

LWVAA January, 2015

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January, 2015



LWVAA Upcoming Events

January 15
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

January 17
Program Planning
Main Library
10:00 - 12:00

February 6
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

President's Message

Tuesday morning I will not be at work. Instead, coffee in hand, I will be at the Summit County Courthouse to report for jury duty. My name was chosen from the list of voter rolls to be summoned as a prospective juror. In Summit County, jury selection is not based on the list of driver's license holders. [It is based on the list of active voters.](#) It seems reasonable at first glance, doesn't it? Those who vote care about the community; they take their civic responsibility seriously. They would be ideal jurors due to their obvious commitment to the democratic process.

You know what they else they tend to be? Old, wealthy, and white. That is not in and of itself a bad thing. It just isn't enough. [The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press breaks down demographic data on non-voters](#) (and so non-jurors in Summit County) and they tend to be younger, poorer, and non-white. By not voting, a large contingent of our local population is not even considered for jury duty.

This situation is a call to action for the League. We need to increase the voter registration numbers in

March 31
Statehouse Day
Columbus

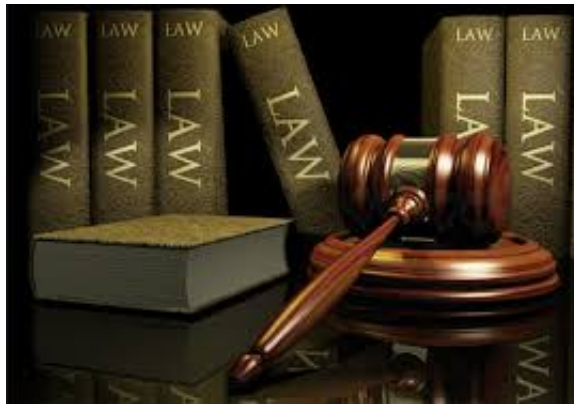
May 15-17
LWVO Convention
Cincinnati

Summit County to increase participation in the democratic process. Sadly, at our recent voter registration events, more than one person has refused to register because he or she did not want to be called for jury duty. They would abdicate participation in their fundamental right to vote on taxes, political representation, and other issues directly affecting life in this community to *avoid* serving a jury.

But serving on a jury is not just a exercise in democracy, it is also an education in the court system and how it works. By only using the voter rolls for the jury pool, Summit County is denying the defendants a more diverse jury pool. It is also denying the prospective jurors the opportunity to serve the community and learn a basic lesson in civic participation. Finally, the League may be able to increase the number of registered voters if voting was not the only way to be called for jury duty.

League member Roberta Aber recently investigated how the determination to only use voter records is made. In Summit County we have two jury commissioners responsible for pulling the names for prospective jurors. The Summit County Court of Common Pleas could, by court order, instruct those commissioners to use the driver's license list in addition to the voter list. That is all it would take to spread the opportunity for jury service to a much broader swath of Summit County residents - including those who are younger and more diverse ethnically and economically. Such a change would benefit defendants, prospective jurors, and the political system generally as an impetus to participation in and understanding of the democratic process.

Jill C. Cove



New Board Meeting Policy

Our Board recently created a new policy for meeting attendance. This policy was passed unanimously. Please review our new policy regarding attending LWVAA Board meetings.

League members in good standing may request to attend a Board meeting by providing notice to the League President or Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Either the President or the Secretary may decline any member's request for good cause, but that reason must be presented to the member in writing and read into the minutes of the Board meeting in question. League members may participate at a designated time on the agenda.

Non-League members are permitted to attend provided that they receive an invitation from a Board member who has notified the Board President at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The Board President may decline any request of a non-League member to attend. Non-League members who receive permission to attend may observe, but may not participate, unless invited to speak by a Board member.



LWVAA Web Site Update

by Bruce Greer

In April 2010 the Board introduced a makeover of our LWVAA website with expanded information about our activities directed toward our members as well as the general public. One of our main goals was to become the “go to” place for local voter information on the web. Another goal was to provide an ongoing resource for our members, offering information about current activities and meetings as well as an archive of past meetings, newsletters, and Voters' Guides.

We can measure the effectiveness of our website based on a vast array of user statistics. These “stats” include an incredible amount of details which are helpful tools to monitor our progress. Visitors to our website typically arrive by one of three methods:

- Direct address (including book marks, favorites, and links from email)
- Internet search engines (such as Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc.)
- Links from an external page (from other websites such as Akron Summit Public Library, Smartvoter, LWVOhio, Facebook, Twitter, etc)

We continue to see an increase in the number of visitors to our website. In the recent past, our website has experienced the most traffic during the election months when visitors are accessing our Voters' Guide and other related election information. But this is beginning to change as we see a steady stream of visits throughout the year. We averaged 58 visits per day during 2014.

User stats from the last 5 years show the following:

Year	Unique Visitors	Total Visits (visits per visitor)	Visits in Oct & Nov (%)	Avg. Visits per Day
2010	4231	7242 (1.71)	2198 (30.3%)	19.6
2011	4381	6386 (1.46)	2175 (34.1%)	17.5
2012	6748	10270 (1.52)	4267 (41.5%)	28.1
2013	7673	17066 (2.22)	3443 (20.2%)	46.8
2014	10285	21274 (2.07)	5497 (25.8%)	58.3

Editor's Note: Thank you to Bruce for all his hard work keeping our web site up to date.



Acme Cash Back

Don't stop saving your receipts from Acme for our Cash Back fundraiser. Receipts can be collected and saved until February 4. Please send your collected receipts no later than February 20 to Janice Jacobs at P.O. Box 26 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222.



LWVO Supports Issue 1

At the recent LWVO board meeting, the state board discussed the redistricting reform measure (HJR12) that was passed by the legislature in December. The LWVO Board voted to support the redistricting reform proposal that will be on the November 2015 ballot as Issue 1.

The proposal meets many of the criteria in the LWVO position:

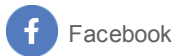
- *LWVO's position on redistricting calls for a bi-partisan redistricting board.* The proposal calls for a redistricting commission made up of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State and 2 majority party appointees and 2 minority party appointees. There must be bi-partisan approval of any plan that is to last for the entire decade. This is a big step forward because not only is the commission bi-partisan, but there is a requirement that both parties approve the maps.
- *LWVO's position encourages citizen participation.* The proposal calls for 3 public hearings around the state to seek input after the commission selects proposed maps and before it makes final selections. It also requires that all meetings be open to the public and that they be broadcast electronically in a medium readily accessible by the general public.
- *LWVO's position calls for districts to be compact and follow local political boundaries as much as possible.* The proposal strictly requires districts to be within a single county or to be made up of people in counties next to each other. If that isn't possible, the commission must respect municipal, township and ward boundaries. This should produce districts that make more sense to voters who are already familiar with the local political boundaries.

There is bi-partisan support for this proposal. The League is looking forward to working with traditional coalition partners, as well as other supporters of the ballot issue, in educating voters about the way this proposal could give us representatives who better reflect voters' political values.

It should be noted that Issue 1 only addresses how districts are drawn for the Ohio Legislature, not Congress. Addressing state gerrymandering is progress, which is why LWVO chose to support Issue 1. The League will continue to work for Congressional redistricting.



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