



April, 2016

**Click here to find voting information by state or by topic!**

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

### **Get involved with LWVAA!**

Each month in The Akron Voter we will feature the top ways to be more active with League, click [here](#) for a complete list or fill out this [form](#).

- Join the Observer Corps, refer to the article for more details
- Voter Services Committee to work on Vote411 (replacing Voter's Guide)
- Update the National Database (ongoing)
- Review the Annual Budget and Bylaws before the Annual Meeting June 2

To volunteer, email [lwvaa@lwvaa.org](mailto:lwvaa@lwvaa.org)



## **President's Message**

Dear Members,

On April 17, the Akron Roundtable held the first of its 40th Anniversary Celebration Signature Luncheons, launching the series with Dorothy Ridings, former LWVUS president (1982-1986) and now a member of the Commission on Presidential Debates. Her timely topic was "The Debate over Presidential Debates."



Ms. Ridings discussed the history of the League of Women Voters' role in moderating Presidential debates from the 1976 through the 1984 elections. After the 1984 election, the League decided to go forward with planning a series of primary and general election debates in 1988.

In the meantime, the Democratic and Republican national parties came together and decided to sponsor their own

# LWVAA Upcoming Events

## **March 30-April 10, 2016 CIFF 2016 screening of "Cecilia"**

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 at 2:10 p.m.  
Thursday, April 07, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

LWVAA is a proud Community Partner for the Cleveland International Film Festival for the second year in a row! Representatives will speak briefly before the movie. Members and supporters can use this Discount Code for \$2.00 off any ticket purchase is **LWVAA** (restrictions may apply).

This year's sponsored film is "Cecilia" which presents a vivid look into human trafficking. For more details and to purchase tickets, launch:  
<http://www.clevelandfilm.org/films/2016/cecilia>

## **April 14, 2016 Joint Program with Sierra Club**

### **Are Drilling, Fracking and Compressor Station Emissions Bad for Your Health?**

Featured Speaker:  
Heather Harr, Project Director  
League of Women Voters Pennsylvania  
Straight Scoop on Shale

Unitarian Universalist Church  
3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn, Ohio  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Event is free and open to the public

In conjunction with the Sierra Club Portage

debates and established the Commission on Presidential Debates. In 1988, the Bush and Dukakis campaigns secretly agreed to a process by which candidates could participate in the debates, which individuals would be panelists (and therefore able to ask questions), and the height of the podiums. It was presented to the LWV as a non-negotiable agreement.

The LWV Educational Fund argued that a change in sponsorship that put control of the debate format in the hands of the two dominant parties would deprive voters of the opportunity to see the candidates outside their controlled campaign environment. In 1988, the League of Women Voters withdrew its sponsorship of the presidential debates, with then President Nancy M. Neuman saying, "The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American Public."

In 2000, the CPD established a rule that for a party to be included in the national debates it must garner at least 15% support across five national polls. This controversial rule has prevented viewers of the televised national debates from hearing the opinions of third party candidates and has been challenged in court by Independent, Green and Libertarian candidates.

The Commission's mission is "to ensure that debates, as a permanent part of every general election, provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners. Its primary purpose is to sponsor and produce debates for the United States presidential and vice presidential candidates and to undertake research and educational activities relating to the debates."

In regard to the Commission's role, Ms. Ridings said "We do not negotiate any of the basic terms that go to the integrity of the [debates]. It's a voter education event designed for the public and not for the candidates," Ridings said. "The only person who knows the questions that will be asked is the moderator . . . I can tell you we don't [know the questions]. The candidates don't. The networks don't. The campaigns don't. That's why the moderator choice is so very, very vital."

Trail Group, LWVAA is excited to bring representatives who conducted an intensive study sponsored by the LWV of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund.

The presentation will include a brief overview of components of shale gas development (drilling, fracking, transmission etc.); an explanation of relevant research criteria; discussion of specific health impacts and current research; and what can be done to address health issues at a policy level. There will also be time set aside for questions.

Each participant will receive a copy of Shale Gas and Public Health Resources Guide.

**April 26, 2016**  
**LWV Ohio Statehouse Day**

[Sheraton Hotel](#)

Capitol Square

75 E. State St., Columbus, 43215

Join us for LWV Ohio Statehouse Day on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Our theme this year is "What the Candidates Should Be Talking About (But Aren't)."

We will be exploring some of the big issues affecting Ohio - issues that people want solved but are left waiting for government to act. [Click here](#) to register today!

Registration is the same price as last year - \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students. Registration closes one week before the event, and a flat fee of \$50 will apply to any walk-ins who are not registered.

**Sponsorships are available!**

Please contact the LWVO office at 614-469-1505 if you, another organization you belong to, or your business are interested



The first general election debate of 2016 is set for Sept. 26 at Wright State University in Dayton, exactly 56 years after John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon participated in the first televised debate. The process of vetting host cities (preferably with colleges) and dates (avoiding holidays and sporting events) began two years ago. Ms. Ridings said that while America's major political parties settle on nominees, her nonpartisan organization has yet to select a moderator who crafts and asks the questions for the first debate, hosted a dozen times before by retired news anchor Jim Lehrer.

The League continues to directly ask the candidates questions through the online voters' guide VOTE411, which also provides information on how to watch debates with a critical eye, contact information for election officials as well as non-Presidential candidate information.

Barbara Hunsicker, President



## CIFF 2016

LWVAA is thrilled to participate in our second year as a Community Partner for the Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF)! This year's festival is March 30 - April 10, 2016, hosted at Tower City and other locations around NE Ohio.

in sponsoring this event. Due to our nonpartisan policy we cannot accept sponsorships from political parties, candidates, or campaigns.

**May 5, 2016**  
**LWVAA Board Meeting**

380 Mineola Ave. Akron  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

NOTE: The June 2 Board Meeting will be included with the Annual Meeting

**June 2, 2016**  
**LWVAA Annual Meeting**  
**5:30-8:00p.m.**



Café Bricco  
3150 West Market Street, Fairlawn, Ohio

**November 8, 2016**  
**VOTE!**  
**Ohio General Election**



[Customized information from LWV by state and by topic](#)

This year we are a Community Partner for another important film about a difficult topic, human trafficking. There are two screenings at Tower City Cinemas, Wednesday 4/6 at 2:10pm and Thursday 4/7 at 7:15pm. A representative from LWVAA will share brief opening remarks and information on LWV.

Pankaj Johar's film "[Cecilia](#)" explores the efforts of a tribal woman to seek justice for the sudden death of her teenaged daughter in Delhi.

We want to thank Jodie and Ned DeLamatre for connecting LWVAA with CIFF, and facilitating this wonderful opportunity.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Submitted by Ardith Keck, Membership Chair

LWVAA is excited to welcome new members Laura Hunsicker, Frederica Cohen, and Jan Nolan. If you know anyone who would make a great member, please share our [online resources](#) or connect them with Membership Chair [Ardith Keck](#).

We asked Frederica to answer a few questions so we can get to know her better!

**Why did I join?** A friend suggested the LWVAA as it is a group of thinking, intelligent group of people I would enjoy sharing discussions with. My primary interest is Education as I'm a retired music educator.

The **issue I would like to see a focus** on is having factual information available on all Local and State candidates and

what their positions are available in a clear, concise, easy to read format.

**The biggest issue facing voters** is access to voting. With all the constant changing of polling places and what do they accept as valid ID, this is a difficult problem especially for the elderly, poor and inner city person.

I am very active in my church in the music program and I'm on several committees, one of which is preparing for our 150th Anniversary.

My activities are many and varied. Reading many different forms of fiction, playing chromatic harmonica, euphonium, violin, viola, cello and Native American flutes, walking the towpath or riding a stationary bike just to name a few, and a favorite is traveling to visit my daughters in Memphis, TN or Quincy, MA.

I'm co-author of "Love Of Chromatic Harmonica Techniques And Advice from the World's Best." The book was published in August 2015. I recently began playing Jazz, a new genre of music for me. I teach private lessons from my home on violin, viola and cello.

[Submit article or idea for The Akron Voter](#)

---

## Observing is fun!

Submitted by Jodie M. DeLamatre

Currently, we have several regular public meetings covered by Observer Corps participants, thank you to all of our volunteers.

Karen & Ray Barta cover all Akron Public Schools meetings, Harriet Cutler covers the Summit MetroParks, and Mary Ann Jopperi began covering the Akron Summit County Public Library late last year. Ardith Keck covers an Akron City Committee meeting, Tina Merlitti and Gerry Hal regularly make it to Summit Board of Elections, and Annette Thorson attends a County Council meeting once a month.

There are a few more openings for LWVAA members who want to get involved. Most Observers take one meeting a month:

Summit County Council: Fourth Monday at 4:30pm  
County Council Committee: First or Third Monday  
at 4:30pm

Akron City Council: every Monday at 7:00pm  
City Council Committee: every Monday at 2:00pm

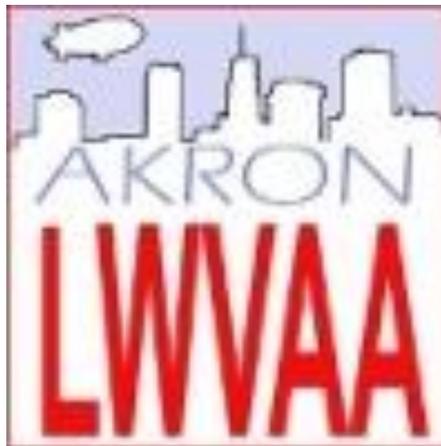
The primary reason for the Observer Corps is for local governments to know that we are there. We know from experience that elected officials take notice when a League member shows up to watch the proceedings. Sometimes the meetings are confusing and a lot of the business gets done in committee. Don't let that deter you because being there is very important. In time, you will learn the machinations of the proceedings.

There are 3 things to remember if you decide to attend public meetings as a member of the Observer Corps.

1. Wear a League button identifying you as a League member. (ask me to get you one if you don't own one)
2. Do not offer comments of any sort since you are representing the League
3. Submit a brief synopsis of proceedings but this is secondary to attending the public meeting and not required.

Please let [Jodie](#) know if you want to join this very observant group of members!

---



[Join us today](#)  
to support  
democracy,  
nonpartisan  
political  
action, and  
voter rights in  
your  
community.

*Copyright © 2016 \*League of Women Voters of Akron Area\*, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:** [lwvaa@lwvaa.org](mailto:lwvaa@lwvaa.org)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)   [update subscription preferences](#)