

News and updates from the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

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## July, 2014 Akron Voter

### LWVAA Annual Picnic

August 21 6:00 - 8:30 Shady Hollow Pavilion

Our Annual Picnic to celebrate Women's Equality Day and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment will be August 21 from 6:00 - 8:30 at the Shady Hollow Pavilion in Sand Run Metro Park. Please bring a dish to share. Plates and beverages provided.

Our speakers will be Tina Merlitti and Adam Van Ho, who will share their experiences at the recent LWVUS National Convention in Dallas.

All members and friends of the League are welcome. This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends to the important work of the League.

## President's Message

Jill Cabe, President, League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

I am honored to be the new president of LWVAA. For those of you who haven't met me (yet), I work for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and live in

the West Hill neighborhood of Akron. I am a graduate of Kent State and the University of Akron, School of Law. For the past year I have been President Elect at the League, trying to follow Tina's lead and learn about what this responsibility entails. Tina has done an amazing job working full time, parenting two children, and running the League. She is a tremendously knowledgeable I am a long way from knowing all that I need to, but with a strong Board and willing members I hope together we can continue to make a difference for the voters of Akron and the surrounding region.

Our neighbors to the north in Cuyahoga Country have just announced a historic merger of three Leagues into one larger and more robust organization. Here in Summit County we are just beginning to consider a merger with our sister Leagues of Tallmadge and Hudson. While all three Leagues need to meet with their members and consider the benefits and risks of a merger, we have already agreed to work together to more closely coordinate program planning and events. LWVAA needs someone who would be interested in working with Hudson and Tallmadge around program planning to coordinate schedules. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please email me at [lwvaa@lwvaa.org](mailto:lwvaa@lwvaa.org) and I will happy to talk with your further about the time commitment and our work.

Our current Board also needs a Newsletter Editor and Program Planning Director. Both positions offer an excellent chance to make an impact on the public's awareness of the League and the issues we believe in. As you have no doubt noticed, we are moving our monthly newsletter to an electronic format in an effort to reduce costs and increase impact. We are also considering changes to our programming schedule in addition to coordinating with the other Summit County Leagues. These opportunities are a fantastic way to meet new, committed activists and expand the skill set of someone interested in nonprofits. If you or anyone you know would be interested in serving the League in these capacities please email me at [lwvaa@lwvaa.org](mailto:lwvaa@lwvaa.org) and we will set a up a time to talk.

## **2013 - 2014 Ed Fund Donations**

Janice Jacobs, Project Director

We appreciate all the contributions made for the 2013 - 2014 fiscal year. Your generosity allows us to continue the valuable work of encouraging the entire Akron Area Community to engage in the process of democracy. Many thanks!!

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Remember, all contributions to the Ed Fund are tax deductible. Our 501(C)3 status also allows us to pay a significant amount of the Akron Area League State and National PMP and half of the office operating expenses. If you haven't already, please consider a contribution to the Ed Fund today.

## Cuyahoga Leagues Merge

Three Leagues become one

Congratulations to our sister Leagues up north as they celebrate the culmination of many hours of hard work. Their new merged organization is called the [League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland](#). Many of the smaller legacy Leagues will remain as chapters of the new larger League and the Ed Funds will merge. Maryann Barnes is the president of this newly formed League that will now serve all of Cuyahoga County.

## 2014 Voter Information

From LWVO

Dear League Members:

NEW! Updated 2014 Voter Information resources are now available from LWW Ohio.

Wondering what voting rules are in place this year? We have your answers!

- [2014 Changes to Ohio Election Law Factsheet](#)

- [Voting 1-2-3: 3 Ways to Cast Your Ballot](#)
- [Voting 1-2-3: For College Students](#)
- [Voting 1-2-3: Ohio Voter Registration](#)
- [Voting 1-2-3: Voter ID](#)

These free resources are available to download, print, or share online. Print copies may be ordered by contacting the LWVO office at [614-469-1505](tel:614-469-1505).

Thank you,

Carrie Davis  
Executive Director  
League of Women Voters of Ohio/Education Fund

# Dike 14 Action Alert

Mary Lou Gault

**URGENT - THERE'S STILL TIME TO CONTACT ODNR DIRECTOR TO ASK FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON PORT AUTHORITY'S APPLICATION FOR 50-YEAR LEASE OF THE CLEVELAND LAKEFRONT NATURE PRESERVE!**

Dear Friends of the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve,

We learned yesterday that ODNR is still reviewing the Port Authority's application - so there is still time (one or two weeks) to contact the ODNR Director to ask for a PUBLIC HEARING on the Port's application for a 50-year lease of the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve/Dike 14.

On May 9th we submitted comments to and made a second request of the ODNR Director for a public hearing regarding the Port Authority's application to lease the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve/Dike 14 for the next 50 years. SEE ATTACHED

The public hearing requests that we and many of you made earlier this year and earlier this month have been received by ODNR, but the Director has yet to grant us a public hearing.

We strongly believe that before ODNR decides on the Port's application for a 50-year lease of the Nature Preserve, ODNR should hear from the citizens of

**Ohio!**

**YOU CAN HELP** by contacting ODNR and urging the Director to hold a public hearing on the Port's application for a 50-year lease of the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

**U.S. mail:**

**Mr. James Zehringer, Director  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road, Building D  
Columbus, OH 43229**

**E-mail:**

[james.zehringer@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:james.zehringer@dnr.state.oh.us)

**Online ODNR Comment Form:**

<http://www2.ohiodnr.gov/contact>

**We remain very concerned that the Port:**

- has not made public any plan to properly manage the CLNP;
- has not budgeted funds for the proper management of the CLNP, or indicated the ongoing source of funding for the operation and maintenance of the CLNP: and
- continues to see the 88-acre Nature Preserve site as a potential location to dump dredge material.

If granted, this Lease would identify *the use* of the 88-acres as the *Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve*, which is a good thing. But this Lease would also give the Port Authority *perpetual and absolute* control over this important and unique green space on our lakefront, which is not necessarily a good thing.

The Port is not in the business of operating and managing nature preserves. It has no experience, no expertise, and a nature preserve will never be the Port's first priority.

The Port's budgeting for the CLNP is a question. In our recent public records request we asked the Port for any documents related to budgeting for the

Nature Preserve, and the Port had no documents to provide.

On the Lease Application the Port provided no information or any details about the Port's plans for the Nature Preserve. Neither did the Port include any management plan for the Nature Preserve among the attachments to the Lease Application.

The ODNR decision on the Port's Lease Application should include consideration of whether the public interest in this critically important and uniquely significant Nature Preserve on the Cleveland lakefront will be properly met, and whether the lessee, the Port, is capable, ready and willing to properly operate and manage this lakefront land as a nature preserve over the next 50 years.

Here are some questions that need to be answered:

- 1) Why isn't the Cleveland Metroparks applying for the Lease for CLNP, since the Metroparks recently took over the entire Cleveland Lakefront Park System from the State of Ohio, including Gordon Park, which is adjacent to the Nature Preserve? (Note: The Metroparks has been doing much of the work at the Nature Preserve, such as creating the trails, etc.)
- 2) What are the Port's plans for the Nature Preserve in the short run and the long run? Where is the management plan for the Preserve? Who prepared or is preparing it? What input has or will the public have in the Preserve's management?
- 3) How much has the Port budgeted for the next 3-5 years for the Nature Preserve?
- 4) What will be the permanent source of funding for the Nature Preserve from among the Port's revenue sources?
- 5) Where will the Port get the expertise necessary to properly manage the Preserve?
- 6) ADD YOUR OWN QUESTION(S) HERE!

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The DIKE 14 NATURE PRESERVE COMMITTEE welcomes and is open to all

persons and organizations interested in the conservation of the existing 88-acre Lake Erie coastal wildlife area at Dike 14, for the benefit of wildlife and people. Diverse habitats at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (at Dike 14) provide essential sanctuary for significant numbers and diversity of migratory birds as well as refuge for nesting and resident birds and other wildlife. Unique to Cleveland's shoreline, this wildlife area provides the only quality habitat for migratory birds along 100-miles of urbanized Lake Erie coast between Huron and Mentor. The Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee advocates the preservation of Dike 14 as a nature preserve with judicious public access. Since January 2001, the Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee has functioned as a clearinghouse, an information source and a point of contact for Dike 14 issues.

Barbara A. Martin, Chair, Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee, [440-243-9070](tel:440-243-9070)  
[barbaramartin2001@juno.com](mailto:barbaramartin2001@juno.com)

Bill Gruber, Vice Chair, Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee, [216-371-3570](tel:216-371-3570)  
[gruberwl@aol.com](mailto:gruberwl@aol.com)

Victoria Peterlin, Treasurer, Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee, [440-221-2902](tel:440-221-2902)

*Save Ohio's Migratory Birds & Wildlife Habitats @ Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (at Dike 14)*

## **S.O.A.P Project**

**July 27 1:00 - 6:00 pm Oasis Facility, 847 Crouse St. Akron**

The Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking is partnering with BeFree, a human trafficking non-profit organization based in Dayton, who will provide an in-depth training to adult volunteers willing to approach managers about maintaining a traffick free hotel.

Twenty-five teams, comprised of four adult volunteers per team will travel to assigned hotels and motels located in Summit County. With a box of soap, a bag of materials, and a script in hand, you will be approaching the managers and encouraging them to replace current bars of soap in their rooms with the bars of soap paid for by a grant from The Women's Endowment Fund.

Victims of human trafficking are often left alone while bathing so this is a perfect time to send them a hidden message. There will be a phone number for the National Human Trafficking Hotline written inside the soap wrapper. Once a victim of human trafficking calls the hotline number, the worker is trained to talk



to the caller about escaping.

**TO PARTICIPATE** [YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE](#)

**QUESTIONS? Contact Belinda Wing of the Hudson LWV at  
belindawing3@gmail.com**



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