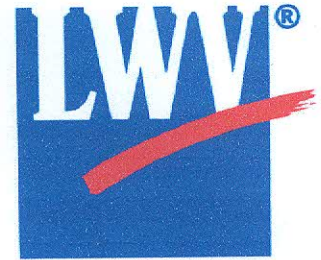


The Akron Voter



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President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

Happy New Year!

What better time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the months ahead. LWVAA has much to be proud of in the work we have done to make democracy work. As you know, the League works actively 12 months out of the year to ensure voters are engaged and informed, and it is with the start of a new year that we review our positions and set priorities.

I invite you to participate in this year's program planning meeting on Saturday, January 28th from 10 am to noon at the Highland Square Library. In even-numbered years, we focus on our organization's national positions, determining which positions should be re-

tained, dropped, or updated. We may also recommend new issues for study at the national level. The decisions we make as a local League are provided to the LWVUS board, who then decides what program to recommend to Convention. The Convention delegates then vote to set program for the coming biennium. The League of Women Voters is fundamentally "grassroots" and it is through this process that we are able to participate fully in the national activities of our organization.

Along with a review of LWVUS' positions, we will also take a closer look at our local League's priorities and positions as a way to chart the course for the year ahead. Members are encouraged to bring their ideas for possible studies, in addition to ways in which we might improve the work we are doing.

Program planning is a great meeting to attend for new and seasoned members alike. Participants have the opportunity to learn more about the focus areas of LWVUS, as well as to determine which pressing issues should be the focus of the League's work in the coming year. If you have never participated in a program planning meeting, or if you are interested in getting more involved in LWVAA in 2012, this as a great opportunity to make a big difference!

In addition to program planning, several other exciting activities are coming up in 2012. On Friday, January 6th, LWVAA, in conjunction with the Akron Press Club and the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, is co-sponsoring an appearance by Ohio U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown. Additionally, LWVAA, LWV Hudson and LWV Tallmadge will

be participating in an interview of Summit County Board of Elections officials as part of the settlement reached in LWV's lawsuit against the Secretary of State's office. It is through such activities that we provide voter service to our community.

Also, make plans to attend our "Women in Journalism" event scheduled for Saturday, March 17th at the Fairlawn Country Club. It is sure to be very exciting, as we honor women who have worked actively as journalists to help inform the public, with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Connie Schultz as our keynote speaker. Please stay tuned to future issues of *The Voter* for more information.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2012!

Diana

Inside This Issue

Board Briefs	2
Did You Know? Inaugural Trivia	2
LWVAA Holidays Party	3
Notable Quotable	3
Meet ALEC	4
Election Year 2012 Resolutions	4
Member Spotlight	5
Martin Luther King Day —a Brief History	5

Connie Schultz to Speak — Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 17, when Pulitzer Prize-winning author Connie Schultz will be the keynote speaker at LWVAA's Women in Journalism celebration. The event, being held at Fairlawn Country Club from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, will be held to commemorate Sunshine Week and Women's History Month, and to

honor women journalists in Summit County.

This event will recognize the important and changing role of women in journalism, as well as the essential role of journalism in our democracy. Without journalists to keep "sunshine" on our elected officials, our democracy

would be much less open and accountable.

Watch future issues of *The Voter* for further information about this exciting event!



