

The Akron Voter

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May 2014



President's Remarks by Tina Merlitti

Back in the news is the gender gap between men and women's pay. The U.S. senate failed to pass a bill last week seeking to narrow the pay gap. This will likely be a campaign issue in the upcoming elections. It is amazing to me that in this day and age we have to keep fighting this fight over and over again.

President Obama said it is an "embarrassment" in America: the fact that women make, on average, only 77 cents for every dollar that a man earns. However according to the New York Times the White House fares only slightly better where female staff members make 88 cents for every

dollar their male counterparts earn.

Even more revealing, when the Dayton Daily News looked at Ohio Governor, John Kasich's Office women earn \$9.81 cents per hour less on average than men. Kasich's likely opponent in November, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald has a gender pay gap of \$7.02 an hour between men and women in his office, according to data provided to the Daily News by FitzGerald's Office.

There has been a lot of backpeddling in all of the offices called on the carpet for their unfair work environments. Office holders have all put the women they have in leadership

roles in the spotlight thinking that it will divert our attention from the women who toil in the background as the worker bees of our government offices.

When they try to bring women in leadership to the forefront it was found that women only make up 35% of the president's cabinet. "The governor is proud of having a strong female chief of staff, and excellent lieutenant governor in Mary Taylor and strong, capable women in his Cabinet positions," said Kasich spokesman Rob Nicholas. However, women only make up 20% of the governor's cabinet.

I think before our leaders on the national, state and local level can talk about the gender

gap they should try leading by example. They do not have to wait for a piece of legislation to do the right thing.

As we get closer to the election, we are going to see many dueling statistics around gender related issues as our political leaders try to gain support of female voters. Critical issues in the midterm elections will be pay equity, family leave, preschool and child care. Be mindful of the source of the statistics and remember, the actions of the people asking for your vote speak much louder than their words.

Tina

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Tell your Senators in Washington that you support the Paycheck Fairness Act!

The Paycheck Fairness Act would bring transparency to worker pay by making it illegal for employers to penalize employees who discuss their salaries and by requiring the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to collect pay information from employers.

The legislation did not garner enough votes — and not a single Republican vote— to move

forward to the floor for debate. However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid voted "No" on the measure, a procedural move that will allow him to bring the legislation up again at a later date.

So take this opportunity to let your Senators know that it is way past time for women to receive equal pay for equal work.

Find contact information in your League handbook.



LWVAA Theatre Night Fundraiser!



Contains risqué humor suitable for those over 16!

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels has been described as stylish, sexy, irreverent, and Broadway musical comedy heaven."

Great raffle prizes:

- Akron General Wellness Center Lifestyles Membership (\$525 value)
- Pair of diamond hoop earrings (\$400 value)
- Silver Lake Country Club golf for four (\$280 value)
- Fleming's Steakhouse \$100 Gift Certificate
- Stan Hywet Family Membership (\$75 value)

Join us for wine, Hors d'oeuvres, cake and punch after the show!

**Friday, June 6
8:00 PM**

**Weathervane Playhouse
in the Valley**

Tickets are \$25 per person.

Make your check payable to LWVAA and send to:

Karen Merlitti, 1104 Aberdeen Circle, Stow OH 44224

Pick up your tickets at the Weathervane box office the night of the show. Please order by May 15!

Great Silent Auction Items:

- Incognito Portrait Package
- Sterling Jewelers Diamond Earrings
- Gift certificates to Halo and Nolas Salons & Spas
- Gift baskets from DeVitis, The Peanut Shoppe
- Theatre gift set to Weathervane & Papa Joe's
- Romantic Date Night Basket
- Beautiful hand-carved walnut box
- Closet consultation from A Partial Blonde
- and much, much more!*

**All proceeds go to benefit LWVAA!
Cash or check only for silent auction!**

LWVAA Thanks Contributors!

LWVAA wishes to thank the following organizations and individuals who contributed so generously in the last year:

Companies & Organizations	Fleming's Steakhouse	Sterling Jewelers	Sieglinde Hays	Marlene Miller
A Partial Blonde	Halo Salon & Spa	Wildbirds Unlimited	Ardith Keck	Amy Mitch
Akron General Wellness Center	House of Plants		Phyllis Knepper	Jane Noble
Akron Junior League	Incognito Portrait Design	Individual Contributors	Korosa	Margaret Olds
Battered Women's Shelter	Lifesource Yoga	Alvin A. Boehlke	Jessie Malkin & Sean Coffey	Joann Robb
Bruce Ford Photography	NG Energy	Jane Bond	Margaret McBride	Jane Sanders
Burntwood Tavern	Nolas Salon & Day Spa	Jodie DeLamatre	Karen Merlitti	Rosemary Spindler
Deniela Williams Premier Designs	Novelli Floral & Greenhouse	Margaret Dietz	Tina Merlitti	Marjorie Thiel
DeViti's Fine Italian Foods	Papa Joe's	Christine Freitag	Kathryn Michael	C. Richard Weaver
Dontino's Fine Italian Cuisine	The Peanut Shoppe	Sharon Gandee		
EJa's Copies	Akron Rubber Ducks	Erica & Bruce Greer		
Family Treasures	Silver Lake Country Club	Sharley & Bud Greer		



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 12, 2014. Terms are for 2014-2016.

Officers

Treasurer: Sharley Greer

Directors

Newsletter: Sarah Hegnauer

Voter Service: Diana Kingsbury

Webmaster: Bruce Greer

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 2014-2015

by Erica Greer

The League members who participated in program planning in January, 2014, 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 even-numbered year, the focus on the Program Planning meeting on January 18, 2014 was LWVUS program.

Members attending program planning reviewed LWVUS program, and did not recommend any study or updates for the coming biennium.

For local program, attendees determined whether any item of program should be dropped, updated, or retained for the City of Akron, Akron Area, and the Region. They also determine whether there is a need for a local study, and what should be the League's priorities for the coming year.

Members in attendance did not propose any local studies. The Board considered their recommendations, and then voted to recommend the following local program for League year 2014-2015, subject to revision and/or approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting:

City of Akron Program:

Retain all positions with this change:

2. Municipal Government

- d.(1) Support efforts to increase accessibility and ~~timely~~ timeliness of campaign finance information

Akron Area Program:

Retain all positions with the following change:

1. Water Quality

- a. Support for the monitoring of effects of contaminants, ~~including from oil and gas drilling~~, on water supply and monitoring of inspection processes.

- b. Support for the monitoring of effects of land use on water supply and the effects of

extraction and consumption of water by industry.

Regional Program:

Retain all positions with the following changes:

5. Social Policy

- c. Support an effective planning process, adequate funding, and provision for the most appropriate treatment and services for persons with ~~severe mental~~ disabilities.

e. Support for a policy and program that protects the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

In addition, the following will be LWVAA priorities for 2014-2015:

- 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

"Under the leadership of Chief Justice John Roberts, the Supreme Court has made it far easier to buy an election and far harder to vote in one."

Ari Berman, contributing writer for The Nation magazine and an Investigative Journalism Fellow at The Nation Institute, writing in his blog for thenation.com, April 2, 2014



Proposed Budget 2014-2015**The Budget Committee***

REVENUE	2013-2014	ACTUAL/ YTD	2014-2015
Dues	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,842.48	\$ 5,200.00
Contributions			
Community		\$75.00	
Memorials		\$375.00	
Membership	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,031.62	\$ 1,000.00
ED Fund-Share			
Operating (Phone, Rent, Computer, Insurance)	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,239.88	\$ 1,100.00
LWVUS PMP		\$1317.50	\$ 1,350.00
Interest			
Fund Raising	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Special Events	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Reserves	\$ 2325.00	1,791.24	\$ 1935.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 13,625.00	\$ 8793.10	\$ 14,785.00

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 April 30. More up-to-date figures will be available at the annual meeting.

*Paula Prentice, Chair
Meaghan Quinn
Sharley Greer, Treasurer

EXPENSES	2013-2014	ACTUAL/YTD	2014-2015
Operating			
¹ Office Operations/Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 114.23	\$ 250.00
Maintenance/Insurance	\$ 325.00	\$ 345.00	\$ 350.00
Postage	\$ 75.00		\$ 100.00
Rent	\$ 900.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 900.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1200.00	\$ 806.44	\$ 1,200.00
¹ Computer/Operations	\$ 150.00		
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 1940.67	\$ 2,800.00
Board			
President's Fund	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Publications for Board	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ 320.00		\$ 320.00
²Committees			
Membership	\$ 600.00	\$ 98.71	\$ 600.00
³ Fundraiser	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
Meetings/Programs		\$ 75.00	\$ 500.00
⁴ Special Events	\$ 500.00		
⁴ Room Rentals	\$ 200.00		
Total Committees	\$ 1800.00	\$ 393.59	\$ 1,350.00

EXPENSES (con't)	2013-2014	ACTUAL/ YTD	2014-2015
Delegates			
National Convention	\$ 1500.00		
State Convention			\$ 1,500.00
Workshops	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Total Delegates Expense	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 1,800.00
Assessment / Dues			
National PMP	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 2635.00	\$ 2,700.00
State PMP	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 1,514.07	\$ 2,015.00
Lake Erie Basin	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00
Akron Press Club	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Total Assessments/Dues	\$ 3,745.00	\$ 4,179.07	\$ 4,795.00
Communications			
Newsletter			
Printing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,075.60	\$ 1,500.00
Postage/Seals	\$ 600.00	\$ 14.82	\$ 300.00
Bulk Mail Fee	\$ 190.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Public Relations			\$ 200.00
Handbook	\$ 420.00	\$ 411.68	\$ 420.00
Voters Guide	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 262.25	\$ 600.00
New Media			\$ 500.00
Equipment			
Total Communications	\$ 3,910.00	\$ 2,988.01	\$ 3,720.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 8,686.78	\$ 14,785.00

¹These two categories were combined for the 2014-2015 budget.

²This category was formerly called Administrative Committees

³This category was formerly called PR/Fundraiser; PR was moved to Communications

⁴These two categories were folded into Meeting/Programs

Champions for the Environment!

By Roberta Aber

The skies cleared, the sun came out and on the beautiful evening of April 29, 140 people gathered at the Fairlawn Country Club to help the League of Women Voters honor Summit County women who champion the environment.

Forty women were honored for their work with 29 area organizations to protect the environment and promote sustainability. The organizations represented are an eclectic group of government agencies, parks, private non-profits and businesses.

Tina Merlitti, League of Women Voters Akron Area Board President, welcomed the crowd and described the League and

its mission. Ardith Keck, who chaired the event committee, spoke briefly about why the League honors women who are Champions for the Environment. Event committee member Barbara Hunsicker, who recently joined the League, spoke about how she became involved and encouraged others to become members.

Event committee member Katie Fry introduced the keynote speaker Elaine Marsh, Friends of the Crooked River Conservation Director. Elaine provided a rousing message about how past challenges have been overcome and what it will take to keep making progress. She recalled that when the Cuyahoga River

burned in 1969 it sparked environmental action on a national level that led to the Clean Water Act. A current challenge is the denial of science about threats to our environment.

The League presented each honoree with a Champion for the Environment certificate and a pewter sunflower pin. The sunflower was used as an emblem of the women's suffrage movement and often is used as a symbol of the environmental movement as well.

In addition to Ardith Keck, Chairperson, Katie Fry and Barbara Hunsicker, members of the event committee were Roberta Aber, Erica Greer and Karyn Katz.



LWVAA President Tina Merlitti gives opening remarks



Chair Ardith Keck and members of the committee present the honorees with their awards.



Our keynote speaker, Elaine Marsh of Friends of the Crooked River.

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**



League of Women Voters®
of the Akron Area

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IMPORTANT DATES

- May 1:** LWVAA Board Meeting 5:30 PM
CUMC 380 Mineola Ave., Akron
- May 6:** Primary Election Day
- May 11:** Mothers' Day
- May 21:** Firearm Violence as a Public Health
Issue
Summit County Red Cross, 7:00 PM
- June 6:** LWVAA Theater Night Fundraiser
Weathervane Community Playhouse
8:00 PM
- June 12:** LWVAA Annual Meeting 6-8 PM
Papa Joe's Restaurant
1561 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron



**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: _____



**Vote for civility in
civic discourse —**

**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**

**Join the League
Today!**