

Happy Birthday!

League of Women Voters

February 14

1920



February 14

2014

Carrie Chapman Catt, founder
League of Women Voters

Making Democracy Work

for 94 years!



League of Women Voters[®] of Tallmadge *presents*

“Modern Day Slavery in Summit County”

Thursday, February 20

7:00 PM

Tallmadge High School Project Room

140 North Munroe Road, Tallmadge



With Special Guest Speaker

Belinda Wing

Past President LWV Hudson

Member Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking

For more information contact Susan Yatsu, LWV Tallmadge: syatsu5@yahoo.com

Save the Date for LWV Ohio Regional Meetings!

LWVO will be holding regional meetings around the state during the month of February. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend whichever meeting is most convenient for you. We hope to see you there.

Exact locations will be announced soon, but we wanted to give you the dates right away.

**Saturday, February 15th (10:00am-12:30pm)
Northeast Ohio (eastside) - location TBA**

Topics will include:

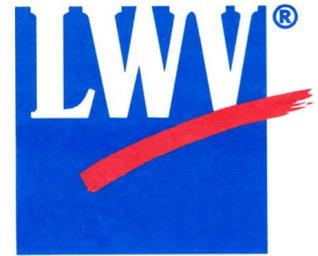
- **LWVUS Agriculture Study Update** (first hour) -- On the January 7th all-member call, several League members expressed concern about the narrow window of time to review the study materials and return consensus reports in April. We will spend the first hour of regional meetings presenting an overview of the two topic areas, ag finance and ag technology, and will distribute summary materials that you can share with your Local League.
- **Cuyahoga Area Leagues' Proposed Study of Primary Elections** (10-15 minutes) -- The three Leagues in Cuyahoga County are proposing a national study of different ways to run primary elections. Join us to learn the details of this proposed study.
- **Judicial Voter Education** (second hour) -- The second part of the meeting will discuss next steps in our judicial voter education program and anticipated voter service needs in 2014.

Register online at the LWVO website: www.lwvohio.org.

The Akron Voter

Volume 6, Issue 7

February 2014



President's Remarks

by Tina Merlitti

As I watch my daughter sleep, I am reminded of what Maria Shriver said on Meet the Press this week about raising our daughters with the reality that they could be the primary breadwinner in their family, as are 40% of today's women. We need to encourage them to get a good education so they can meet the demands of providing for a family. We need to recognize that only 20% of women are stay-at-home mothers with their spouse working as the primary breadwinner.

This week marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, but many of the programs that were started under

that initiative have seen drastic funding cuts or the funding has not kept up with cost of living. In the Shriver Report they emphasize that the face of poverty includes many working women. One in three women (42 million) live on the brink of poverty along with the 28 million children they support. Two thirds of the minimum wage workers in our country are women and 70% of them have no sick time. The report highlighted that sick time was a big concern for working families who lose wages when their children or they themselves are sick.

The question was asked, "How do these women negotiate for better working condi-

tions?" and the answer was, "They don't, they are just focused on survival." Maria Shriver challenged the viewers to talk about "Smart Family Policies" with community leaders, not only in government but also in the business world and in the community at large. Ms. Shiver wanted people to look at what a living wage would be vs. the current minimum wage. She wanted everyone to understand that if women do well, then the entire country will do well.

In the last few months we have seen women like Mary Barra become CEO of General Motors Co. and Janet Yellen become Chair of the Federal Reserve, yet so many women

in this country cannot meet their daily basic human needs. GM employs about 205,000 people and the United States Federal Reserve impacts the global economy. It would be my hope that these women and others in leadership positions would stand up for those who cannot and bring greater equality to our economic system.

We must all let our voices be heard and refuse to accept it when people call our current economic conditions "the new normal." Surely we can do better!

Tina

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LWVUS Position on Meeting Basic Human Needs

Statement of LWVUS Position on Meeting Basic Human Needs, as Revised by the National Board, January 1989, based on positions reached from 1971 through 1988.

"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.

Persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care.

The federal government should set minimum, uniform standards and guidelines for social welfare programs and should bear primary responsi-

bility for financing programs designed to help meet the basic needs of individuals and families. State and local governments, as well as the private sector, should have a secondary role in financing food, housing and health care programs. Income assistance programs should be financed primarily by the federal government with state governments assuming secondary responsibility."

This Month in Women's History

by Erica Greer

February 1, 1978 - First postage stamp to honor a black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued in Washington, DC.

February 4, 1987 - First "National Women in Sports Day" is celebrated by Presidential Proclamation.

February 12, 1869 - The Utah Territorial Legislature passes a bill allowing women to vote .

February 15, 1921 - The Suffrage Monument, depicting Susan B. An-



thon, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, sculpted by Adelaide Johnson, is dedicated at the U.S. Capitol.

February 15, 1953 - Tenley Albright became the first American woman to win the World Figure Skating championship.

February 17, 1870 - Esther Hobart Morris in Wyoming became the first American woman Justice of the Peace.

February 24, 1912 - Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah, the largest Jewish organization in American history, focusing on healthcare and education in Israel and the U.S.

February 24, 1967 - Jocelyn Bell

Burnell makes the first discovery of a pulsar, a rapidly rotating neutron star.

February 27, 1922 - U.S. Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote.



Henrietta Szold

From *The National Women's History Project* website: www.nwhp.org

Did You Know — The Woman's Bible

by Erica Greer

The following article is reprinted from Wikipedia. For the complete article and links to more information, please follow this link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Woman's_Bible

The Woman's Bible is a two-part book, written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and a committee of 26 women, and published in 1895 and 1898 to challenge the traditional position of religious orthodoxy that woman should be subservient to man. By producing the book, Stanton wished to promote a radical liberating theology, one that stressed self-development. The book attracted a great deal of controversy and antagonism at its introduction.

Many women's rights activists who worked with Stanton were opposed to the publication of *The Woman's Bible*; they felt it would harm the drive for women's

suffrage. Although it was never accepted by Bible scholars as a major work, it became a popular best-seller, much to the dismay of suffragists who worked alongside Stanton within the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

Susan B. Anthony tried to calm the younger suffragists, but they issued a formal denunciation of the book, and worked to distance the suffrage movement from Stanton's broader scope which included attacks on traditional religion.

Because of the widespread negative reaction, including suffragists who had been close to her, publication of the book effectively ended Stanton's influence in the suffrage movement.

A synopsis of the work appears on Amazon.com as follows:

The Woman's Bible is a "book-by-book examination of the Bible by [a] pioneer in women's rights move-



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

ment [which] places events in their historical context, interprets passages as both allegory and fact, and compares them with myths of other cultures. In the tradition of radical individualism, Stanton's attack on religious orthodoxy represents a political treatise rather than a scholarly work.

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, or via mail to 408 Ott Dr. New Franklin, OH 44216

In Memory of Helen Louise Cullison

Helen Louise Cullison (nee Hagen), formerly of Akron, died in Erlanger, KY December 29, 2013 at the age of 92.

She served as the president of the Akron Area League of Women Voters from 1955-1957. She also served on the Government Committee and as Voter Service Chair for many years, during which time she arranged and moderated numerous candidates' forums and neighborhood forums, which at that time were frequently televised in Akron. She was always very careful to ensure that League protocol was observed at all times, as she recognized how important this was to the credibility and influence of the League.

Along with others, she was an important force behind the establishment of the non-profit arm of the Akron Area League, the LWVAA Education Fund.

In 1999, she was awarded the Judith Resnik Pioneer Award by the Women's History Project for "a woman who has paved the way for others to follow." While in college, she was the second female editor of Akron University's newspaper, the Buchtelite.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the League of Women Voters Akron Area (LWVAA), 380 Mineola

Ave, Akron, OH 44320, or at our website: www.lwvaa.org.



Helen Louise Cullison moderates Akron's first neighborhood forum on January 31, 1962

Observer Corps

by Jodie DeLamatre

This year looks to be an exciting one for the Observer Corps with many of our area's public meetings being followed by members.

Currently, I have openings at the following meetings. Please feel free to choose one (or more!) of any of these sessions:

Summit County Council, 2nd Monday of each month at 4:30

Summit County Council Committees 3rd Monday of each month, 4:30

Akron City Council, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

Additionally, League members have been so eager to do their part, I would like to expand our activities to another public meeting. The Akron-Summit County Public Library Trustees meet 4:00

p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at various libraries throughout the county though primarily, they meet at the Main Library in downtown Akron. To see their schedule and locations, here is a link to their website: <http://www.akronlibrary.org/ad-btmtg.html>

As you may recall, members attending as an Observer must not participate in the meeting. They wear a League button (which I will get to you if you choose to participate) and let me know if anything of significance occurs. The most important principle is that the public bodies know that someone is out there watching.

A recent observation by one of members regarding the Summit County Metro-Parks is important. They don't set their meeting schedule ahead of time because of "the busy schedule of the members."

This seems to be counter to how a public board should be operating. We hope that the volunteers who so graciously serve on the boards recognize that public meetings need to be standardized in order for the public to be able to participate.

Another observation was made by our Akron Public School Board Observer. She notes that the meetings are incredibly dry and routine because it appears all the decisions are made in committee meeting. There are no discussions in public making it difficult to follow the decision-making process.

I hope to hear from you soon. Please call (330-376-0399) or write with any questions or concerns. This is one of the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area's most important responsibilities.

Notable Quotable

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Audre Lorde (1934-1992) Caribbean-American writer and civil rights activist



LWVAA Nonpartisan Policy

The LWVAA board felt that the nonpartisan policy needed some clarification, and accordingly adopted this revised policy at the November, 2013 board meeting. Thanks to Roberta Aber, Jill Cabe and Karyn Katz for their work on these revisions.

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area may take action on governmental measures and policies based on League positions. However, the League of Women Voters, as an organization, shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League encourages members to work as individuals in the political party of their choice. Political activity makes members more valuable to the League because of their political party experience; in turn, League members make valuable political party members because of their League experience.

While the League encourages political party participation by individual members, it must ensure that its actions as an organization, or the actions of those in leadership positions who are recognized in the community as spokespersons for the organization, are not in conflict with the League's nonpartisanship policy. To this end, League Board members must exercise care in their political activities during their term of office.

The guiding criterion in determining the appropriate activities for League Board members during their term of office is whether or not the League, as an organization, will become associated with specific political parties or candidates. As circumstances vary from situation to situation and change over time, guidelines, rather than definitive rules have been established for the conduct of Board members with respect to political activities during their term of office.

Guidelines

The President, Voter Service Chairperson and any other Board position deemed sensitive by the Board shall not:

- run for or hold elective public office;
- work actively for a candidate's election campaign;
- display signs, campaign buttons, etc. for a particular candidate;
- circulate candidates' nominating petitions;
- engage in any political activity that might reasonably be construed as League endorsement of a party or candidate.

Examples of political activities that LWVAA Board members may undertake include:

- attend events to meet a candidate;
- make contributions in their individual name to the party or candidate of their choice;
- work as poll workers;
- sign nominating petitions for candidates;
- circulate petitions for ballot issues that are consistent with League positions.

Political activities of a Board member's spouse/partner or relative are considered to be independent of the political activities of the Board member and are not subject to these guidelines. However, since the perception of an association of the League with political parties or candidates may be damaging to the reputation of the League for nonpartisanship, care must be taken to ensure that the League, as an organization, is not perceived by the community to be associated with a particular party or candidate. Specific situations in which there are concerns that the League appears to have endorsed a party or candidate shall be evaluated on an individual basis by the Board.

Board members shall present questions about specific situations to the Board where the foregoing guidelines do not resolve the question.

Any announcements of Board members; resignations or leaves of absence to pursue political activities should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsement of the activity of the resigning member.



Contributions to the League from individual office holders and candidates will be accepted; contributions from campaign funds will not.

Any LWVAA member engaged in a League activity or assignment shall maintain nonpartisanship in those situations.

Monitoring is an action activity of the League and is only done when the League has a position in the area involved. A Monitor must know the League position; be authorized by the LWVAA Board to speak and/or ask questions; know the law in the area involved; be capable of making value judgments to properly represent the League; and must report back to the LWVAA Board on their activity.

Observing is not an action activity; therefore, and Observer has no authority to speak on behalf of the League. An Observer attends meetings in order to report to the LWVAA the activities taking place.

Board members are expected to publicly reflect League positions, and, although a Board member may disagree with a League of Women Voters position, that member may not speak or in any way work against the League position.

The LWVAA Board shall have authority to rule on any cases concerning the above nonpartisan policy.



Member Spotlight on..... Barbara Hunsicker

When did you join the League?

I joined less than a year ago. I am planning to start attending Akron City Council meetings as part of the Observer Corps. I'm looking forward to learning more about how our local government works.

Why did you join LWVAA? What is your current role with the League?

I wanted to get involved in political issues and I liked the idea of belonging to an organization that looks at the hot-button issues with an unbiased approach. My big area of interest is health care. I am from this area, but have just moved back after living in California for 30 years, and I wanted to get reacquainted with this area and the issues affecting it.

What issues would you like to see the League focusing on?

I think access to health care is a really important issue, especially with all the consolidation going on in the health care field. I also think the drug problems in our area are very concerning, although I'm not sure what League might be able to do in that area.

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

Well, I haven't really done anything yet, but I like the idea of having access to information that's reliable, and the opportunity to get to know local government.

What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

Being able to vote! It's awful what is happening in terms of the increasing restrictions to access to the vote. I worry about the Supreme Court decision nullifying some of the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. And many people don't realize there isn't really a problem with voter fraud that these restrictions are supposed to be addressing. I also think it's hard to elect the best people. I'm not sure the best people are interested in getting into politics. Not only that, but so much of who runs is determined by the party leaders, and the primary system makes it difficult for those not chosen by the party to run for office.

Are you involved in other community organizations?

I volunteer along with my daughter at the Salvation Army in their after-school program. We help kids with their homework, and especially with their reading.



I'm also a certified Medicare Counselor for the State of Ohio, through a program called OSHIP, or Ohio Senior Insurance Information Program. It's a volunteer position where I help people understand how Medicare works, what their options are, and how to navigate the Medicare website. I'm also on the YMCA Advocacy Committee through the Associated Services Office in Akron.

What interests do you have outside of the League?

I love yoga! I also love reading biographies, especially of powerful women.

Acme CashBack

by Janice Jacobs

It's that time of year again. Calling for all Acme tapes in support of League. This seasons Community Cash Back end date is: **02-08-14**. Please forward tapes to reach me by **02-20-14**.

This is an easy but consistent fundraiser for League. Many thanks to the fine folks at Acme for providing funds to local non-profits through this program. Whenever you shop at Acme and purchase qualifying products such as Food Club, Full Circle, Top Care & other designated brands you will see the "Community Cash Back"

amount at the end of the register receipt. We are able to redeem these register receipts for 5% of that total. All you have to do is send your tapes to me and I will do the calculating, sorting, etc. Please send to me at:

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

One quick note: please no ironing. Ironing erases tapes. (You know who you

are!) Also a tip of the tickertape hat to Editor Erica Greer for including these articles. I'll be sure to let you know our total Cash Back amount and all the generous League members who contributed their tapes. Thank you.



More information about the League of Women Voters or LWVAA, plus updated information on meetings and events can be found at:
www.lwvaa.org or

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erica@greerzone.com

IMPORTANT DATES

February: Black History Month

**February 6: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron**

**February 14: Happy Birthday to the League!
League turns 94 today!**

February 15: Susan B. Anthony was born in 1820

**February 20: LWV Tallmadge presents
“Modern Day Slavery in Summit County”
Tallmadge High School 7:00 PM**

**March 6: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



**Vote for civility in
civic discourse —**

**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**

**Join the League
Today!**