

LWVAA March, 2015

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March, 2015

**LWVAA Upcoming Events**

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

March 14
Lunafest Film Festival
UU Church of Akron
3300 Morewood Road
3:00 and 7:00 pm

March 27
Silenced at CIFF
Tower City Cinemas
9:05 pm

March 28
Silenced at CIFF

President's Message

Fifty years ago men, women, and children in Selma tried to walk across a bridge. They were met with dogs, guns, sticks and the brute rage of the state arrayed against them. Did they want to loot? Rob? Kill? No, they wanted to vote. This was apparently an act so shocking and terrifying to the power structure of the day that it was met with rage and violence rather than let the marchers pass.

Oh how times change, right? Now I wasn't there, so I was not a part of the culture and I didn't experience the debates that tore through the country back then. I only see the photos. Watch the movies. And as a result it is very, very difficult for me to understand how anyone could have thought the country would collapse due to black people voting.

Now we have a black man as president and so we have ostensibly progressed. Black people vote and hold office, so those days are behind us. So regrettable, but no longer an issue. Wrong. First of all the vote is under attack in ways more insidious than a stick or a bullet. Instead voter id laws, decrease in polling stations, the specter of voting fraud, and gerrymandering are all working far more effectively and

Tower City Cinemas
11:30 am

March 31
Statehouse Day
Columbus, OH

April 2
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

April 15
Education Forum
Akron Summit County
Public Library
Main Auditorium
5:30 - 7:30

May 15-17
LWVO State
Convention
Cincinnati, OH

June 4
LWVAA Annual
Meeting

well within the system to deny blacks and the poor the opportunity to vote.

When you don't understand something look to see who benefits. Who benefits from blacks and poor whites and Hispanics not voting? The wealthy and entrenched. It's not that overt, ugly racism of the past because the threat to voting rights is applied equally across all races - denying access to those who might vote in opposition to the established power and wealth of our time.

As League member you know this. Voting rights is on-going work to protect the rights of the many against the interests of the few. But the Selma of our times is not voting rights. It is gay marriage and access to health care. These are the current issues and ideological struggles that will make the children who will be born in five years look back and say "What on earth were you *thinking?*" as I do now when looking at the photos of a bridge in Alabama. "You let the poor die? You denied a social compact and legal rights to two people who want to love each other publicly?"

As League members, as educated citizens of our country with wealth and opportunity, we have an obligation to use our power and access to not to merely protect those who lack such gifts, but rather to share our power and opportunity with others. We ourselves must be a new-day bridge for those who lack the rights they clamor for – whether it is marriage, voting, or health care. We must make way for them through the thicket of legal attacks, power mongering, and fear and rage, and welcome them to the other side, our side.

Jill C. Cove



Please like [our Facebook page](#), and let us know what topics you want to see us cover. We currently use this to post updates on programs, posts from Ohio and National LWV, and to

share various news items.

If you [enjoy our Facebook page](#), please rate it by clicking the stars on the upper left hand side. This helps us give a positive impression to new visitors!

LWVAA Sponsors CIFF Film

***Silenced* showing March 27 at 9:05 pm and March 28 at 11:30 am**

LWVAA is proud to announced our community sponsorship of the film [Silenced](#) at the [39th Cleveland International Film Festival](#).

From the CIFF's website: " SILENCED is an alarming documentary that takes us behind the scenes to hear the story of how two men, heroic in their level of patriotism, became two of only 11 people ever charged under the archaic Espionage Act of 1917 (eight under the Obama administration). Proving that whistleblower protection laws are the very foundation of a free republic, this film makes the argument that since 9/11, there has been an ever-blurring line between what is right and what is treasonous. "

Tickets for this important and interesting film go on sale March 6th. The film will be screened at Tower City Cinemas in downtown Cleveland. Our customized Discount Code for \$2.00 off any ticket purchase is "LWVAA". This is how to redeem a \$2.00 discount for a 39th CIFF ticket purchase:

Online: Use the code **LWVAA** when purchasing tickets at www.clevelandfilm.org (available 24 hours a day).

Phone: Use the code **LWVAA** when calling the Film Festival Box Office at 877.304.FILM (3456).

In-person: Use the code **LWVAA** at the Film Festival Box Office in the Tower City Cinemas lobby.

Thank you to League members Jodi and Ned

Delamatre for arranging this wonderful opportunity for our League.



Acme CashBack Report

by Janice Jacobs

We are awaiting our CashBack check for 2014-2015, in the amount of, \$185.21. This is about \$6.00 less than last year; a very small difference. Of course, that means we have room for improvement next year!

Our gratitude to the fine folks at Acme. Throughout 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 and Friends for faithfully saving and submitting their tapes. As the deadline date got closer and closer my mail box was crowded with large envelopes. It was heartwarming!

Again, it all happens because of you!! Thanks to the following:

Anonymous

Roberta Aber

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Jill Cabe
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Jodie & Ned DeLamatre
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Sharon Gandee
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Bonnie Horovitz
Janice Jacobs
Ardith & Bill Keck
Mary King
Diana Kingsbury
M. Sharon Lane
Mrs. James Mather
Amy Mitch
Jean & John Questel
Jane Sanders
Sandra Smith
Rosemary Spindler
Marge Thiel



Upcoming LWVAA Events

After a hard winter the League is working on several events for spring and the coming year. We are attending Lunafest, a women's film festival, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron on Saturday, March 14. We will have League members at a information table to for festival attendees to learn about

membership opportunities and regenerate voters.

We will be at the Cleveland International Film Festival as community sponsor of Silenced and League members will be speaking briefly before both showings of the film.

We are planning an Education Forum with Hudson and Tallmadge to provide information to the community about current issues in education. This will be on April 15 at the Auditorium of the Main Library in downtown Akron. It is free and open to the public.

Spring will bring more membership events and voter outreach. State League convention is in May in Cincinnati and Barbara and Oscar Hunsicker will be attending as our voting delegates.

Cast off your parkas and join us! Invite your friends and family to attend the Education Forum, participate in Observer Corps, and meet engaged and active community members throughout our greater Akron region.



[Join us today](#) to support democracy, nonpartisan political action, and voter rights in your community.



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