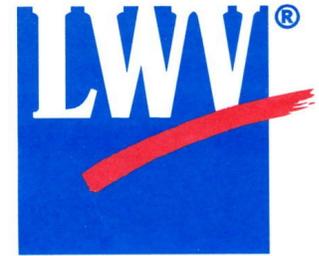


The Akron Voter

Volume 5, Issue 10

May 2013



President's Remarks by Tina Merlitti

As talks continue about the Federal Budget, some interesting things have caught my attention with regard to the Farm Bill and "Food Stamp" program or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It was stated that the "Food stamps were designed to be a supplement to the food budget," they "were never intended to be the entire budget." Jean Daniel, a spokeswoman for the Agriculture Department, which runs the food-stamp program, said "There's only so much the aid can do."

So where are the people in need going to get the rest of the food to feed their family? "There is only so much the aid can do?" Why is this? Why, in one of the wealthiest nations in

the world are we letting people go hungry on purpose?

Some people say that church groups, food banks and other community groups will fill the void. So let me get this straight. I have my 17 month old son and I am dragging him all over town for a hot meal or a bag of groceries to get through the month. I will most likely be putting him and his stroller on the bus because I do not have a car or gas for the car or a good working car. I will do this in my "spare time" between working my minimum wage jobs. Why are we making people that have already fallen on hard times jump through all these hoops?

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the rate of people receiving

food stamps went up 70 percent from 2008 to 2011, and people are often still not able to buy enough food to put on the table. In Ohio alone, more than 1.8 million people receive food stamps under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Hunger is a growing epidemic in the US, and we can fix it. I saw an interview of the producers of *A Place at the Table*, a documentary on our nation's hunger problem, and the film makes clear that although food is abundant in America, yet at least 50 million Americans, including 17 million children, are beset with "food insecurity," meaning they don't have sufficient resources to adequately feed themselves or their families

"at all times." The filmmakers make the point that in the 1970's we had adequate food subsidies but the support has diminished over the years.

Food is a basic human need that in a civilized society people should not be forced to go without. Our system is not working. If the SNAP program was run fully and properly we could save money in other areas such as health care and education. Think about it: a well-fed child will have fewer health problems and perform better in school. We need to do the right thing and fully fund SNAP.

Tina

Film *A Place at the Table* by Silverbush and Jacobson
www.lwv.org/content/meeting-basic-human-needs

Inside This Issue	Action and Advocacy: Clean Air /Climate Change	
Board Briefs	2	Washington, DC (April 15, 2013) – Today the League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) expressed disappointment with the Obama Administration for missing a key deadline to set industrial carbon pollution standards for new power plants.
Did You Know?	2	commitments in his Inaugural speech and State of the Union address, we see that the deadline for administrative action has been missed."
Nominating Slate	3	The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set carbon pollution reduction standards for major emitters. The agency proposed standards for new power plants in 2012 and was required to complete action on the proposed rule by April 13. These first-ever industrial carbon pollution standards for new power plants would assure that all new plants use modern technology to cut their
Proposed Program 2013-2014	3	dangerous carbon pollution in half.
Notable Quotable	3	"U.S. power plants are the nation's largest carbon polluter, and the largest uncontrolled source of industrial carbon pollution. We must dramatically slash industrial carbon pollution from these plants...to stave off the worst impacts of climate change and protect the health and well-being of Americans," concluded MacNamara.
Proposed Budget 2013-2014	4	<i>Contact President Obama to voice your concerns about this inaction: 202-456-1111.</i>
Member Spotlight	5	
Acme Cash Back Report	5	

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, May 2, 2013.

At the April board meeting, we discussed the following:

President's Report:

1. President Merlitti will write a letter to Marilyn Slaby regarding her survey on photo ID for voters, informing her of the League position
2. We will co-sponsor an event with the Akron Press Club with the 4 representatives from Summit County, date and location to be determined
3. LWVAA will conduct legislative

interviews with Representatives Zack Milkovich and Vernon Sykes

4. President Merlitti and VP Organization Jill Cabe will attend LWVO convention May 4-5 in Cleveland

Budget:

The budget committee submitted a proposed budget to the board, which was approved as submitted. (see page 4 for the budget, which is subject to approval of the membership at the annual meeting).

Newsletter:

We are on track with the IMSB mailing tool to have the annual bulk mail fee waived next year.

Program:

The board reviewed the results from the

program planning meeting, and voted to recommend their proposed program. (See page 3 for the Proposed Program)

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 — Ida Tarbell

by Maureen Sullivan

Ida Tarbell was born on November 5, 1857 in Erie County, PA. She graduated from Allegheny College and was the only woman in her class to complete all four years.

She later taught for a while at the Poland Union Seminary in Poland, OH but later became managing editor of *The Chautauquan*, a teaching supplement for home study courses in Chautauqua, NY.

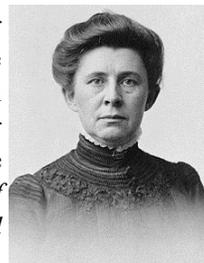
In 1891 she moved to Paris to study at the Sorbonne. She wrote a biography of Madame Roland in order to confirm her view that women brought moderation and compassion to politics. When her work was completed, Ms. Tarbell reluctantly concluded that Madame Roland behaved as badly during the French Revolution as

the men had. This conclusion probably led to her later rejection of positions taken by the Suffragists concerning birth control and women suffrage. She wrote *The Business of being a Woman* in 1912 and *The Ways of Women* in 1915 in which she argued that women's best contribution to society was through home and family.

A series of articles about Jim Crow laws and a campaign to stop lynchings appeared in the newspaper, *The Free Speech* in Memphis, a paper which she co-owned.

Ms. Tarbell became the editor of *McClure's*, a popular magazine where she started her best known project – an examination of The Standard Oil Company. Her discoveries of Rockefeller's oil mo-

nopoly and unfair labor practices were first published in McClure's and later published in the book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* in 1904, the first corporate coverage of its kind. Her work led to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to break up the Standard Oil monopoly in 1911.



Ida Tarbell, along with Lincoln Steffens and Ray Stannard Baker, started the muckraker movement of the early industrial era, a movement characterized by investigative journalism and crusades against corruption and social injustice. Ms. Tarbell died in 1944.

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**

Slate of Officers and Directors

by Jodie DeLamatre

The following is the slate of officers and directors, submitted by the Nominating Committee and to be elected at the Annual Meeting on June 6, 2013. Terms are for 2013-2015, except President-Elect, which is a one-year term (2013-2014).

Officers

President-Elect: Jill Cabe
 VP Organization: Roberta Aber
 Secretary: Martha Lester

Directors

Health Care: Karyn Katz
 Membership: Ardith Keck
 Voter Registration: Mary King

Thank you to a fine committee, Diana Kingsbury, Ardith Keck and Roberta Aber, and to all those members who have agreed to commit to doing the fine work of the LWVAA.

Jodie DeLamatre, Chair, Nominating Committee

Proposed Program 2013-2014

by Erica Greer

The League members who participated in program planning in January, 2013, 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:

Program, in League speak, refers to those areas on which League has taken a position via study and consensus, and which form the basis for education and advocacy. Each year, local Leagues review positions for LWVUS or LWV Ohio (LWVO), as well as LWVAA's local program. As an odd-numbered year, the focus on the Program Planning meeting on January 19, 2013 was LWVO program.

Members attending program planning determine whether to drop, retain, or update existing positions for LWVO, to suggest priorities to the LWVO board, and whether or not to recommend a study. Attendees made the following recommendations to the LWVAA board. The Board then approved the proposed program and filed the report

with LWVO: (1) to retain all positions; and (2) to support a state study on fracking. These recommendations will be considered by the board of LWVO and will be voted on by delegates to state convention in May.

In addition, the members determine whether to drop, retain, or update program for the City of Akron, Akron Area, and the Region, whether there is need for a local study, and what should be the League's priorities for the coming year. Members in attendance proposed the following for our local program to be considered by the Board. The Board then voted to recommend the following local program for League year 2013-2014, subject to revision and/or approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting:

City of Akron Program:

Retain all positions

Akron Area Program:
Retain all positions

Regional Program:
Retain all positions.

In addition to those recommendations, the LWVAA Board approved and recommends the following priorities for 2013-2014:

- 1) Use our positions to educate and advocate on local issues of water quality and water consumption;
- 2) Support efforts to make changes in how apportionment is done, consistent with League positions.

Notable Quotable

Too often the great decisions are originated and given form in bodies made up wholly of men, or so completely dominated by them that whatever of special value women have to offer is shunted aside without expression.

Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962



Proposed Budget 2013-2014**The Budget Committee***

REVENUE	2012-2013	ACTUAL/ YTD	2013-2014
Dues	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 4,950.42	\$ 5,000.00
Contributions			
Community			
Memorials			
Membership	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,115.00	\$ 1,000.00
ED Fund-Share			
Operating (Phone, Rent, Computer, Insurance)	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,158.06	\$ 1,100.00
Phonathon			
LWVUS PMP			
Interest			
Fund Raising	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Special Events	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Reserves	\$ 600.00		\$ 2,325.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 7,223.48	\$ 13,625.00

The following budget was approved by the board and will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. Please note that the Actual/YTD column is as of March 30. More up-to-date figures will be available at the annual meeting.

*Paula Prentice, Chair
Meaghan Quinn
Sharley Greer, Treasurer

EXPENSES	2012-2013	ACTUAL/YTD	2013-2014
Operating			
Maintenance/Insurance	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
Supplies/Misc./Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 32.65	\$ 100.00
Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ 46.76	\$ 75.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 750.00	\$ 837.63	\$ 1,200.00
Rent	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Computer/Operations	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.17	\$ 150.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,325.00	\$ 2,252.21	\$ 2,750.00
Board			
President's Fund	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Publications for Board	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ 320.00		\$ 320.00
Administrative Committees			
Membership	\$ 600.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 600.00
PR/Fundraiser	\$ 500.00		\$ 250.00
Meetings/Programs			
Special Events	\$ 500.00	\$ 188.43	\$ 500.00
Room Rentals	\$ 200.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00
Total Admin. Committees	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 378.43	\$ 1,550.00

EXPENSES (con't)	2012-2013	ACTUAL/ YTD	2013-2014
Delegates			
National Convention			\$ 1,500.00
State Convention	\$ 1,000.00		
Workshops	\$ 300.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 300.00
Total Delegates Expense	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 1,800.00
Assessment / Dues			
National PMP	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,395.00	\$ 1,650.00
State PMP	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 1,603.13	\$ 2,015.00
Lake Erie Basin	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00
Akron Press Club	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Total Assessments/Dues	\$ 3,745.00	\$ 2,998.13	\$ 3,745.00
Communications			
Newsletter			
Printing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,215.20	\$ 1,500.00
Postage/Seals	\$ 300.00	\$ 540.66	\$ 600.00
Bulk Mail Fee	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00
Handbook	\$ 420.00	\$ 381.80	\$ 420.00
Voters Guide	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 660.35	\$ 1,000.00
New Media			
Equipment			
Total Communications	\$ 3,910.00	\$ 2,988.01	\$ 3,710.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 8,686.78	\$ 13,625.00



Member Spotlight on.....Meaghan Quinn

When did you join the League?

I joined in March, 2012.

Why did you join LWVAA?

My friend Jodie DeLamatre invited me to attend the Women in Journalism event in March, 2012, where Connie Schultz was speaking. I enjoyed the meeting, and then when Jodie gave her membership talk about reasons to join and the benefits of being a member, I decided to join.

What is your current role with the LWVAA?

I just helped out on the budget committee, and I have agreed to be on the budget committee again next year. I also am going as a League Observer to Akron City Council meetings. It's a lot more interesting than I had thought it would be. One of the recent meetings I attended was the one about the Mayflower proposal, and it was very interesting to hear all the public comments.

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

I think being a League Observer. I frankly thought it would be kind of boring. I really didn't think they would be talking about anything that would have anything to do with my life, but they are. One example is they were discussing removing a bunch of stoplights around the city, and one of them slated for removal is right near where I live. So it came as a surprise that there would be a direct impact from what they are talking about on my personal life.

I also am really enjoying getting to know the women in the local chapter.

What to you think is the biggest issue voters face?

I think it is getting straightforward, factual information about candidates and issues. It's difficult to do unless you are

able to devote a lot of time to it because there is so much misinformation out there. It doesn't seem like it should be so difficult.

Are you involved in any other community organizations?

I volunteer as a CASA: a Court Appointed Special Advocate, otherwise known as a guardian *ad litem*, through the juvenile court. I've been doing that for about a year now.

What interests do you have outside of the League?

I play soccer, I enjoy running, and I like to read.

Acme Cash Back — \$\$\$ for League

by Janice Jacobs

Our CashBack check for 2012-2013, in the amount of \$128.29, has already been received. This is a bit less than last year, but I think that can be chalked up to the fact that we had fewer participants. Of course, that leaves room for improvement next year!

Our gratitude to the fine folks at Acme.

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

Many thanks to all Leaguers & Friends for faithfully saving & submitting their tapes. A special tip of the Ed Fund chapeau to Erica Greer for diligently getting the articles I submitted into the Newsletter on a timely basis and reminding all of us by e-mail close to deadline time. It all happens because of you!!



Many thanks to the following Cash Back participants:

Anonymous	Mary Lou Gault	Janice Jacobs	Jane Sanders
Roberta Aber	Erica Greer	Ardith and Bill Keck	Sandra Smith
Lois Arnold	Sharley Greer	Mary King	Rosemary Spindler
Jodie and Ned DeLamatre	Gerry Hall	Diana Kingsbury	Marge Thiell
Margaret Dietz	Sieglinde Hays	Amy Mitch	Rosemary Spindler
Christine Freitag	Rayeann Helms	Jane Noble	Paula Warner
Sharon Gandee	Bonnie Horovitz	Jean and John Questel	

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 newsletter@lwvaa.org, or via mail to 408 Ott Dr. Clinton, OH 44216

Ohio Budget Update

by Nancy Brown, LWVO Co-President

Medicaid Expansion

The Governor has proposed to expand Medicaid, taking advantage of an option under the Affordable Care Act. Doing so would provide health care for hundreds of thousands of poor Ohioans and will be funded fully for three years by the Federal Government. Over the term of the budget, Ohio will save \$404 million and 275,000 Ohioans would become eligible for Medicaid.

LWVUS has a position supporting the providing of health insurance by the Federal Government and actively supported the Affordable Care Act. Accordingly, the League supports the expansion of Medicaid in Ohio. Various legislators have expressed disapproval of the expansion of Medicaid because of their concern that the Federal Government's support will eventually decline and Ohio will be left with a program it cannot afford; because of concerns about increasing the Federal deficit; and because of opposition to the Affordable Care Act. We anticipate hearings in the legislature and the opportunity to testify and /or write letters.

Education

The League is concerned about several

aspects of the budget plan for funding primary and secondary education. Although the plan is designed to target state funding for school districts based on income and property wealth, a concept which the League supports, as currently written it falls short of this goal with many poorer school districts receiving less state aid than wealthier districts. The League's position on Education Finance includes a statement that "State aid should be distributed to compensate for variations among school districts in their ability to raise local revenue to fund education."

In addition, the budget provides for the expansion of voucher programs to private schools. LWVO believes that public funds should be used only for public schools that are accountable and responsive to taxpayers.

Tax Mix

The proposed budget would reduce business income taxes by 50% and personal income taxes by 20%. It would also reduce sales taxes by 0.5%, but broaden the base to include a wide range of services that are not currently subject to sales

tax, such as lawyers, marketing, architects, accountants, pet grooming, etc. This will result in additional sales tax revenue beyond that which is currently collected. In addition, the budget includes a severance tax on shale drillers, [while] exempting 90% of low producing conventional wells.

The League supports a graduated income tax as a source of revenue over sales tax because it [income tax] tends to be progressive rather than regressive.

Accordingly, if a decrease in state taxes is called for, the League favors reducing the sales tax rather than the income tax. Therefore, the League opposes the decrease of income tax and effective increase in the amount of money collected by the sales tax as provided in the proposed budget. At the same time, the League supports broadening the base for sales tax and this aspect of the proposed budget is acceptable to the League. We can anticipate, however, that there will be considerable opposition from groups, which will not want to be subject to the sales tax.

New Online Search Tool for Voters

from Hannah News Service

Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Friday [March 22] that his office was launching a new voter search tool on the website MyOhioVote.com that will allow Ohioans to more easily check their voter registration information, including voting address and polling location, which he said previously had to be done using two separate online tools. Under the new simplified process, voters will only need to provide their first name, last name, and county instead of filling in multiple fields. Once a voter has supplied the information, that voter can see their voting address, legislative districts, polling place and precinct.

Husted said he is encouraging voters to use the new system to verify their information and update their address online, if needed.

The online system is populated with information from Ohio's 88 county boards of elections. Husted's office said it is important to note that boards may make a last minute change to a person's polling place that would not be reflected online, but voters would be notified by mail. Questions about information contained in the online system should be directed to the county boards of elections.

The deadline to update voter information or register to vote in time to participate in the upcoming May 7 primary is Monday, April 8, 2013.



This story was originally published in The Hannah Report of March 22, 2013. Copyright 2013 Hannah News Service, Inc.



League of Women Voters®
of the Akron Area

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newsletter@lwvaa.org

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 2:** LWVAA Board Meeting 5:30 PM
CUMC 380 Mineola Ave., Akron
- May 4-5:** LWV Ohio Convention, Cleveland
- May 7:** Primary Election Day
- May 12:** Mothers' Day
- May 27:** Memorial Day Observed
- June 6:** LWVAA Annual Meeting 6-8 PM
Papa Joe's Restaurant
1561 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron



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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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