

# The Akron Voter



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February 2012



## President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

In the month of February, as we recognize the League of Women Voters' birthday, we have the opportunity to reflect on the many things the League has done and continues to do for our democratic system.

Established in the 1920s as a result of the women's suffrage movement, the League continues to be an advocate for voter information and grassroots participation in the political process. We have much to be thankful for as we consider the women and men who have worked actively for the success of our organization, and it is our mission to continue upholding the ideals on which we were founded.

Last month, League members

participated in our yearly program planning meeting. At this year's meeting, we took a look at LWVUS' positions and determined potential areas in need of updates and/or studies. Program planning is such an important piece of setting the League's agenda and I'm grateful for all who attended. Please see the article about our program planning meeting elsewhere in this edition of The Voter.

In the coming months, LWVAA has many exciting events in store that I hope you'll consider attending. On March 17th, we will be honoring female journalists in Northeast Ohio who have worked through a variety of media to bring information to the public. Our "Women in Journalism" brunch will feature keynote speaker Connie Schultz and is sure to be inspiring. Please fill out and

return the form provided in the flyer by March 7. A big thanks goes out to Erica Greer and her committee for their work on this exciting event.

LWVAA will also participate in a joint consensus meeting with the League of Women Voters Hudson on March 13th. Through this meeting, our Leagues will have the opportunity to consider information brought forth by LWVUS' privatization study and to come to a consensus. It's great to have the opportunity to pair together on an important topic like this - I encourage you to attend!

On May 4th, LWVAA will also host a fundraiser at Weathervane Playhouse. This event has been a great success in the past, as it gives League members and their guests an

opportunity to enjoy a wonderful play and try their luck in a raffle of some great items. Additional information about tickets and the raffle will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars!

As we continue to progress through the year, I ask that you keep the League in mind if you're looking for the opportunity to get more actively involved. Your assistance, skills, and talents are always welcome - in the planning of events, in chairing committees, helping out at meetings, or serving on the board. It's through the assistance of volunteers like you that we are able to provide the voter service that is so important to our community.

*Diana*

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## Acme Cash Back Report

by Janice Jacobs

Hello from your Acme Cash Back Coordinator. As you know, we have participated for several years in this program provided by the generous folks at Acme Fresh Market for local non-profit organizations. We receive 5% on selected brands such as Acme, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, Top Care & others. These items are highlighted in the store and then are totaled at the end of your register tapes as "Community Cash Back."

Thanks to all Leaguers & Friends who have sent tapes so far. We are lagging behind last year's total, and we are closing in fast on the deadline to earn credits, **02-11-12**. Please send tapes to me at:

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

Tapes need to reach me by or before, **02-25-12**. The cutoff date for turn in is 03-03-12, and I need the time to sort,

tabulate, and neatly bundle the tapes.

This is one of the easiest fundraisers we have found. The amount we earn is small but consistent. Thanks to all for helping. A reminder to the ultra "neatniks": do not iron tapes as some have tried, because they will be rendered useless (heat turns the print to a solid black). Count on League members to put forth the extra effort though!

# 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 February 2, 2012.

At the January 5 meeting the Board:

► **Election Monitoring:** Representatives from the Hudson, Tallmadge, and Akron Area LWVs interviewed members of the Summit County Board of Elections about what is being done to comply with the 2005 lawsuit. A report will be sent to LWV OHIO.

- **Marketing/PR:** What does the League do best? How can we show it?
- For the January 6 **Akron Press Club Luncheon with Sherrod Brown** (co-sponsored by LWVAA) we will fill at least two tables.
- **Membership committee:** A Keck reported ideas for recruiting and retaining members. The Board approved a new "Friends of the League" non-voting category for \$20 (publications only).
- **The Membership Database** will be updated on January 30, 2012. The Membership count on that date deter-

mines how many delegates we can send to conventions.

### On the calendar:

- January 6:** Akron Press Club Luncheon with Sherrod Brown
- January 29:** Program Planning Meeting
- March 13:** Privatization Study / Consensus Meeting with Hudson
- March 17:** Women in Journalism Brunch
- April ?:** Fundraiser at Weathervane Playhouse?



# Did You Know — Presidential Sound Bites

## by Maureen Sullivan

**James Monroe:** "Mrs. Monroe hath added a daughter to our society who, tho' noisy, contributes greatly to its amusement."

"Huh?"]

**Benjamin Harrison:** "We Americans have no commission from God to police the world."

**John Quincy Adams:** "The four most miserable years of my life were my four years in the presidency."

**Herbert Hoover:** "Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die."

**Andrew Jackson:** "I have always been afraid of banks."

**Harry Truman:** "All the president is, is a glorified public relations man who spends his time flattering, kissing, and kicking people to get them to do what they are supposed to do anyway."

**Zachary Taylor:** "Tell him to go to hell." (in response to Mexican General Santa Ana's demand to surrender).

**Abraham Lincoln:** "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."

**Dwight Eisenhower:** "I just won't get into a pissing contest with that skunk." (referring to Senator Joe McCarthy).

**Chester Arthur:** "I may be president of the United States, but my private life is nobody's damned business."

**Dwight Eisenhower:** "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity."

**Grover Cleveland:** "Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote."

[Editorial comment from Maureen:

**John Kennedy:** "Forgive your enemies,

but never forget their names."

**Jimmy Carter:** America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense human rights invented America.

**Ronald Reagan:** "Approximately 80% of our air pollution stems from hydrocarbons released by vegetation, so let's not go overboard in setting and enforcing tough emission standards from man-made sources."

**George W Bush:** "A key to foreign policy is to rely on reliance."

**Barack Obama:** "There are few things in life harder to find and more important to keep than love. Well, love and a birth certificate."

"When I was a boy, I was told that anyone could be president. I'm beginning to believe it." -- Clarence Darrow



The deadline for the March Akron Voter is February 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

# LWVAA Program Planning

by Erica Greer

About 15 intrepid League members braved the snow and ice on Saturday, January 28, to participate in the annual program planning meeting.

No, we weren't planning meetings and events, but rather taking this opportunity to provide input to LWV US on League positions and priorities. Program, in League, refers to issues chosen for study and/or action. We reviewed League's positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and the Environment, and Social Policy. We also looked at what we thought should be LWVUS' priorities for 2012-2014.

We also reviewed our local League's positions on issues for the City of Akron, the Greater Akron Area, and Summit County and determined priorities to present to LWVAA board.

The League Board will then vote on what program issues and priorities to recommend to the membership at the annual meeting. Members will then vote on the final program for 2012-2013.

After much lively discussion, we decided to recommend to LWVUS a proposed

concurrency on sentencing reform being presented by LWV District of Columbia. It proposes to add to League's positions the following new positions:

- 1) LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime
- 2) LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

For LWVAA, we recommended these priorities:

- 1) To encourage the City of Akron and Summit County to support a

decision, stating that corporations are not people, and money is not speech.

2) to educate and/or advocate on issues of local importance

3) to educate and advocate on the issue of personhood, should that proposed amendment be on the November ballot.



President Kingsbury opens the meeting.



LWVAA members look over and discuss League issues.

## LWVAA Theater Party — Mark Your Calendars!



Friday May 4 is the date for LWVAA's semi-annual fundraiser at Weathervane Playhouse! This is always a fun evening, including not only the play, but also a raffle with exciting prizes, and a buffet after the show in the beautiful Weathervane lobby.

This year the play is an hilarious British

farce called *See How They Run*. As the Weathervane website puts it, "Against a backdrop of mistaken identities and outrageous situations, we meet a former actress, her husband the vicar, a Cockney maid and a woman whose lips have never touched alcohol – all of whom create blissful hilarity!"

So mark your calendars for Friday, May 4 for an evening of fun for a good cause — to support your local League!

More details about how to purchase tickets and raffle tickets will be coming soon!

## Notable Quotable

"We have a positive vision of the future founded on the belief that the gap between the promise and reality of America can one day be finally closed."

*Barbara Jordan, in keynote speech to Democratic National Convention, 1976*



