

LWVAA July, 2015

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**LWVAA Upcoming Events**

August 19
Akron Mayoral Debate
Quaker Station
11:30 - 2:00

August 20
LWVAA Board
Meeting
Shady Hollow Pavilion
5:00 - 5:45

August 20
Annual Picnic
Shady Hollow Pavilion
Sand Run Metro Park
6:00 - 7:30

President's Message

How's your garden? Mine is soggy. Watching the weather this summer as we luxuriate in this water makes me glad to live in NE Ohio. We have a low cost of living, great housing, easy access to parks, and strong schools. We also have an aging population and a long slow climb out of the economic collapse of heavy manufacturing. But local leadership opportunities for young people who are not mired in nostalgia for our sooty but wealthy past are finally beginning to appear. The recent [Akron Beacon Journal](#) series of articles on leadership and the Millennials showcases both the desire for leadership opportunities and the need for existing organizations to open their doors and Boards to eager community members. Organizations like [Torchbearers](#) attract and develop leaders for today and tomorrow. The League should do the same.

Our membership event on September 17 is one of the upcoming opportunities to reach out to the new leaders in our community and network to build connections between organizations and recruit new members. This is not a polite invitation to other groups for a beer and small talk; this is our organization grasping for a lifeline to the future. Without increased membership and intentional recruitment of young women and men it is

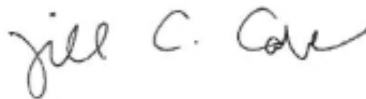
September 10
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

September 17
Young Voters Event
Barley House
6:00 - 7:30

October 1
LWVAA Board
Meeting
380 Mineola
6:00 - 7:30

doubtful that this organization can survive, let alone thrive, well into the mid-21st century.

We are lucky in that we have a strong foundation. Our finances are stable, if not exactly flourishing (which reminds me, please [renew your membership](#)). We have a good reputation in the community, the kerfluffle of last fall notwithstanding. We have a core of experienced and smart women and men who are committed to voter service and community education. Let's build on that foundation and focus our work on the future of democracy in our community - expanding our reach and our impact by actively seeking the input and participation of new voices. The leaders of tomorrow must join us today for the work of the League to continue.



Akron Mayoral Debate August 19

The Akron Press Club will present a debate among the Democratic candidates in the Akron mayoral primary on **Wednesday, August 19**, at the University of Akron's Quaker Station.

The debate is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area and the University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics. The moderator of the debate and the journalists who will pose the questions will be selected by the Press Club.

All Democratic candidates who are certified by the Summit County Board of Elections for the September primary have been invited to participate in the debate.

There will not be a primary debate for Republican candidates since there is only one candidate. The Press Club is planning a debate in the fall between the Democratic primary winner and the Republican candidate, who will face off in the November general election.

Doors open at 11:00 and the luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 19. Program follows. The debate will be held at Quaker Station, 135 South Broadway (free parking behind the building). The cost is

- \$20 for Press Club members, \$25 for non-members.
- Early bird discount of \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members for reservations made by Wednesday, August 12.
- \$25 for all reservations made after Friday, August 14 (members and non-members).

Reservations are requested. Contact Lianne Fowler, Press Club administrator, at 330-552-8860 or akronpressclub@gmail.com. Cash or check only accepted day of luncheon. Please reserve your seat by 12:00 pm on Friday, August 14. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 48 hours before the event. After that time, there will be no refunds and an invoice will be issued for payment.



Annual Picnic August 20

Our annual picnic in celebration of Women's Equality Day will be August 20 from 6:00 - 7:30 at Shady Hollow Pavilion in Sand Run Metro Park. The League will provide beverages and paper supplies and all members and friends are asked to bring a dish to share. Barbara Hunsicker will be presenting on her experiences at this year's LWVO convention in Cincinnati. RSVP to lwvaa@lwvaa.org to confirm your attendance.

If you have not renewed your membership yet the picnic is a great opportunity to bring along your checkbook and renew!

WOMEN'S
EQUALITY DAY

*Celebrating
Women's
Right to Vote*

Young Voters Event September 17

The Value of Young Voters

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, September 17th as the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area hosts an event that highlights the importance of young voters in the political process.

From 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the Barley House in downtown Akron, LWVAA will host League members and special guests for a fun and informative evening where we will hear from several speakers who will address how young voters (18-35 years old) contribute to the political process. Members and friends of all ages are needed to reach out and encourage our young people to be active and informed voters. Food will be served and more information will be forthcoming. For questions, please contact Diana Kingsbury, Voter Service chair, at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com.



Meet Barbara Hunsicker

Barbara Hunsicker is the new President-Elect for LWVAA. She will assume the role of President in

2016.

I am happy to have the opportunity to introduce myself to my fellow League members. My name is Barbara Hardy Hunsicker. I grew up in Akron and when I was 20, moved to Hawaii and then to the San Francisco Bay area, where I lived for 27 years. I returned to the Akron area in 2006 and married my childhood sweetheart. I am happy to be close to my family and old friends again, and am thrilled that my 29 year-old daughter has moved to the area. I retired from a career in non-profit management in 2012 and have had no problem keeping busy.

My interest in the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area began when I attended a League-sponsored forum on health care reform. I was welcomed as a volunteer and have participated in developing several League programs in the past few years. I strongly believe in the mission of the League and am honored to be the LWVAA President-elect in 2015-16.

In addition to my work with the LWVAA, I am a certified counselor for the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP), helping people understand and select the best Medicare plans for themselves. I also keep busy with other volunteer work and yoga, as well as spending lots of time with my family and friends.



LWVO Study Opportunity

A new LWVO committee to study Primary Election Systems expects to get underway this summer. The committee consists of ten members so far, from local Leagues in the Cleveland, Youngstown, Oberlin, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati areas. If LWVAA members are interested in joining the committee, they should email Lynda Mayer from the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland Area at lbmayer57@gmail.com. Non-member academics or experts are also welcome.

There will be a few in-person meetings but mostly the committee will meet by phone, in order to choose leadership, decide how to approach the data and share what they are learning. Materials should be out to local Leagues before this time next year, in preparation for information and consensus meetings early in the 2016-17 League year.



Lake Erie Basin Annual Meeting July 15

The LWV of Lake Erie Basin Committee will hold its Annual meeting on July 15, 2015 at Beach House Condominiums, 22500 Lake Road, Rocky River, OH 44116 from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Bring a lunch to enjoy along the Lake Erie shore (beverages will be provided). If you are planning on attending the meeting, please email Marty Sickinger at martyj@windstream.net. For more information, [click here](#).



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