

The Akron Voter



Volume 4, Issue 9

May 2012



President's Remarks by Diana Kingsbury

Greetings!

It has been a busy month for LWVAA as we begin setting the stage for the 2012-2013 year. Every spring, League members undertake the essential work of preparing the budget, reviewing the bylaws, and selecting the slate of nominees who will be responsible for leading the League in the upcoming year. You will find in this edition of the *Voter* the proposed budget, bylaws changes and nominating committee report which we will formally vote on as a general membership at the Annual Meeting on June 7th. I would like to express my thanks to those League members who assisted in this process!

Also occurring this past month was the forum on fracking that we hosted in conjunction with the Social Action Committee and Green Team of the Unitarian Universalist church. It was energizing to see the large crowd who came out for the event and it is my hope that all who attended were provided with additional insight on this important issue.

In addition to providing educational information, LWVAA also utilized this forum as an opportunity to introduce community members to the work of the League and to generate interest in future membership. Several individuals in attendance expressed interest in learning more and a follow-up meet-

ing will be scheduled to share additional information.

Coming up this month are two important events that I hope many of you plan to attend. On Friday, May 4th at Weathervane Playhouse, LWVAA will host its annual fundraiser. In addition to watching what I'm sure will be a wonderful play, "See How They Run," we will also host a raffle, silent auction, and dessert reception. This is a great way to raise some money for our organization, in addition to spending some time with your fellow League members!

On Wednesday, May 9th, LWVAA members have been invited to attend a joint consensus meeting on Human Tr-

afficking hosted by LWV Kent. Recently, local Leagues have been teaming up for joint consensus meetings as a way to pool our resources and to tackle some of the issues brought forth by our state and national Leagues. I do hope you plan to attend what I'm sure will be an engaging and informative discussion. The meeting will be held from 7-9 pm at the Mental Health & Recovery Board, 155 E. Main Street, Kent Ohio.

Finally, I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting at Samira's restaurant at 6 pm, Thursday June 7th! RSVPs are due June 1st. It is sure to be a great evening!

Diana

Inside This Issue

Board Briefs	2
Did You Know? Franklin Pierce	2
Proposed Program 2012-2013	3
Proposed Bylaws Changes	3
Notable Quotable	3
Proposed Budget 2012-2013	4
LWVAA Forum on "Fracking"	5

Slate of Officers and Directors 2012-2014

To be elected at the LWVAA Annual Meeting, June 7, 2012

OFFICERS

President: *Tina Merlitti*
Vice President Program: *Karyn Katz*
Treasurer: *Sharley Greer*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Newsletter: *Erica Greer*
Publicity: *Sara Gibbs*
Voter Service: *Gerry Hall*
Webmaster: *Bruce Greer*

Submitted by: Nominating Committee 2011-2013 Board Appointees 2012

Tina Merlitti, Chair
 Jodie DeLamatre

Roberta Aber
 Ardith Keck

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 May 3, 2012.

At the April 5 meeting the Board:

- Reviewed the 2011-2012 budget and created the proposed budget for 2012-2013.
- Discussed the proposed bylaws changes and nominating committee report and voted for approval
- Reviewed plans for the April 19th fracking meeting
- Discussed the upcoming May 4 fundraiser, including what items will be featured in the silent auction/raffle
- Provided a follow-up report to the

March 17th Women in Journalism event

- Introduced a proposed group that is seeking a ballot initiative to hold non-partisan elections for certain offices in Summit County
- Provided a report of new members that have joined the League in the past month
- Reviewed upcoming events in April and May, including:

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*

May 9 Human Trafficking consensus meeting with LWV Kent, 7 -9 pm at the Mental Health & Recovery Board, 155 E. Main Street, Kent OH



Did You Know — Franklin Pierce

by **Maureen Sullivan**

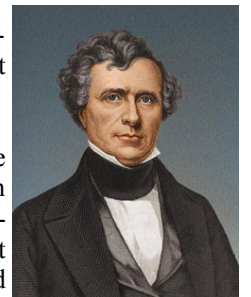
“You have summoned me in my weakness,” Franklin Pierce said in his inaugural address. “You must sustain me by your strength.” Given in the middle of a snowstorm, without the presence of his wife, Pierce’s speech was very dismal and sorrowful. A tragedy had occurred just two months prior to his swearing-in. Shortly after boarding a train in Boston, their car was derailed and rolled down an embankment. There was one fatality: Pierce’s only living child, eleven-year-old Bennie.

This would have been hard for anyone, but Franklin and Jane Pierce were extremely religious people who’d already lost two sons before Bennie’s death. Jane, very withdrawn and dour, had always

hated Washington and dreaded spending another four years there. She decided that God had taken her last child so that her husband would be free to concentrate on his presidential responsibilities. Her emotions overwhelmed her on the train to Washington and she eventually disembarked, leaving her husband to be sworn in without her.

Security Breach – Franklin Pierce was not a very popular president. Crowds at the White House (which was open to the public) had grown over the years and many feared that someone might take a shot at Pierce. Franklin Pierce became the first U.S. president to have a full-time body guard on the government’s tab. His name was Thomas O’Neil and he was

charged with following the president wherever he went. Unfortunately, O’Neil was nowhere in sight when, in 1855, someone finally did take a shot at Pierce – with a hard boiled egg. After being taken into custody, the assailant attempted suicide with a pocketknife. The president took pity on him and dropped the charges.



From The Secret Lives of U.S. Presidents, by Cormac O’Brien.

The deadline for the June-July Akron Voter is June 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

Proposed Program 2012-2013

by Ardith Keck

The League members who participated in program planning in January, 2012, sent the following recommendations to the board, which approved the following proposed program to be submitted for approval to the general membership at the Annual Meeting:

As an even-numbered year, program focused on LWVUS. Each League may recommend only one study, update, or concurrence. LWVAA recommends concurrence with LWV DC on sentencing reform. The LWV DC position, which would become LWVUS position if adopted, is as follows:

1)The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

2) The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Concurrence is a procedure for adopting a position of one or more state or local Leagues at the national level. A two-thirds vote of the national convention is required to adopt a position by concurrence.

For local program, LWVAA recommends the following:

City of Akron: Retain all positions

Akron Area: Retain all positions

Regional: Retain all positions and update and clarify the statement on tax levies.

LWVAA Priorities:

1. Use our positions to educate and advocate on issues of local importance.
2. Create a "Citizens United" resolution.
3. Should the question of "Personhood" be on the ballot, to use our positions to inform, educate and advocate.

Proposed Changes to LWVAA Bylaws

by Erica Greer

There are several proposed changes to the LWVAA bylaws brought to the board by the bylaws committee. These proposed changes have been approved by the board. In order for the changes to become final, they must also be approved by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Items with a strike-through are to be omitted; items in brackets are to be added.

Article III. Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the LWVAA shall be members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the

LWVUS, (1) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (2) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be ~~honorary~~ life members excused from the payment of dues.

This change was approved at Convention 2010. The first three articles of the bylaws of all Leagues must conform; therefore, this change needs to be made to the LWVAA bylaws as well.

Article IV Section 9. Methods of Conducting Business. Meetings and business of the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference call, video conferencing, email, or

by meeting in person. [When conducting necessary board business via email, the safeguards on the policies of board decision making shall be observed.]

Article VI Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be payable on the first day of July. The amount of the annual dues shall be proposed by the Board of Directors, and approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Any member who fails to pay dues within two months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

- a. A [new] member joining February 1 or thereafter will be assessed ~~one-half~~ the yearly dues until the [next] membership year beginning July 1 [of the following year.]

Notable Quotable

“Disarm, disarm. The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession. “

Julia Ward Howe, from the first Mother’s Day Proclamation, 1870, in which Howe, appalled at the loss of life from the American Civil War, envisioned an annual day for women from around the world to work together toward world peace.



Proposed Budget 2012-2013

REVENUE	2011-2012	Actual YTD	2012-2013
Dues	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 6,110.28	\$ 6,500.00
Contributions			
Community		\$ 16.66	
Memorials			
Members	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 1,000.00
Ed Fund			
Operating	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,190.34	\$ 1,100.00
Interest	\$ 225.00		
Fund Raising	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Legislative Breakfast			
City Council			
County Council			
Phonathon	\$ -	\$ 27.75	
Annual meeting			
Women in Democracy			
Women in Journalism	\$ -	\$ 2,150.00	
Special Event			\$ 200.00
Reserves			\$ 935.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 13,375.00	\$10,375.03	\$ 12,735.00

EXPENSES	2011-2012	Actual YTD	2012-2013
Operating			
Maintenance/Insurance	\$ 300.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
Supplies/Misc./Printing	\$ 300.00	\$ 54.74	\$ 100.00
Postage	\$ 700.00	\$ 82.60	\$ 100.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 700.00	\$ 739.04	\$ 750.00
Rent	\$ 900.00	\$ 905.00	\$ 900.00
Computer/Operations	\$ 100.00	\$ 64.95	\$ 100.00
Equipment (sound syst)			
Bank charges		\$ 42.41	\$ 50.00
Total Operating	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,213.74	\$ 2,325.00
Board			
President's Fund	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Publication for Board	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ 320.00		\$ 320.00
All Committees			
Membership			
Recruitment	\$ 600.00	\$ 307.00	\$ 600.00
Total Membership	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
Fund Raising	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Total Fundraising	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00

Because no one came forward to chair a budget committee, the proposed budget was developed by the board as a whole at the April board meeting. The proposed budget is subject to approval of the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 7, 2012. Because of the newsletter deadline, Year-to-date expenses and revenue are shown only through March 30, 2012.

EXPENSES (CON'T)	2011-2012	Actual YTD	2012-2013
Meetings/Programs			
Activities/Reservations			
Legislative Breakfast			
City Council			
County Council			
Annual Meeting			
Women in Democracy			
Akron Press Club event	(resv)	\$ 300.00	
Women in Journalism	(resv)	\$ 1,879.00	
Misc (copies, invitations)	\$ 500.00	\$ 640.67	\$ 500.00
Room Rentals	\$ 200.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 200.00
Total Meetings/Programs	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00
Total Committees	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 3,231.67	\$ 1,800.00
Delegates			
National Convention	\$ 1,000.00		
State Convention			\$ 1,000.00
Workshops	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 1,300.00
Assessments/Dues			
National PMP	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,430.00	\$ 2,400.00
State PMP	\$ 2,725.00	\$ 1,442.81	\$ 2,100.00
Lake Erie Basin Committee	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00
Akron Press Club dues			\$ 50.00
Total Assessment/Dues	\$ 4,855.00	\$ 3,872.81	\$ 4,580.00
Communications			
Newsletter			
Printing	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 852.05	\$ 1,500.00
Postage		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Bulk mail permit		\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00
Handbook	\$ 400.00	\$ 416.24	\$ 420.00
Voters Guide		\$ 1,816.00	
Total Communications	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 3,574.29	\$ 2,410.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,675.00	\$ 12,892.51	\$ 12,735.00

LWVAA Forum on Hydraulic Fracturing (“Fracking”)

By Jodie & Ned DeLamatre

It is difficult to know if any of the 120 minds of attendees were changed, but some questions were answered at the recent public League meeting on the controversial drilling process known as “fracking.” The meeting was co-sponsored by the Green Team and the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

The fracking process and the role of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was described by Gene Chini. As a geologist, he has an extensive oil industry background. He showed an informative video which explained the process of hydraulic fracturing better known as “fracking.” Vertical hydraulic fracturing has been used in Ohio since the 1950s. However, horizontal hydrofracking is relatively new in Ohio. He cited several advantages of this new process. One is that a single well site of about four acres can provide the capacity to drill up to ten wells in seven different directions. Mr. Chini explained that advanced technologies allow drillers to safely seal the well shaft with cement to prevent hydrocarbons or contaminated fracking fluids from leaking into ground water. He argued that the drilling industry has taken many precautions to ensure a safe drilling process. He is also confident that there will be adequate oversight.

Also representing the oil & gas industry was spokesman for Energy in Depth Ohio, Mike Chadsey. He noted that there is full transparency in the process and that the ODNR has a “terrific” web site for tracking all the wells being operated throughout the state. He also thought the recent regulations are being tightened regarding use of Lake Erie water and other regulations. Chadsey said that the economics of the procedure are significant and looked to neighboring Pennsylvania where 2% of the current workforce is composed of jobs related to this energy boom. Chadsey emphasized similar economic growth was possible in Ohio with billions of dollars in royalties, the creation of thousands of jobs in the drilling

process and all the related economic spillover to local businesses. Recent increases in domestic natural gas production has greatly reduced the cost for all consumers of this product.

They were countered in the presentation of Cheryl Johncox, Executive Director of the Buckeye Forest Council. She observed that the current type of drilling, which combines vertical with horizontal processes and has been around for only 20 years, not the 60 years touted by the industry. She is also concerned about the 900 chemicals used in the process, many of which are toxic to living beings and corrosive to the cement casings used in the drill hole. Other issues:

- Billions of gallons of fresh water is needed in the drilling process. The water will be taken from the fresh water cycle and injected into other wells where it will remain permanently contaminated.
- Air pollution from leaking and vented methane and other volatile hydrocarbons (Methane is a major greenhouse gas.)
- No local government body is allowed to restrict or have oversight into the process in any ways (loss of local control). The state is the only governing body of all aspects of this activity.
- Weak inspection process.
- Negative affect upon home property values surrounding well sites since drills may be established 150 feet from homes and neighbors’ property. She cited a Broadview Heights resident who couldn’t even get an appraiser to come out to her home because the drilling occurring on adjacent property rendered her property useless.

- Increase in truck traffic and its affect on roads, noise, traffic congestion, and pollution.
- Core cuttings and water brine can be radioactive.

Dr. Ted Voneida, retired professor of neuro-anatomy at NEOMED (formerly NEOUCOM) spoke on fracking’s impact on health. The process releases methane leaks which combines with nitrous oxide to create ground level ozone and can spread 200 miles from its source. (This is the “bad” ozone.)

He also raised the point that instead of concentrating on oil and gas production, we should be investing in alternative energy technologies.

Here are websites for more information as suggested by the speakers:

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/23415/default.aspx>

<http://www.energyindepth.org/>

http://www.buckeyeforestcouncil.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=123&Itemid=54

<http://www.neogap.org/neogap/newsroom/hydraulic-fracturing/>

Finally, League member and At-Large Summit County Council woman, Sandra Kurt, informed some of us that there was a resolution presented on April 16 stating in part, “to further urge the State to enact laws that reform some regulatory authority to county and local jurisdictions over the new High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, water withdrawals, usage of toxic chemicals and associated waste disposal operations...” For the complete resolution, go to the following webpage and scroll down to 2012-156: <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/council/legislation-2010.asp> Kurt is a co-sponsor, along with Executive Pry, Paula Prentice and Ilene Shapiro.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- 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
- May 13:** Mother's Day
- May 27:** Memorial Day Observed
- May 30:** Traditional Memorial Day
- June 7:** LWVAA Annual Meeting 6:00-8:00 PM
Samira's Restaurant
2291 Riverfront Parkway, Cuyahoga Falls



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