people, regardless of race, gender, religion or socioeconomic status.

This should be a really interesting program, and I hope you'll make plans to attend! Please RSVP to Sara Gibbs at saragibbs@att.net or 330-869-8169.



The deadline for the September newsletter is August 15. Please email any materials to editor Erica Greer at erica@greerzone.com.

NE Ohio Regional Leagues Meeting in Hudson

It's time for the Northeast Ohio Leagues Regional Meeting! Coming up Saturday, August 20 from 10AM to noon, this year's meeting will be in Hudson, at the Hudson Library and Historical Society, 96 Library Street.

Leagues from Akron Area, Ashtabula, Canton Area, Cleveland Area, Cuyahoga Area, Greater Youngstown, Geauga County, Hudson, Kent, Lake County, Northern Portage County, Oberlin Area, Shaker Heights, Tallmadge, Trumbull County and Wayne County are invited to participate.

This year's Regional League Meeting will be held on the topic of Elections 2011. There will be an overview of recent changes in election laws and a discussion on way Leagues can engage and educate the electorate to ensure that voters don't miss out on the opportunity to vote.

LWVAA will also have an opportunity to share our League's most effective voter service practices, and learn about other Leagues activities during election season. This is a great opportunity to network with other League members and gather new ideas and perspectives.

With the meeting in Hudson this time around, I hope LWVAA will have several representatives in attendance — it should be an interesting and productive morning. And it's always great to be around other Leaguers!

For more information or to register please contact Michele Martin at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org, or by phone at 614-469-1505. You can also register online at www.lwvohio.org.



What's New at LWV Ohio

Ohio Redistricting Competition

The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVOEF) is thrilled to be part of the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting and a primary sponsor of the 2011 Redistricting Competition.

As the Ohio Apportionment Board prepares to meet in August to draw the lines for state legislative districts and the Ohio legislature considers congressional redistricting this fall, now is the time to show that electoral districts reflecting public interest criteria are possible! Go to www.drawthelineohio.org to learn more

about the competition and resources on redistricting.

When the competition goes "live" online this month, LWVOEF will send an email with ways that you and your League can get involved.

LWV Ohio Human Trafficking Study

At the LWV Ohio Convention in May, the delegate body approved a study on human trafficking in Ohio.

The scope of the study is to review the recommendations of the Ohio Trafficking in Persons Study Commission 2010 Year

End Report to the Attorney General, as well as other research materials, and develop study materials and consensus questions for the Ohio membership to use in the human-trafficking consensus process.

Karen Rainey, President of LWV Delaware County, is leading the study and can be contacted at karengr@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in working on this study, please contact LWVAA President Diana Kingsbury.



Newly Redesigned Voters Guide Coming!

LWVAA's Voters Guide is getting a facelift! Thanks go to Mitch Allen, President of *Mimi Vanderhaven*, a publication that goes out to portions of West Akron, Bath, Copley, Fairlawn and Richfield, who has agreed to take on publishing the LWVAA Voters Guide for the 2011 elections.

As part of the project, which was approved by the Ed Fund Board and at the Annual Meeting, Mitch will be redesigning the Voters Guide, giving it a fresh

new look designed to appeal to a wider audience, including younger voters. This redesign will be at no cost to League! *Mimi's* will publish the Guide as a pull-out section, and will access an audience of 20,000 readers in Summit County, greatly expanding our reach.

In addition, Mitch has agreed to publish 10,000 stand-alone copies, which will be paid for by League, that will be distributed to libraries, Acme, and other venues around the county as we have always

done.

With all these changes, however, never fear— League will be solely responsible for the content of the Voters' Guide as always. The unbiased, non-partisan election information about candidates and issues that you have always relied on will still be there, just in a more colorful and updated package.

We'd love to know how you like it! Please call the office, 330-836-7079, with your feedback!

Voter Information Websites

by Webmaster Bruce Greer

One of LWVAA's primary functions is to provide voters with timely information to help them make informed and intelligent decisions when they cast their ballots. Our Voters Guides have become a trusted source of unbiased information on candidates and issues.

Our goal is to provide non-partisan assessments of the pros and cons of various issues facing voters and to allow candi-

dates to articulate their views in their own words.

It can be very challenging for a voter to get unbiased information from traditional news media (newspaper, TV, magazines, etc) where the line is often blurred between opinions and facts. What you hear on Fox News is often quite different from MSNBC or CNN.

LWVAA believes that accurate facts offer the best chance of selecting the best candidate or issue. As a result LWVAA has compiled a list of links on our website which offer non-partisan fact based information which we hope will be helpful in providing more in depth data for voters.

You can access these links on our website at www.lwvaa.org/voter_info.htm.



National & State non-partisan election information from LWV US Ed Fund



Official site for the Summit County Board of Elections



National non-partisan election information from LWV California Ed Fund



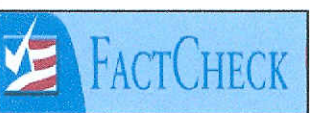
Nonpartisan coalition formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.



Non-partisan information on Ohio Issues from LWV Ohio Ed Fund



Non-partisan, nonprofit organization revealing the influence of campaign money on state-level elections and public policy in all 50 states



Non-partisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics.



Non-partisan, nonprofit source for balanced, accurate information on public policy issues



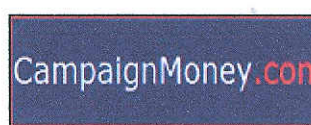
Non-partisan nonprofit guide to money's influence on U.S. elections and public policy.



PolitiFact, a project of the *St. Petersburg Times*, examines political statements and rates their accuracy



Nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes analysis and discussion of critical public issues



Non-partisan organization that makes the names of financial donors to federal political campaigns, public records, easily available.

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage active participation in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AKRON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 445

380 Mineola
Akron, OH
44320-1399

President: Diana Kingsbury (330) 309-7555

Membership: Ardith Keck (330) 836-1974

Editor: Erica Greer (330) 882-3106 or
erica@greerzone.com

IMPORTANT DATES

August 4: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
Christ United Methodist Church
380 Mineola Ave, Akron

August 8: Democratic Mayoral Primary Debate
U of Akron Student Union
11:30 AM

August 20: NE Ohio Leagues Regional Meeting
10AM to Noon
Hudson Library Flood Room

August 25: LWVAA Annual Picnic, 6-8:30 PM
Shady Hollow Shelter
Sand Run MetroPark, Akron

August 26: Women's Equality Day



**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: _____



**Vote for civility in
civic discourse —**

**Join the League
Today!**

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