



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
®

Handbook and Membership Roster 2016-2017



League of Women Voters ~

97 years of grassroots political action!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AKRON AREA (LWVAA)

PO Box 5449, Akron OH 44334
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 West Exchange Street
Akron OH 44313
Phone/FAX: 330-836-7079

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LWVAA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	<i>Barbara Hunsicker</i>	510-289-3473	bbaldwin1334@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT ORGANIZATION	<i>Roberta Aber*</i>	330-867-0168	roberta.aber@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAM	<i>Karen Barta</i>	330-666-3085	ayziggy@frontier.com
SECRETARY	<i>Rebecca Chunn*</i>	330-328-8809	rebbecachunn@gmail.com
TREASURER	<i>John Fitzpatrick</i>	330-283-9736	Fitz@wans.net

LWVAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected to two-year terms which expire 2018 except as noted (*) which expire in 2017

AT-LARGE	<i>Martha Lester*</i>	330-434-2502	mhlester@ymail.com
AT-LARGE	<i>Sharley Greer</i>	330-882-0229	sfgreer@neo.rr.com
EDUCATION	<i>Mary Ann Jopperi</i>	330-699-0468	mjopperi@hotmail.com
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Ardith Keck</i>	330-836-1974	keck@lek.net
NATURAL RESOURCES	<i>Arrye Rosser*</i>	330-923-7728	arrye33@aol.com
GOVERNMENT	<i>Open</i>		
PUBLIC HEALTH	<i>Open</i>		
COMMUNICATIONS	<i>Jessie Coffey*</i>	216-798-9009	jessiecoffey@outlook.com
VOTER SERVICE	<i>Jackie Darrow</i>	330-869-5412	jdarrow@icloud.com
WEBMASTER	<i>Bruce Greer</i>	330-882-3106	bruce@greerzone.com

Additional Members of the Board of Directors may be appointed to one year terms expiring in 2017

LWVAA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BYLAWS	<i>Open</i>		
BUDGET	<i>Paula Prentice</i>	330-608-4309	prenpaul@aol.com
NOMINATING	<i>Chair to be Elected by Committee</i>		
OBSERVER CORPS	<i>Jodie DeLamatre</i>	330-376-0399	jmgd3@neo.rr.com

LWVAA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<i>Gerry Hall</i>	330-688-1375	pemback@aol.com
<i>Open</i>		
<i>Regina Vanvorous</i>	330-899-9446	vanvorous@yahoo.com

Two others appointed to one-year terms from the LWVAA board

LWVAA EDUCATION FUND

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area Education Fund provides the community with information about public policy issues and encourages participation in government. The Ed Fund, as it is more commonly known, was founded to conduct purely educational voter service activities. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible.

LWVAA EDUCATION FUND OFFICERS

Elected to two-year terms expiring in 2017

CHAIR <i>Sharon Gandee</i>	330-864-4659	ssgandee@gmail.com
TREASURER, <i>Karen Fritschel</i>	330-688-3950	karenfritschel@gmail.com
SECRETARY <i>Jodie DeLamatre</i>	330-376-0399	jmgd3@neo.rr.com

LWVAA EDUCATION FUND TRUSTEES

Jodie DeLamatre	330-376-0399	jmgd3@neo.rr.com
*Karen Fritschel	330-688-3950	karenfritschel@gmail.com
*Sharon Gandee	330-864-4659	ssgandee@gmail.com
Mary Lou Gault	330-923-8833	mlgault@neo.rr.com
Sharley Greer	330-882-0229	sfgreer@neo.rr.com
Gerry Hall	330-688-1375	pemback@aol.com
*Ardith Keck	330-836-1974	keck@lek.net
Karyn Katz	330-836-7773	kkatz@uakron.edu
Jackie Derrow	330-869-5412	jderrow@icloud.com
**Project Director Janice Jacobs	330-929-9008 h	jjacobsjanson@aol.com
	330-923-0111 w	
** <i>Ex-officio</i> : LWVAA President Barbara Hunsicker	510-289-3473	bbaldwin1334@gmail.com

* Elected to two-years term expiring in 2016

**Non-voting member of the Education Fund board

STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

LWV OHIO	17 South High Street Suite 650	614-469-1505
www.lwvohio.org	Columbus, OH 43215	fax 614-469-7918
lwvinfo@lwvohio.org		
LWVUS	1730 M St. NW, Suite 1000	202-429-1965
www.lwv.org	Washington, D.C. 20036-4508	fax 202-429-0854

GENERAL VOTER RESOURCES

To find your legislators: www.lwvohio.org --click on "Find your legislator"

LWVO Voter Information on the Web: www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Voter-Election-Center.cfm

LWVO Voters Guide: www.Vote411.org

LWVAA Voters Guides: www.lwvaa.org/voter_info.htm

Ohio Legislation Information: (800) 282-0253

Ohio Legislative Service Commission: www.lsc.ohio.gov or 614-466-3615

Information on bills before the Ohio Legislature: www.legislature.ohio.gov

Schedule of Ohio Legislative hearings: www.legislature.ohio.gov

The Ohio Senate: <http://www.senate.state.oh.us/>

The Ohio House of Representatives: <http://www.house.state.oh.us/>

VOTING INFORMATION

Summit County Board of Elections Phone: 330-643-5200

470 Grant Street, Akron, OH 44311 Fax: 330-643-5422

Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm Website: www.summitcountyboe.com

To Vote: One must be registered; at least 18 years old; a citizen of the U.S.A.; and a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days before the election. If registering by mail, a properly completed and signed application must be postmarked or brought in to your county board of elections no later than 30 days prior to the election in which you wish to vote. If you are 17 years old, you may register and vote (only for candidates, not issues) in the primary election if you will be 18 on or before the general election.

Re-Register: if you have not voted in any election for four successive years, and/or if you have had an address change, name change, etc., you must re-register.

All of the above can be handled by mail (write or call the Board of elections for forms, or download them) or, in person at the Board of Elections or the following locations:

- The office of the Secretary of State or any of the 88 county boards of elections.
- The office of any deputy registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
- Offices of designated agencies that provide public assistance or disability programs.
- Public libraries.
- Public high schools or vocational schools.
- County treasurers' offices.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES (LWVUS) PRINCIPLES:

The League of Women Voters believes:

- In representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- That all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.
- That democratic government depends upon the informed and active participations of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.
- That every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that each person should have access to free public education which provides opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- That efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- That responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution to international problems.
- That cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Note: An Amendment to the LWVUS Bylaws at the National Convention of 1974 permits action on these Principles.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO (LWVO) PRINCIPLES:

LWVO Believes:

- The Ohio Constitution should be clearly written, consistent, logically organized and concerned with fundamental principles.
- State government should make provision for adequate, equitable and flexible funding to further the health, education and welfare of the citizens of Ohio.
- State and local government should recognize and encourage citizen involvement in solving problems that affect the quality of life for all its citizens, beginning with the policy formulation process at local, regional and state levels.
- Government should be exercised at the level nearest to the citizen that does not conflict with the rights and welfare of the larger community and should provide accountable, effective decision-making.
- State government should promote the achievement of an environment beneficial to the public health and welfare.
- A comprehensive land use policy should be implemented to ensure stewardship of Ohio's land and water resources.
- The criminal justice system of the state should assure fairness by dealing with individuals in similar situations in similar ways.

THE LEAGUE STUDY PROCESS FOR NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEAGUES

Encouraging active and informed citizen participation in the government is an essential component of the League's work. We make it our mission to enhance the democratic process by providing voters with the essential tools to guide them through the democratic process, as well as working to increase awareness of the important policy issues that impact citizens.

In order to play this pivotal role as a non-partisan, citizen's organization, it is paramount that the League develops positions on important political issues that create a robust starting point for our work with voters. The study process is one of the many ways we are able to both educate and inform our own membership, as well as the community.

What is a League study?

A study is a formal research process that either the national, state, or local League will undergo in order to establish a position on an important issue. The League relies on established positions as a basis for action.

Who decides what to study?

The decision to conduct a study is reached after careful consideration from the participating League's membership and is then adopted as a formal piece of the League's program. The League membership votes to adopt an issue for study at the annual meeting. The issues are most often chosen based on their relevance and timeliness

How is a study conducted?

After the membership has agreed that the League needs to adopt a position on an issue, a study committee is formed. The committee is comprised of interested League members and is overseen by a chair or chairs. The committee is responsible for compiling both the pros and cons of a particular issue or course of action. The committee will draw their information from news articles and reports, interviews, community meetings, etc.

Throughout the research process, the committee will update the membership on the study's progress. Several meetings might be held through the course of the study to gain member feedback and present relevant findings. Periodically updating the membership is important to ensure that an informed consensus may be reached

What is the end result of a study?

When the final work of the study has been completed, the committee will call a consensus meeting. Consensus is the collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue. It is only after consensus has been reached that the League may adopt the study's results as a formal position. During the consensus meeting, League members have the opportunity to critically evaluate the stance. The League consensus method involves informed free discussion addressing critical questions raised by the study, considering all points of view and considering consequences of any decision, both apparent and hidden. When the participating members can come to basic agreement and feel commitment on the question, this is consensus.

This is the preferred agreement method because members not involved in the study committee may be able to add new information and new perspectives. Also the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Thus, the wisdom of the discussion group is more profound than could be obtained by a simple tally of member opinions.

After a position has been adopted, other local Leagues, or the state and national League may choose to concur with the decision.

Why are League studies so GREAT?

The League of Women Voters prides itself on being an active non-partisan organization. The fact that all of the League's work is conducted by citizens and for citizens creates strength in vision that might not be possible through other organizations. The League bases its action on carefully considered positions that reflect the work of the membership as a whole. The unique perspective the League offers in an otherwise partisan political landscape cannot be imitated!

LOCAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Meetings

LWVAA Board of Directors meets monthly to carry out organizational functions: planning, communication among board members, taking action on issues, and discussing the work of the League. Members who wish to attend Board meetings should contact the Board President.

General meetings present programs of interest to members and the public, often dealing with current study topics. Study committee members present relevant and timely research information. This may be followed by:

Consensus: an agreement among a substantial number of members, representative of the membership, reached after sustained study and group discussion.

Position: the consensus opinion expressed in writing. The appropriate Board of Directors performs this function at all levels of the League.

Action: the continuous process of working toward goals established by consensus. Two types of action are (1) developing public support for the position of the League, and (2) support of legislative measures that will implement the League's position.

Voters' Guide: The Voters' Guide is a major publication compiled by the local League for wide distribution to the community. Candidates provide biographical information and their views on issues pertinent to the office they seek. Arguments pro and con are given for major ballot issues. The Voters Guide is also available on LWVAA's website: www.lwvaa.org.

Candidate Forums/Debates: League moderated candidates forums have earned wide respect for their penetrating questions and their fairness to all participants.

Speaker's Bureau: When issues are to appear on a ballot, LWVAA will provide knowledgeable speakers to give objective informative talks to community groups or high school classes.

Observer Corps: Members routinely observe and report to our board on the work of city and county council and monitor whether the meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way.

Voter Service: League members volunteer all year throughout the community to register voters. Members volunteer at the League office to answer questions from the public the week prior to election.

LEAGUE MEMBER INFORMATION

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization whose purpose is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to everyone, male or female. Voting members must be at least 18 years of age and U.S. citizens; non-voting members shall be associate members.

The League is organized to function at all levels of government. Local membership includes state and national LWV membership. Associations of local Leagues handle regional issues.

Through its Voter Service, the League provides nonpartisan factual information on government, political parties, voting procedures, elections issues and candidates. League positions are taken on issues but never on candidates. A position is the result of membership consensus based on study and discussion. Action is initiated after a position has been achieved.

LWVAA collects annual dues July 1 at the level set by our members at the Annual Meeting. From this, LWVO and LWVUS dues are paid for each member. Additional financing to support the work of the League is obtained from contributions.

PROGRAM: LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATE, NATIONAL

Program is the means by which League members educate themselves and prepare for action. Subjects for study are suggested by members of the League and ***are adopted at local annual meetings and/or state and national conventions. After thorough study, a topic is presented to members for consensus. If common agreement is reached, that item becomes a position***, which the League can support and upon which it can take action. Action takes several forms: letter writing, testifying at public hearings, serving on a variety of commissions, committees, etc., and lobbying at both state and national levels for legislative input.

Position statements adopted by the LWVAA regarding Akron City, Akron Area and Regional issues are summarized below.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AKRON AREA PROGRAM

CITY OF AKRON PROGRAM

1. Land Use, Planning and Zoning
 - a. Support for zoning, which promotes orderly community growth and inhibits urban neighborhood deterioration, and for minimal and cautious use of conditional zoning. Support for housing and building code enforcement.
 - b. Support the concept of a comprehensive land use plan for the City of Akron, and for regular updates with citizen input of the Land Use and Development Guide Plan.
 - c. Support measures to improve the quality of recreation in the Akron community and development and implementation of a master plan for parks and recreation. Continued monitoring of these plans and their implementation.
 - d. Support downtown Akron revitalization projects that will benefit the community without sacrificing historical integrity.
2. Municipal government
 - a. (1) Support for the charter form of city government and monitoring of any revision of the City of Akron Charter.
(2) Support legislation to fill city council ward member vacancies by vote of ward precinct committee representatives and council-at-large member vacancies by vote of city precinct representatives if half of term remains; filling shall be temporary with some provision made for election at the next regular election.
 - b. Support for municipal revenues to be raised in a fair and equitable manner to provide an adequate level of services, and consideration of the effect on the city's finances in determining LWVAA positions on municipal issues.
 - c. Support the Akron Civil Service system.
 - d. Campaign Finance
 - (1) Support efforts to increase accessibility and timeliness of campaign finance information.
 - (2) Support limitations on campaign contributions from all sources.
 - (3) Support limitations on cash contributions from all sources and the dispensing of receipts for each cash contribution received.
 - (4) Support the meaningful civil enforcement of campaign law.
 - (5) Support the review of campaign finance law to allow for modernization.

AKRON AREA PROGRAM

1. **Water Quality**
 - a. Support for the monitoring of effects of contaminants and land use on water supply, and monitoring of inspection processes.
 - b. Support for the monitoring of effects of land use on the water supply and the effects of extraction and consumption of water by industry.
2. **Schools**
 - a. Support the philosophy that children should have opportunity for education commensurate with their abilities and support measures to provide adequate educational programs, facilities and finances for the Akron Area public schools.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AKRON AREA PROGRAM (con't.)

- b. Support for the LWVO position that supports a funding system for public elementary and secondary education that is accountable and responsive to the taxpayer. LWVO believes that public funds should be used only for public schools.

3. Tax Sharing

- a. Support for the formation of Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD).

REGIONAL PROGRAM

1. Environment

- a. Support the Lake Erie Basin Committee and of measures to preserve and restore Lake Erie and its tributaries.
- b. Support measures to preserve and protect the Tuscarawas River and watershed

2. Land Use

- a. Support the continued development of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and its restoration and preservation as an open green area.
- b. Support policies to ensure adequate funding, necessary land acquisition, preservation of green space, and citizen involvement in the Summit Metro Parks.
- c. Support the continued development of the Ohio and Erie Canalway, a National Heritage Area that includes parts of Summit County.
- d. Support countywide planning and cooperation with adjacent counties.
- e. Support long-range land use planning for all areas within Summit County which provides for efficient transportation, efficient delivery of services, and protection for environmentally fragile areas such as steep slopes, flood plains, scenic areas and wetlands.
- f. Support appropriate incentives for adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of existing structures.
- g. Support county-wide zoning patterns that create and conserve open space and preserve historic, scenic, natural and cultural resources. Support more stringent measures regulating signage.
- h. Support the use of buffer zones, preferably native vegetation between commercial developments, residential and/or scenic areas.
- i. Support and encourage ordinances/resolutions requiring that desirable species of trees and other vegetation, which might otherwise be cleared for development, be retained on the site.
- j. Support the provision of incentives for use of hardy native vegetation in buffer zones, developments and in general landscaping, in order to reduce maintenance and minimize the use of fertilizer and pesticides.

3. Transportation

- a. Support mass transportation in Summit County with a focus on being available for employment and coordinate all land use planning with transportation.
- b. Support a comprehensive intermodal, transportation system that takes into consideration pedestrians and bicyclists.

4. County Government

- a. Support methods, which impose the fiscal management and the operation of Summit County government through the Summit County Charter.
 - (1) modern and appropriate accounting system with timely capital and operational annual budget adoptions;
 - (2) an executive-council form of government;
 - (3) elections of department heads who make policy; appointment of those who administer policy;
 - (4) appointment of an independent auditor;
 - (5) a personnel system based on merit.
- b. Review of countywide tax levies and the prevailing system of submission of individual tax levies by non-elected agency boards.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AKRON AREA PROGRAM (con't.)

5. Social Policy

- a. Support programs for the aged in Summit County including housing assistance (government, voluntary or private), financial assistance and social services.
- b. Support for programs that help the developmentally challenged to meet their basic human needs.
- c. Support an effective planning process, adequate funding and provision for the most appropriate treatment and services for persons with disabilities.
- d. Support equal access to affordable housing for all income levels.
- e. Support for policies and programs that protects the well-being, development and safety of all children.

2016-2017 LWVAA PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Offer voter services and education in areas of Akron that have low rates of voter registration and voting.
- Use our positions to educate and advocate on local issues of water quality and water and storm water management.
- Support efforts to make changes in how apportionment is done, consistent with League positions.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AKRON AREA

VISION STATEMENT

LWVAA is a dynamic organization actively involved in local politics .A diversity of citizens recognize the League as an essential resource that motivates them to become increasingly involved in civic affairs.

Please contact Barbara Hunsicker LWVAA president, for more information about any of these volunteer opportunities. bbaldwin1334@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BOARD MEMBER

Time involved: approximately 4 hours per month, including the meeting time

Duties:

- Attend monthly board meeting (currently first Thursday of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm)
- Take charge of a portfolio, such as Observer Corps, Voter Registration, etc.
- OR** Serve as an at-large board member, helping out on an as-needed basis
- Write at least one report for the Akron Voter annually.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Time involved: 2 hours per month, one-time or on an ongoing basis

Duties:

- Assist with member survey
- Help plan new-member orientation
- Help plan membership portion of Holiday get-together
- Contact new members and invite them to League meetings
- Help publicize new members in the Voter
- Assist with carpooling for general meetings

VOTER REGISTRATION

Time involved: 2-4 hours; one-time or ongoing

Street Law Day: May

Constitution Day (swearing in of new citizens): September 17 or thereabouts

Other venues: as needed

VOTER SERVICE

Time involved: 2-3 hours; one-time or more

Duties:

- Attend candidate forums/debates to serve as:
 - 1) Question Screener
 - 2) Time Keeper
 - 3) Greeter/sign-in table

Help with distribution of Voters Guides

OBSERVER CORPS

Time involved: 2 hours per month (or more, depending on your interest)

Duties:

- Attend meetings of government agencies (currently Summit County and/or City Council meetings and committee meetings)
- Fill out a report of the meeting, to be submitted to Observer Corps Chair prior to board meeting
- Write at least one observation report for the monthly Voter (or more often if you wish)

Goals:

- To insure government meetings are conducted openly
- To let elected officials know they are being observed
- To help LWVAA identify areas for study or action.

LOCAL STUDY COMMITTEES

Time involved: varies with the study topic; volunteers must be prepared to participate in one or two face-to-face meetings, as well as to assist with research, developing consensus questions, and participating in a consensus meeting.

Duties:

- Assist with defining the scope of the study
- Assist with researching the study topic
- Help plan/participate in meetings or forums to educate LWVAA members on the topic
- Assist with developing consensus questions
- Participate in a consensus meeting on the study topic
- Assist with developing a position statement

NATIONAL OR STATE STUDY COMMITTEES

Time involved: varies with the study topic. The time frame for state and national studies is often over a two-year period. Study focus and research materials are prepared by national or state committees

Duties:

- Help plan/participate in meetings or forums to educate LWVAA members on the topic
- Write articles on the topic for the local Voter
- Help organize, publicize, and participate in consensus meeting.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Time involved: 2-4 hours annually

Duties:

- Maintain conformity in local League bylaws with LWVUS bylaws
- Receive all suggestions for amendments to the bylaws; prepare and submit them to the board for review prior to annual meeting
- Propose amendments
- Prepare and submit to LWVO any adopted changes

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Time involved: 2-4 hours annually

Duties:

- Develop proposed budget for the coming year
- Submit proposed budget to the board for approval by the March board meeting
- Present the budget at the annual meeting and answer any questions members may have

HOLIDAY GATHERING

Time involved: 2-3 hours in October and/or November

Duties:

- Assist VP Program / Membership to plan annual Holiday gathering
- Provide refreshments for party.

LWVAA FORUMS

Time involved: several hours, prior to chosen event, and/or 2-3 hours on day of event

Duties: (You may choose one or more from the options below.)

- Serve on committee to assist program chair in planning event
- Serve as time-keeper at event
- Serve as question screener at event
- Serve as greeter/sign-in person at event