



# The Akron Voter

Volume 4, Issue 3

October 2011



## President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

While the League strives to make democracy work 12 months out of the year, there's nothing like Election season to activate and energize us! As our nation, state and local communities grapple with a variety of concerns, the League works hard to provide the information that encourages the active and informed participation of all citizens in the democratic process.

It is during the coming weeks that voters everywhere will be looking for the information they need to cast their votes for both the issues and officials that will shape our government and the League is proud to serve a vital role in the process.

Among the League's current voter service activities, we are in the process of completing and distributing our newly designed Voter's Guide for the candidates and issues for November's general election. Voter Service Chair Gerry Hall has been hard at work assembling the candidate questionnaires and collecting the information to include.

As shared in previous issues of *The Voter*, LWVAA has teamed up with the local publication "Mimi Vanderhaven" to create a colorful newsprint edition of the Voter's Guide. As in the past, hard copies of the Guide will be available at Acme stores, public libraries, and other community locations, in addition to being distributed throughout the League and to the "Mimi Vanderhaven" mailing list. It is our hope that through the new and improved guide and wider distribution, we might reach an even larger read-

ing base. The Guide will also be available online and I encourage you to share this information with your family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

LWVAA is also gearing up for a town hall forum on Issue 2 on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. A panel of speakers representing various perspectives on the issue will be featured, in addition to the opportunity for Q and A from the audience. Please plan to attend this important event, located at the Summit County Red Cross and bring a guest!

The League will also be co-sponsoring a candidate's night on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> with the Richfield Civic Organization. The event will take place at Richfield Masonic Hall at 7:00 pm and will feature candidates for Richfield Village Council, Richfield Village Mayor, and the Revere

School Board. The League will provide a moderator for the event. All are welcome to attend!

League members also had the opportunity to attend the swearing-in of new citizens at the Summit County Constitution Day celebration on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The League has played a role in this celebration for many years – check out the article elsewhere in this issue of *The Voter*.

I encourage you to continue checking the LWVAA website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed for more information about upcoming League events and activities! Your support of the League is so important as we continue carrying out the principles of nonpartisanship and an engaged citizenry that have been our organization's longstanding mission.

Diana

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## Welcome New Members!

LWVAA warmly welcomes the following new members:

Amy Corrigan Jones

Don Plusquellic

Joy Malek Oldfield



## Board Briefs

by Martha Lester, Secretary

*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 September 1.*

At the September 1 meeting the Board:

- Was reminded that Annual Membership dues are to be paid by July 1 (The Per-Member -Payment is sent to LWV-OH and LWV-US in August)
- Reviewed the Mayoral Debate
- Discussed ways to improve the League's visibility

- Heard reports about the NEOhio Regional LWV meeting and the Annual Picnic
- Fielded requests for speakers, forum moderators, and event collaborators
- Agreed to include information on write-in candidates in the Voter's Guide
- Rejected a bid for a portable sound system due to excessive cost
- Confirmed the State Issue 2 Town Hall meeting on October 15

- Compared the redistricting plan from the Ohio Redistricting Committee to those submitted to the LWV-OH sponsored contest



## It's Acme Cash Back Time Again!

by Janice Jacobs

It's Fall and that means it's time to start saving Acme Fresh Market register receipt tapes. As you may remember, the fine folks at Acme provide this opportunity for local non-profit organizations and have contributed millions of dollars to the community over the years.

We will receive a 5% return on various store brand products like Acme Fresh Market, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, Top Care, ValuTime & other Acme brands. Shelf tags in the stores should alert shoppers to the cash back qualifying items.

The website at [www.acmestores.com](http://www.acmestores.com) also contains a more complete list of the products.

When you have finished shopping and made your way through the check out, each register receipt tape will reflect the "Acme Community Cash Back" amount. Just send those tapes to me & after I do a bit of compilation, League will get the 5% in the form of a check next Spring.

The dates for this year are: **09-24-2011 thru 02-11-2012.**

This program has been a small but consistent winner for us over the years. It is fairly easy, so please send your tapes to me:

Janice Jacobs  
P.O. Box 26  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222

Many thanks to Leaguers & Friends for faithfully saving those valuable little tapes.



## Highlights from Your State League (mid-May thru mid-September)

Summertime...and League Land was hopping! Your state League kept busy -- as your voice at the Statehouse, with activities to support local Leagues and their leaders and much, much more! Below is a snapshot of just some of the things your state League worked on over the past few months:

- **State Budget:** Advocated with coalition partners for the Ohio legislature to adopt a balanced approach to closing the projected eight-billion

dollar deficit in the state budget, including enhanced revenue as well as cuts. In the end, a budget was passed which will result in significant cuts for education and local governments. However, taxes were not raised, loopholes were not closed and the estate tax was eliminated.

- **Election Law and Referendum on House Bill 194:** Testified at numerous hearings, participated in television, radio and newspaper interviews and sent Action Alerts regarding the pro-

posed election bills, HB 159, HB 194 and HB 224. Although the proposed photo-ID law was not enacted, HB 194 reduced early in-person absentee voting hours and days, shortened the mail-in voting period, and prohibited boards of elections from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications to all registered voters. Therefore, LWV Ohio joined the referendum effort to repeal HB 194. See Lobbyist Testimony under Advocacy at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).

## State League Highlights (con't.)

- **Statehouse Day and Council:** Approved offering the combined events on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.
- **Ballot Issues:** Approved state-wide ballot-issue overviews and the League's stance on the three issues. Available at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).
- **2011 Redistricting Competition:** Launched *Draw the Line Ohio*, co-sponsored by Ohio Citizen Action, demonstrating an open, transparent redistricting process can produce congressional and legislative districts that reflect four objective, public-interest criteria. State and local

League representatives testified at numerous hearings across the state and participated press conferences and media interviews. The contest has garnered significant media attention and the attention of the legislature and Apportionment Board. See [www.drawthelineohio.org](http://www.drawthelineohio.org).

- **Clean Air Promise Campaign:** Joined LWVUS' campaign to reduce air pollution by engaging community leaders, politicians and the general public to make the promise to support clean air. LWV Ohio Education Fund will provide pass-through funding to

local Leagues that also choose to participate. To learn more about the Clean Air Promise, visit <http://peoplenotpolluters.org/>.

- **Judicial Reform:** Met with Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice O'Connor to identify areas in which we could jointly advocate for judicial reform and commented on survey to go to Ohio attorneys on judicial reform.



## LWV Ohio Positions on State Ballot Issues

*The Board of the League of Women Voters voted to take the following positions on statewide ballot issues:*

League of Women Voters of Ohio: Positions on the 2011 General Election Ballot Issues

**Issue 1:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment to change the age at which a person may not be elected or appointed to a judicial office and to eliminate courts of conciliation and the Supreme Court Commission: **NEUTRAL.**

**Issue 2:** Referendum on legislation relative to government union contracts and other government employment contracts and policies (A referendum on Am. Sub. SB 5): **NEUTRAL.**

**Issue 3:** Proposed Constitutional Amendment to add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from a federal requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance

coverage: **OPPOSE.**

In taking a stance on proposed constitutional amendments and referendums, the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV Ohio) considers the public policy positions which the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and LWV Ohio have adopted after careful study and member consensus.

Passage of Issue 1 would increase the age at which a judge could be elected or appointed from age 70 to age 75. Neither LWVUS nor LWV Ohio has a position that pertains to Issue 1. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is taking a neutral stance on Issue 1.

Issue 2 is a referendum on Am. Sub SB 5, which seeks to change laws concerning public employees, in particular teachers, firefighters and police. Major changes affect collective bargaining rights, salary schedules and compensation, layoff procedures and leave. Neither LWVUS nor LWV Ohio has a position that pertains to Issue 2. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is tak-

ing a neutral stance on Issue 2.

Issue 3 seeks to add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from any requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance.

The amendment is directed at a federal law passed in 2010, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), but it also seeks to make ineffective similar state and local laws passed after the PPACA was adopted.

LWVUS adopted a position on health care in 1993 which supports a basic level of affordable, accessible quality care for all U.S. residents. LWV Ohio believes Issue 3 seeks to undermine efforts to provide a basic level of affordable, accessible quality health care for Ohio's residents. Accordingly, LWV Ohio is opposing Issue 3.

Go to [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org) to access the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund November 2011 Ballot Issue Explanations for pros and cons.

**The deadline for the November Akron Voter is October 15. Please send any materials you may have to Akron Voter Editor Erica Greer at [erica@greerzone.com](mailto:erica@greerzone.com), or via mail to 408 Ott Dr. Clinton, OH 44216**

# The League and the United Nations

by Erica Greer

October 24 is United Nations Day, marking the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, and devoted to making known to peoples of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations. The League of Women Voters has a long history of working with and for the United Nations. The following is taken from "Impact on Issues 2006-2008."

During World War II, the League, conscious of its earlier hesitancy [to support the League of Nations] began to study "U.S. participation in the making and execution of plans for worldwide reconstruction and for a postwar organization for peace to eventually include all peoples, regardless of race, religion or political persuasion." In 1944, the League supported "U.S. membership in an international organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes, with the machinery to handle economic, social and political problems."

Even before the United Nations was formally established, the League launched

an unprecedented nationwide campaign to help build public understanding of the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods agreements to establish the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. The League trained more than 5000 speakers and distributed more than a million brochures during a six-month period. At the UN Charter Conference in 1945, the League was one of 42 nongovernmental organizations invited by President Truman to serve as a consultant to the U.S. delegation.

Since that time, the League has continued its presence at the United Nations through its UN Observer. The LWVEF periodically hosts "League Day at the UN" to provide a first-hand opportunity for League members to visit the UN, speak with United Nations' official, and learn more about the work of its agencies.

The League's position on the UN, adopted in 1977 and updated in 2002, states in part:

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports a strong, effective United Nations and endorses the full and active participation of the United States in the UN system. The League supports UN efforts to:

- Promote international peace and security;
- Advance the social and economic well-being of the world's people;
- Ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Foster trust and cooperation among nations by encouraging adherence to conventions, treaties, and other international agreements;
- Protect the integrity of the world environment;
- Achieve the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of civil and political life."



## Did You Know —? The Unique Inauguration of Calvin Coolidge by Maureen Sullivan



On August 2, 1923 President Warren G. Harding died in San Francisco.

Vice President Calvin Coolidge was vacationing at his home in Plymouth Notch, Vermont.

The nearest Western Union station was in Bridgewater, eight miles north. At 11:30PM the agent got word of President Warren G. Harding's death and was instructed to get the telegram to Coolidge. The agent took off for Plymouth and was met at the Coolidge home by Colonel

John Coolidge, the V.P.'s father.

When told by his father of Harding's death, Calvin Coolidge, known for his frugality and laconic expression, said, "Thank you, father" and went back to his bedroom.

The only telephone in Plymouth was in the general store across the street and Joseph McNerney, Coolidge's chauffeur, went over to awaken the owner, Miss Florence Cilley. Coolidge then called Attorney General Harry Dougherty to get the exact words of the oath of office.

There was then discussion in the Coolidge home as to who should give the oath.

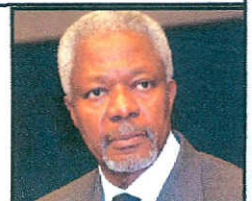
The traditional rite belonged to the Chief Justice of the United States who was then in Washington. Congressman Porter Dale solved the dilemma by suggesting Calvin Coolidge's father do the honor since he was a government official – a notary public.

At exactly 2:47PM, August 3, 1923 Calvin Coolidge became the 30<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. After signing the oath, President Coolidge opened the door to the upstairs, waited for his wife Grace to go ahead. He turned to the others in the room and said, "Good night."

## Notable Quotable

"More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations."

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General 1997-2006





# Member Spotlight on ..... Lois Arnold

## When did you join the League?

I joined in the 1960's for a few years. Then I got too busy, first having my family, and then I worked for several years. All that time I wanted to get back into it, and finally, 15 or 20 years later, I re-joined.

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

I joined because I wanted to become more active in the political scene, but I wasn't sure about what party. I was really more interested in issues than the political process, so the League seemed like a good fit for me. I have stayed in League because I'm still more concerned about issues, and I can learn so much that I wouldn't otherwise hear about.

## What positions, if any, have you held

## within the League?

I was membership chair at one time, and I chaired fund-raising for 10 years or so. Our last fund-raiser raised almost \$4000, so I was quite proud of that. I also currently serve on the board of the Ed Fund.

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

I think it's associating with intelligent, well-educated, *thinking* women.

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

On specific issues, I think State Issue 2 is really important in this state. Whatever the outcome, it's going to affect so many people. In a broader sense, the biggest issue is jobs.

## Are you involved in any other community organizations?

No, not really.



## What interests do you have outside of the League?

Reading is my number one favorite — I belong to two book clubs. I love to travel. I also enjoy all sort of physical activities, especially bicycling and tennis, and I work out at the gym regularly. I'm an avid beader and rubber stamper, and of course I love my gardening!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

# Constitution Day

by Diana Kingsbury

On Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Mary Lou Gault and Diana Kingsbury had the honor of attending the 'Constitution Celebration' sponsored by the Akron Bar Association and the Akron-Summit County Public Library. In commemoration of Constitution Day, 35 new citizens were sworn in who collectively represented 23 different countries.

The evening's events also commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War

Between the States. The program included remarks from Summit County Executive Russ Pry, Akron Bar Association President Michael L. Robinson, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Field Office Director Kim Adams, in addition to the swearing-in ceremony by the U.S. District Court's Honorable Judge Sara Lioi.

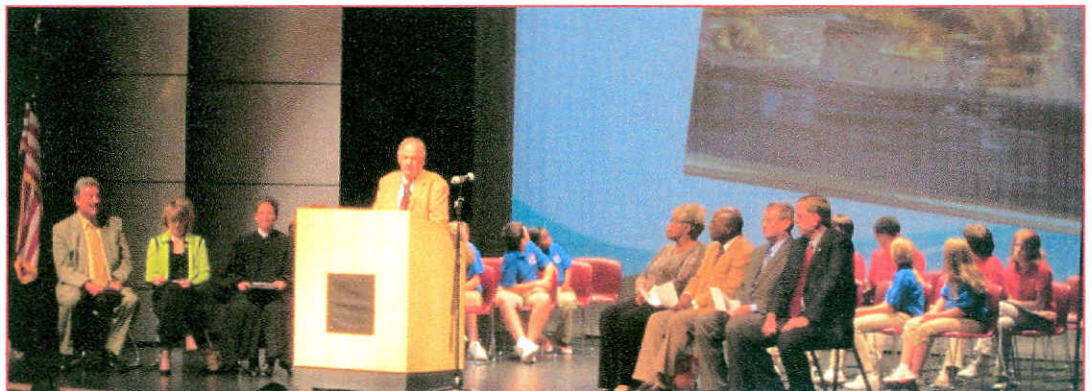
New citizens were presented with a certificate, a copy of the United States

Constitution, and a carnation.

The League participates annually in the Summit County Constitution Day celebration by encouraging the newly sworn-in citizens to register to vote, in addition to sharing information about the League. It is our privilege to be present at events such as these and to witness such an important occasion!



County Executive Russ Pry



Retired judge, the Honorable Ted Schneiderman, addresses the Constitution Day gathering.



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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 6:** LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM  
Christ United Methodist Church  
380 Mineola Ave., Akron

**October 11:** Deadline to register to vote in  
November elections

**October 12:** Candidates' Forum, 7-9 PM  
Richfield Masonic Hall  
3750 Grant St. Richfield

**October 15:** Forum on State Issue 2, 10 AM-Noon  
Summit County Red Cross  
501 W. Market St, Akron

**October 24:** United Nations 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.

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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 Mineola Ave., Akron, OH 44320  
or join online on our website: [www.lwvaa.org](http://www.lwvaa.org)**