

LWVAA February, 2015

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LWVAA Upcoming Events

February 26
Sunshine Laws and
Observer Corps
Training
Hudson Library
6:15 - 7:45

March 4
LWVGC OH
Constitution
CSU Cleveland-
Marshall College of
Law
1801 Euclid Ave.
5:00 pm

March 5
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

President's Message

When the cold descends like this, one of my favorite things to do is plan for spring. Seed catalogs and paint chips appear like harbingers of spring. Drawers and closets are cleaned out. Make room! Make way! Change is coming and it is worth the effort.

Our League is starting to change too. We have shifted our newsletter to an on-line version and our handbook too. The newsletter will soon be consolidated with Hudson and Tallmadge and we will share a rotating editorship to ease the burden on all the Leagues and alleviate duplicate articles. We have multiple openings on our Board (including newsletter editor, if anyone is interested). While we still meet at the church on Mineola, we are having issues with locking the door at our Board meetings. The rent may go up since the church recently realized we have no signed agreement to use their facility. Our internet and phone were recently bundled and are now higher together than they were separately. We have not had 100% attendance at a Board meeting in several months. As we begin 2015, it is time to pursue a merger with the other two local Leagues and become a county-wide group.

March 31

LWVO Statehouse
Day
Columbus, Ohio

April 15

Education Forum
Akron Summit County
Public Library Main
Auditorium
5:30 - 7:30

May 15-17

LWVO State
Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio

I know several of our past and current members do not want to leave the office on Mineola, but I am afraid we increasingly cannot maintain the luxury of the space. We could easily pay for a post office box (cheaper than rent) and Google voice number and handle much of the administration of the League from home via email. Our Board could meet at a public library or the meeting room of a restaurant as easily as meet at the church.

None of these changes could possibly happen overnight. We need to discuss our options and would appreciate input from our members about what would be both economical and efficient. We have the Ed Fund to consider as well, since the other Leagues do not maintain a separate Ed Fund and Akron does. However, our current situation is untenable. We are trying to plan an Educational Forum event in April and need volunteers interested in educational issues to assist with lining up speakers, greeting guests and publicity. The Akron League cannot rely solely on our Board members and a few stalwart members to fulfill our mission to the community. We need to recruit and mentor members and improve our community outreach and exposure. This is a proud and respected organization and it can and should continue. But we need to clean our closets and plan for our future.



Happy 95th Birthday to LWV!

Don't we look fabulous at age 95? February 14 was the national League's 95th anniversary. On this day in 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt during National American Woman Suffrage Association convention. Six months later the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. Let's take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, celebrate what we have achieved as an organization, and plan our goals for the future.



Program Planning Report

Our annual Program Planning Meeting was held January 16 at the Akron Summit County Public Library. Former president Tina Merlitti graciously led the meeting and submitted our findings to LWVO. We reviewed our current positions and made two recommendations for changes to our regional positions.

1. Under Apportionment in Government changed "political boundaries" to "governmental boundaries."
2. Added the Tuscarawas watershed to the language supporting protection of our local watersheds.

Our Board passed both of these unanimously. The updates are in the current handbook, which was recently emailed to members.



Acme Cash Back

Mail your Acme receipts to Janice Jacobs at P.O. Box 26 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222 by February 20. Receipts must be dated up until February 4.



LWVGC OH Constitution Presentation

The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland and Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (1801 Euclid Ave.) will present a Hot Topic discussion in the school's Moot Court Room on Wednesday, March 4 at 5 p.m. The one-hour lecture, "The History and the Future of the Ohio Constitution," will be presented by Cleveland-Marshall's Dean Emeritus, Steven Steinglass, senior policy advisor for the bipartisan Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission.

Steinglass will review the history of constitutional revision in Ohio from 1802 to the present. The discussion will focus on the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission's current efforts to revise the constitution on a wide range of issues, including congressional redistricting, term limits, privacy, voting, the initiative/referendum, and education. The League of Women Voters of Ohio has been deeply involved with the Constitutional Modernization Commission, testifying on numerous occasions. More information is available on the LWVO website at

<http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Issues-Advocacy/Government/Constitutional-Modernization.cfm>

The program is free and open to the public, and offers attendees one hour of free continuing legal education credit. Preregistration is not required.



Observer Corps Training

Please join LWVH Observer trainers, Belinda Wing and Pat Simons, on February 26 from 6:15 - 7:45 at the Hudson Library , South Flood Room, for a streamlined observer corps training session.

This is a one-time only opportunity in 2015 that will train members to provide important service to our League, local government, and the public while enhancing individual knowledge and expertise.

Our Akron League would welcome new observers and we have many opportunities to observe that would work around your schedule. Observers attend meetings and note what occurs but do not anticipate. They are important representatives of the larger public and help hold our public agencies accountable to the voters. Anyone from the Akron League wishing to be an observer can contact Jodi Delamatre (jmgd3@neo.rr.com) about local opportunities and is welcome to attend this training.

This is LWV members-only training. Please RSVP by February 24, 2015 to Pat Simons: pjsimons@hotmail.com or [330-650-5279](tel:330-650-5279).



Great Lakes Updates

Farm run off is still a pressing issue in the Great Lakes region. *The Columbus Dispatch* recently [published an article](#) about this issue that may be of interest to our activists. Also, you can keep up with other water quality news by reading the [Great Lakes Information Network's Daily News \(GLIN\)](#)



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