

The Akron Voter

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April 2012



President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

What a wonderful spring it's been! I always appreciate this time of year, as it's a chance to welcome new beginnings and relish in the sights, sounds and smells of the season. While the spring might signal "downtime" for the League, that is far from the truth!

In early March, I had the opportunity to meet with the presidents from the Tallmadge, Hudson, Northern Portage, and Kent Leagues to discuss what's happening in our organizations and to discover areas where we might collaborate. These meetings have proven to be very fruitful and have resulted in some great activities, including the opportunity to collaborate on the privatization and upcoming

human trafficking consensus meetings, in addition to a joint letter to the editor about local voting concerns that was sent to the Akron Beacon Journal by LWV Tallmadge, LWV Hudson, and LWVAA. Keeping in touch with other local Leagues in the area and getting to know their presidents is a really wonderful way to stay connected with the exciting work the League does! (To learn more about the privatization consensus meeting we participated in last month, please see the report on page 3.)

Another notable activity the League was engaged in this spring was the "Women in Journalism" event that was held on March 17th. This was our opportunity to recognize the important responsibility that female journalists have in

"making democracy work" and to celebrate "Sunshine Week" and the role of journalists in providing information to the public. We were so fortunate to have Connie Schultz as our keynote speaker—she gave an engaging address that was enjoyed by all. My thanks goes out to Erica Greer, Roberta Aber, Sara Gibbs, Karyn Katz, Ardith Keck, and Jodie DeLamatre for their work in putting together such a great event.

Looking forward to upcoming events, please plan to attend our meeting on hydraulic fracturing, commonly called "fracking," to be held on Thursday, April 19th at 5:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3300 Morewood Road, Fairlawn. The event committee has worked hard on

many facets of this issue and it is sure to be informative. If you plan to attend, consider bringing a guest!

Please also make plans to attend the LWVAA fundraiser scheduled for Friday, May 4th at the Weathervane Playhouse. The fundraiser is a great way to socialize with fellow League members, while enjoying what is sure to be an entertaining production! I hope to see you there!

Finally, LWVO is sponsoring its annual "Statehouse Day" on Wednesday, April 10th. If you've never attended Statehouse Day, or are a "regular", I encourage you to attend! It's always worthwhile.

Diana

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Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking

LWV Ohio adopted a state study of human trafficking at its convention in May 2011. It was expected that the study would draw significantly from the work of the Ohio Attorney General's Trafficking in Persons Study (TIPS) Commission. A 2010 year-end report formed the basis for the League's consensus questions in that they address continuing issues; in fact, the new attorney general, Mike DeWine, has continued the study commission. House Bill

262—a "safe harbor" bill—is pending and would provide for victim services. A law passed in 2010 made trafficking in persons a stand-alone offense and easier to prosecute, but much work remained to be done.

LWV Kent is hosting a consensus meeting on the LWV Ohio study on human trafficking on Wednesday, May 9 from 7-9 PM at The Mental Health and Recovery Board

Office, 155 East Main Street in Kent.

All area Leagues in Summit and Portage Counties are invited to participate. Unlike most League meetings, consensus meetings are for members only.

For study materials, visit the LWVO website, lwvohio.org and click on "member area" and then "Human Trafficking."

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 April 5, 2012.

At the March 1 meeting the Board:

- Voted to become a “Partner in Principle of The Civic Commons after hearing a presentation by Michael Shafarenko. The organization strives to be diverse, civil, transparent, participatory, credible, entrepreneurial, and optimistic, much in line with League principles.
- Heard a report on LWV regional meetings and the citizen-led campaign to put a redistricting initiative on the ballot that would create a 12-member multi-partisan board to draw legislative lines.

- Voted to change the half-price membership that was offered from February 1 to June 30 and replace it with a full-price membership that would remain in effect until the following June 30.

- Heard a report from the fund raising committee, which is chaired by Sara Gibbs, with Lois Arnold, long-time chair for fund raising, as special advisor.

- Noted the following upcoming events on the LWVAA calendar:

March 13 consensus meeting with LWV Hudson on the LWVUS privatization study

March 17 Women in Journalism brunch at Fairlawn Country Club

April 10 State House Day with LWV Ohio in Columbus

April Lake Erie Basin Committee meeting in Maumee

April 19 Meeting on hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5:30 PM

May 4 Theater night fund raiser at Weathervane Play house, *See How They Run*



Did You Know — Ulysses S. Grant

by **Maureen Sullivan**

Ulysses S. Grant, as he is known, was born in 1822 and baptized Hiram Ulysses Grant. When he traveled to West Point his luggage bore his initials, H.U.G. He was going to be known as “Hug” because everybody at West Point had a nickname.

He didn’t want to be called “Hug” so he reported to the adjutant and said, “My name is Ulysses Hiram Grant”. The adjutant said, “No, it’s not. Your name is Ulysses S. Grant.”

It seems the congressman who appointed Grant to West Point assumed Grant’s middle name was Simpson

(Grant’s grandmother’s maiden name) and used the name U. S. Grant on the appointment. The adjutant then explained to Ulysses Grant that because the appointment was made out in the name of Ulysses S. Grant, that’s who he was and as long as he was in the army that’s who he would be.

General Grant and his wife, Julia, were invited to attend the play at Ford’s Theatre along with President Abraham Lincoln and his wife on April 14, 1865, the night President Lincoln was assassinated. Grant had declined in order to visit family.

Grant served as president from 1869 to 1877. He died in 1885 at the age of 63 of throat cancer. He died virtually a pauper having invested in a brokerage firm that went bankrupt, costing him his life savings.



His memoirs were published after his death by his friend Mark Twain and were a financial success.

The deadline for the May *Akron Voter* is April 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. Clinton, OH 44216

Acme Cash Back = \$\$\$\$ for League

by Janice Jacobs

Our Cash Back check for 2011-2012, in the amount of, \$166.68, is in process and should be received soon. I am happy to report that this is the largest amount since the 2005-2006 season. And also, it is the best we have done with the changed format and shortened time period that was instituted a few years ago.

Throughout the inception of this program contributions have been made to thousands of area community non-profit organizations. Information on future Cash Back programs is not currently available. I will let you know about all the particulars for next season as soon as possible.

A special tip of the Ed Fund top hat to Erica Greer for diligently getting the articles I submitted into the Newsletter on a timely basis. And also, a new innovation: reminding all of us by e-mail of the impending deadline date.

Many thanks to all Leaguers & Friends for faithfully saving & submitting their

It all happens because of you!! Thanks to the following:

Our gratitude to the fine folks at Acme.

Lois Arnold	Gerry Hall	Gloria Markuten	Rosemary Spindler
Jodie and Ned DeLamatre	Sieglinde Hays	Gloria Massa	Maureen Sullivan
Margaret Dietz	Rayeann Helms	Amy Mitch	Marjorie Thiehl
Christine Freitag	Bonnie Horovitz	Jane Noble	Paula Warner
Sharon Gandee	Janice Jacobs	Jean and John Questel	Anonymous
Mary Lou Gault	Ardith and Bill Keck	Jane Sanders	
Erica Greer	Mary King	Warren L. Skidmore	

Consensus Meeting on Privatization

by Erica Greer

The consensus meeting on the LWVUS Privatization study was a regional affair. Representatives from five area Leagues took part: LWV Hudson hosted Leagues from Akron Area, Kent, Tallmadge, and Northern Portage County.

agreement, or consensus, through discussion and a sharing of ideas and perspectives, on



all the aspects of the particular study. The consensus questions are developed by the study committee and approved by the appropriate LWV board, in this case, LWVUS. If no consensus is reached, that is so noted. Any important comments that the members may have regarding a particular question are also noted.

that are privatized; stewardship of environmental resources; the bidding process; and the ability to recover key services or assets if the private entity fails to deliver adequately. Other consensus questions covered when privatization is not appropriate, whether the process should be regulated, and what types of regulation and accountability were appropriate.

A presentation on the study focus, parameters, background information, and best practices was handled most capably by Karin Swedenborg and Kathy Cybulski of LWV Hudson, with an infusion of leavening in the form of apropos cartoons. They then took us through the many consensus questions.

For the most part, there was consensus on most aspects of the study. These results, along with various comments, will be taken back to each League's board for approval. If approved, the consensus results for each League will be forwarded to LWVUS, where the LWVUS board will develop a position to be voted on at convention, providing consensus was reached by all the Leagues around the country who participated.

For those of you who have never participated in a consensus meeting, the League does not take a vote on the various questions, but rather seeks to come to

The consensus questions covered such aspects of privatization as transparency and accountability; risks to the public as a result of privatization; costs of services

LWVAA Welcomes New Members!

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area wishes a warm League welcome to the following new and returning members:

Pete Crossland	Sue Lacy	Elinore Marsh Stormer
Rachel Fowler	Holly Lewis	Adam Van Ho
Phyllis Knepper	Meaghan Quinn	Barbara Ann Venesy
Jody Miller Kostand	Kristen M. Scalise	Sherrie Weitzenhoff

Women in Journalism — a Celebration!

by Jodie DeLamatre

Though the weather was challenging, 78 degrees on St. Patrick's day, nearly 100 League members, friends of the League and special guests, area journalists, came together to celebrate.

We were touched by the words of President Diana Kingsbury who explained the significance of the event. We celebrated women in a difficult and evolving career. We celebrated Sunshine Week, which occurs around James Madison's birthday, promoting a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. We celebrated an original suffragette, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. One of the organizers of the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848, Stanton's pseudonym as a journalist was "Sunflower." The sunflower, therefore, became a symbol throughout the celebration.

Erica created and presented a moving, historical slide show to the music of "Heroes" with significant women journalists and meaningful quotes. I would recommend you view it on our web site with the link under Erica's picture at : http://www.lwvaa.org/mtg_2012-03-17.htm To get the full impact, I also suggest visiting YouTube while scrolling through the slides and listening to Ann Reed's song *Heroes*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLgooJDqqHs>

It is touching and poignant and primed the audience for an outstanding presentation by Keynote speaker, Connie Schultz.

Schultz, a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist, explained she was eager to participate in the event since she had NEVER been asked to speak about women in jour-

nalism. She was eager to do so and was engaging and genuine. Schultz recounted some of her personal history thus connecting with her audience. Her message to all women of any walk: find your voice, be confident in it and share it with your world. We all have earned the right just by experiencing life. She also told us how important it is for women to mentor other women.

Each journalist received a certificate and pin of a sunflower, in commemoration of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her journalistic efforts. The sun shone brightly.

The entire event was expertly choreographed by committee Chair, Erica Greer and her committee: Roberta Aber, Sara Gibbs, Karyn Katz, Ardith Keck, and Jodie DeLamatre.



Keynote Speaker Connie Schultz



Our Women in Journalism Honorees

Notable Quotable

“The question is whether any civilization can wage relentless war on life without destroying itself, and without losing the right to be called civilized.”

Rachel Carson, mother of the global environmental movement, 1907-1964





Member Spotlight on.....Mary King

When did you join the League?

I think it was about 4 or 5 years ago.

Why did you join LWVAA? And why have you stayed in League?

I have always admired the League. When I was young, working full time and a single mother, I always relied on their Voters Guides to help me inform myself about elections. I really valued the objectivity of the guides. When I retired, I had the time to give back, and so I joined. Although I am not much of a "joiner," I feel the League's work is important, and I really enjoy my time with the League.

What positions, if any, have you held within the League?

I am currently on the board as Voter Registration Chair. I also attended City Council meetings for the Observer Corps for a time. I really appreciated the opportunity to learn first-hand how council works. I

also helped out on the committee that planned the meeting on SB 5.

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

I find it thrilling to be with people who are thoughtful, not ego-driven, who are focused and thinking about the common good. I feel interacting with other League members provides me with a chance for personal growth. And in addition, all the things that I usually dread about organizations, such as jockeying for position and clashing egos don't happen in League, which is very refreshing for me.

What do you think is the biggest issues voters face?

Probably it is getting good information. Our world has become so self-segregated. People can tune in to only those opinions and ideas that they already agree with, and tune out anything

that goes against that. There again, I really value League's objectivity in their voter information.



Are you involved in any other community organizations?

Alas, I am not. As I said, I am not much of a joiner, but I always buy shares in CSA, or Community Supported Agriculture. I also volunteer from time to time with the American Friends Service Committee.

What interests do you have outside of the League?

My idea of a great time is staying home with a good book. I love to read. I also enjoy gardening, and always rent a garden plot for the summer.

Earth Day

from Wikipedia

Earth Day is a day early each year on which events are held worldwide to increase awareness and appreciation of the Earth's natural environment. Earth Day is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 International Mother Earth Day. Earth Day is planned for April 22 in all years at least through 2015.

The name and concept of Earth Day was allegedly pioneered by John McConnell in 1969 at a UNESCO Conference in San Francisco. The first Proclamation of Earth Day was by San Francisco, the City of Saint Francis, patron saint of ecology. Earth Day was first observed in San Francisco and other cities on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. This day of nature's equipoise was later sanctioned in a Proclamation signed by Secretary General U Thant at the United Nations where it is observed each year.

About the same time a separate Earth Day was founded by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970. While this April 22 Earth Day was focused on the United States, an organization launched by Denis Hayes, who was the original national coordinator in 1970, took it international in 1990 and organized events in 141 nations. Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week, an entire week of activities focused on environmental issues.

Earth Day proved popular in the United States and around the world. The first April 22 Earth Day had participants and celebrants in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. More importantly, it "brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform."

Senator Nelson stated that Earth Day

"worked" because of the response at the grassroots level. Twenty-million demonstrators and thousands of schools and local communities participated. He directly credited the first Earth Day with persuading U.S. politicians that environmental legislation had a substantial, lasting constituency.



It is now observed in 175 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, according to whom Earth Day is now "the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a half billion people every year."^[1] Environmental groups have sought to make Earth Day into a day of action which changes human behavior and provokes policy changes.



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IMPORTANT DATES

April 5: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron

April 10: State House Day 9:00 — 4:00 PM
Riffe Building, Columbus

April 19: Fracking: What Every Citizen Should Know
Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron
3300 Morewood Rd., Akron 5:30 PM

April 22: Earth Day

May 3: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron

May 9: LWV Kent hosts Consensus Meeting
for Human Trafficking Study
Mental Health & Recovery Board
155 E. Main St., Kent 7-9 PM



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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.

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