

CONGRATULATIONS!



The League of
Women Voters

*93 Years of
Making Democracy Work!*



February 14, 1920



February 14, 2013

The Akron Voter

Volume 5, Issue 7

February 2013



President's Remarks by Tina Merlitti

I was lucky enough to be home to hear the president's inaugural speech. I was waiting, as were many others, to see what happens now. We still have a long way to go toward economic recovery, we have foreign policy issues still brewing in the Middle East and North Africa, and we have domestic issues with new health care laws, gun control talks and voting rights agendas. Often after a big election year we tend to sit back for a minute and rest but there is no time for resting. The president has called all of us to action, to let our voices be heard.

That was also the focus of this month's program planning

meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed some great discussion on our local and state positions for advocacy. We are looking for members who would like to take a more active role by attending government meetings or serving on a committee. Please email me at tinamerlitti@gmail.com if you have some time you can dedicate or have an area of interest you would like to explore.

I would like to hear any ideas you may have on programs that would be of interest. We have a great program on health care coming up in March. There have been many questions about the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obama Care," and I hope we can bring some en-

lightenment to this complicated issue.

We will continue to work to monitor the changes with our Summit County Board of Elections. I was pleased to see that our concerns were heard as they have proposed to add back precincts to areas that experienced congestion during the election. They have also requested new equipment to help smooth the process. Akron, Hudson and Tallmadge League members will continue to attend meetings and monitor the implementation of new procedures and systems.

Our work will continue as we advocate for the rights of our fellow citizens and provide them with the information they

need to act in their own best interest. In the words of President Obama:

"That is our generation's task -- to make these words, these rights, these values of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness real for every American. Being true to our founding documents does not require us to agree on every contour of life. It does not mean we all define liberty in exactly the same way or follow the same precise path to happiness. Progress does not compel us to settle centuries-long debates about the role of government for all time, but it does require us to act in our time."

Tina

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Action and Advocacy

In a recent letter to President Obama, LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara urged the President to take unilateral action on climate change.

Calling it the greatest environmental challenge of our generation," President MacNamara urged President Obama to take the leadership role that the world looks for to come from the United States. (*see complete letter on page 5.*)

YOU, as a member of the League can take action on this issue as well.

Please take a couple of minutes out of your busy day to let the President know that you support the League's call to action on this issue. You can also let your Congress persons know how you feel on this issue as well.

You can email:

comments@whitehouse.gov
www.brown.senate.gov/contact
www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
www.fudgeforms.house.gov/contact-form
www.timryanforms.house.gov/contact/
www.renacciforms.house.gov/contact-form
www.joyce.house.gov/contact/email-me

Board Briefs

by Martha Lester, Secretary

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 380 Mineola Ave. in Akron and are open to the public. The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 7, 2013.

Post-Election Follow-up

A letter, signed by the presidents of the three Summit County Leagues, was presented at the 11-20-12 Board of Elections meeting, reporting on what our members had observed at the various polling places.

LWV attended every SC BOE meeting in November and December, as well as the Official Ballot Audit.

Membership

The Membership Committee proposed and the board approved a one-year

“introductory” membership category for new members, at one-half price.

Communications

Our website was well-visited in October and November, as voters sought unbiased information about candidates and issues.

Jessie Malkin has taken responsibility for the Social Media sites, Facebook and Twitter, and has received contacts from all over Ohio and even around the world.

Jessie has enabled us to receive donated upgraded software for the office computer which will be installed soon.

Other Business

Sharley Greer, League Treasurer, has been appointed to Clinton Village Council. She sought Board permission to remain on the Board. Since her Council position is non-partisan, and the Board deemed her position as Treasurer was not a “sensitive” one, as per our non-partisan policy, the

Board approved her continuing as Treasurer.

Karyn Katz, VP Program, was forced to resign from the board due to illness in her family.

We always welcome members to become involved:

- ★ Be an Observer at public meetings
- ★ Staff a Voter Education or Registration table
- ★ Attend a panel discussion or candidates forum
- ★ Research a topic of interest that can help with a study or consensus
- ★ Talk to people you know about what we do
- ★ Sign up new members



Did You Know — Mother Jones

by Maureen Sullivan

Mary Harris was born around 1830 in County Cork, Ireland, grew up in Canada and came to the United States around 1850.

In 1867 her husband George Jones and their four children all died in a yellow fever epidemic in Memphis. Mary then moved to Chicago where, four years later, she lost everything in the Great Chicago fire.

Jones then spent the second half of her life involved in the labor movement. From the 1890s through the 1920s, she worked tirelessly as a political “hell raiser,” advancing social and political causes such as the abolition of child labor and organizing the United Mine Workers. In

1905 she helped found the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

After she began referring to the miners as “her boys” she took on the nickname “Mother Jones.” A charismatic speaker, she was adept at staging public events to get publicity for striking workers. Opponents called her the “most dangerous woman in America” but when she was denounced on the floor of the U.S. Senate as the “grandmother of all agitators”, she said she hoped to live long enough to be the great grandmother of all agitators.

The magazine *Mother Jones*, named after her, was established in 1970 and quickly became the largest selling underground magazine of the decade. Each issue deals with themes that were im-

portant to Jones herself, such as corporate corruption, political collapse, small-is-beautiful, communal living and feminism.



Mother Jones died in 1930 at the age of 93. She is best known for her saying: “Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.”



More information about the League of Women Voters or LWVAA, plus updated information on meetings and events can be found at: www.lwvaa.org or

follow us on **twitter**



Find us on **Facebook**

Acme CashBack Tapes Due February 25!

by Janice Jacobs

Keep saving those Acme receipts for the League! The Community CashBack program will be ending soon — February 9, 2013. Remember, we need a total of at least \$1500 in CashBack to qualify for the program.

LWVAA can earn a 5% rebate on items purchased from various brands, including Food Club, Top Care, Full Circle, Value Time, World Classics, Paws, and others. (For a complete list of participating brands, please see the Acme website, www.acmestores.com.)

This is a simple and consistent fundraiser for us, and all you need to do to help is save your Acme register receipts and send them to:

Janice Jacobs
P O Box 26
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222

Remember: Janice needs to receive your tapes not later than February 25!

This gives Janice time to total them and get them sent in by the deadline. Thanks for your participation!



Program Planning

by Erica Greer

Some 20 LWVAA members and prospective members braved the cold on Saturday, January 19 for the annual program planning meeting at Highland Square Library. As usual, discussion on LWVAA and LWVO positions and priorities generated much lively and nuanced discussion.

After reviewing current LWVAA program, members made some suggestions for various changes to refine our positions. These changes will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting in February. If approved, they will be put before the general membership at the Annual Meeting in June.

Discussion then turned to LWV Ohio program. League members agreed to retain all LWV Ohio positions, but there was a question whether current positions could be used to advocate for Akron area storm-water runoff proposals that might come up in the near future. The Board will also consider this question.

There was one study recommended for

the state level: decriminalization of marijuana. The scope of the study was not defined at the meeting, but will be taken up by the Board.

We were most pleased to welcome new members Michelle Blaho and Jessie Malkin, as well as prospective members Kristen Uitenham and Kathy Cariglio. This meeting is always a great opportunity to learn more about the League, how it works, and what we stand for.



LWVAA members involved in serious discussion on League positions



Not all program planning discussions have to be serious!



President Tina Merlitti explains the program planning process

Notable Quotable

If all the rich and all of the church people should send their children to the public schools they would feel bound to concentrate their money on improving these schools until they met the highest ideals.

Susan B. Anthony (1820—1906)



First Call to Convention

from LWV Ohio

The Leagues of Northeast Ohio and the Board of LWV Ohio invite you to attend LWVO State Convention!

**May 4-5, 2013
Cleveland, Ohio**

"Energizing Democracy: What Would Alice Do?"



Alice Paul was a true leader in the fight for women's right to vote and later continued the struggle in the fight for civil rights and women's rights. What can Alice teach us as we explore effective ways

to recruit and retain members, develop leadership, and effective communication strategies - all of which are topics we will explore at our 60th LWVO State Convention. We hope you can join us!

State Convention is a wonderful time to come together in League, participate in dynamic workshops, share ideas and successes, plan for our League's future, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Location: Cleveland Downtown-
Lakeside Doubletree Hotel
1111 Lakeside
Cleveland, OH 44114

Here is a tentative schedule of events:

Friday, May 3: Early evening: Pre-Convention Meet-and-Greet

2013 LWVO Convention

Saturday, May 4:

- Morning: Workshops
- Luncheon: Keynote speaker
- Afternoon: Plenary I Workshops
- Dinner: Special Event
- Evening: Caucuses and Workshops

Sunday, May 5: Convention Continues

- Morning: Breakfast Program
- Plenary II

Convention concludes by 1pm



Based on membership, LWVAA is entitled to three delegates to Convention: the President, and 2 other voting delegates. Other members may attend as visitors. Contact Tina Merlitti if you are interested in attending. (tinamerlitti@gmail.com)

Observer Corps

by Jodie DeLamatre

The Observer Corps is alive and well and covering the county like a blanket. In the past couple months, we have sent observers to the Summit County Board of Elections, Akron City Council meetings, Akron Summit Metro Parks, a special meeting on campaign finance and have recruited two new observers. Meaghan Quinn will be attending one Akron City Council meeting each month and Karen Barta will attend both Akron School Board meetings each month.

If you would like to be a part of the Observer Corps, please contact Jodie DeLamatre at jmgd3@neo.rr.com. Here are some of the meetings that need cover-

age:

- Summit County Council
- Akron City Council
- MetroParks Serving Summit County

The primary reason for the Observer Corps is to let local governments know that we are there and holding them accountable. 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, but don't let that deter you.

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. If you are so inclined, submit a BRIEF synopsis, preferably by email, to me (jmgd3@neo.rr.com) of proceedings, but this is secondary to attending the public meeting. This is

The deadline for the March Akron Voter is February 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

LWVUS Letter on Climate Change to President Obama



December 20, 2012
 President Barack Obama
 The White House Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President, "Climate change is not a hoax. More drought and floods and hurricanes and wildfires are not a joke. They're a threat to our children's future. And we can do something about it."

These are your words, Mr. President, and we couldn't agree more. People are dying because of climate change. Our families, our communities and our planet are all threatened by it.

The League of Women Voters calls on you, Mr. President, to take the historically necessary step of controlling industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. Use your existing regulatory authority to make this happen.

The world has known about climate change for decades, yet little has been

done to address the issue. The U.S. came close to enacting a comprehensive climate change bill in the early years of your administration when a good bill passed the House, but it was blocked by special interests in the Senate. With the current gridlock in Congress, it seems impossible that any legislative action will be taken to protect our health and our planet.

But you, Mr. President, have the power to put controls on new and existing power plants and make the world a safer place for our children to live and breathe. You can establish the U.S. as a world leader in fighting climate change. President Obama, you can do this by yourself, without a second-guessing Congress or a nay-saying Supreme Court. In fact, the Supreme Court has already said that the Administration can move forward under the Clean Air Act to cut this life-threatening pollution.

We need you to lead the U.S. and the world through the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. Continue to raise your voice to call special attention to this issue. Use your authority as President to save our kids and seniors from the formation of lung damaging and asthma-attack inducing smog. Save us all from deadly heat waves, droughts and killer storms like Hurricane Sandy.

President Obama, if you don't do it, it won't get done. If the United States doesn't lead, the rest of the world cannot follow.

Saving the world is a legacy worth fighting for.

Sincerely,
 Elisabeth MacNamara, President
 League of Women Voters of the United States

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day

from LWVO

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day 2013 is Tuesday, March 19 at the Riffe Center in Columbus, Ohio. Statehouse Day is a wonderful day spent learning about State League's activities, exploring various current issues, and networking with other League members. I guarantee you will return home enthused and energized!

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. We usually have a group carpool to Columbus, cutting the cost and reducing parking hassles. More information will be available in the next newsletter.
 The Editor

Here are the details currently available from LWV Ohio.

When: March 19, 2013, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm -- with registration beginning at 8:30 am

Where: Statehouse Day will once again

take place at the Riffe Center, 31st floor conference center, at 77 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215. The luncheon, featuring our keynote speaker, will take place next door at the Capital Club.

What: The event program includes many of this spring's hottest issues -- the state government budget and tax plan, changes to education funding, implementation of the federal health care law, and the latest updates on redistricting reform. Meetings with legislators will be scheduled throughout the day upon request. Additional details will be announced soon.

Registration fee: As in the past— \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members, and



\$20 for students— includes lunch and continental breakfast.

NB: there is money in the LWVAA budget to send 3 members to Statehouse Day on a first-come-first-served basis. Contact Tina Merlitti if you are interested.



League of Women Voters®
of the Akron Area

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newsletter@lwvaa.org

IMPORTANT DATES

February 7: LWVAA Board Meeting 5:30 PM
CUMC 380 Mineola Ave., Akron

February 14: League of Women Voters founded 1920

February 15: Susan B. Anthony born 1820

March 7: LWVAA Board Meeting 5:30 PM
CUMC 380 Mineola Ave., Akron

March 19: LWV Ohio Statehouse Day
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio



**Join the nation's most respected grassroots political organization —
Become a member of the League of Women Voters!**

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

**Make checks payable to LWVAA and send with this completed form to:
LWVAA, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron, OH 44320
or join online on our website: www.lwvaa.org**



**Vote for civility in
civic discourse —**

**Join the League
Today!**