

LWVAA August, 2015

[View this email in your browser](#)

August, 2015



LWVAA Upcoming Events

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

August 20
 LWVAA Board
 Meeting
 Shady Hollow Pavilion
 Sand Run Metro Park
 5:00 - 5:45

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

President's Message

In Akron we're lucky. We are still in many ways a small town. We know each other. Though we may not always agree, we are a community. And for many years the League has been a trusted member of the community providing non-partisan information to our voters. Last year we had editorial errors in our *Voters' Guide* that resulted in the retraction of our printed guide from the various locations around town. We updated our on-line version as quickly as we could, but we still struggled to provide the high quality and reliable information that our voters have come to expect. We apologized. We accepted the responsibility for our mistakes. But we never, ever, made a partisan decision throughout the entire process.

This year we again began to prepare a *Voters' Guide* for the primary election (the primary *Voters' Guide* will be on-line only). Akron has several candidates this season, many of them new to political scene. We know that voters will be interested in reading about the mayoral slate and the many city council races. As in years past, a committee met to determine the questions we felt would be most pertinent to our local voters. We then set up a way for the candidates to respond to those questions on-line. We promised in our

September 10

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

September 17

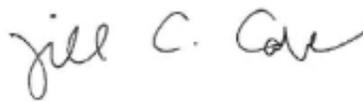
Young Voters Event
Barley House
6:00 - 7:30

October 1

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

candidate's letter that we would not "alter, edit, correct or evaluate" their responses except for length (we have a fifty word limit) and that "candidates are solely responsible for the truth of their statements." Much to our surprise and dismay at least seven candidates so far have responded, "Due to the local League of Women Voters reckless disregard for accuracy in the 2014 Voters Guide, I must respectfully decline to participate in your voters guide this year. "

We were surprised. We were hurt. We were angry. But we have decided to publish the responses as they were submitted. We will keep our promise to the candidates and in doing so keep our commitment to our community. This is who you are voting for; these are the people in our community. Their own words speak far louder than any editorial. There is no need for partisanship. We never have favored one party over another and we never will. Let the candidates speak for themselves. Their attempts to attack the League and punish us for our mistakes over a year later demonstrate their lack of respect not only for the League but for the voters of Akron. You decide who you want to lead. We will continue to provide you the information you need to make the best choice for you – and for all of us.



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, our new President-Elect, 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*

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.

- \$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](tel: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.



Young Voters 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 Services Chair, at kingsbury.diana@gmail.com.



Millennial Voter Engagement

Up For Debate Events in August

The Jefferson Center recently won a Knight Foundation grant to energize and inform young voters in Akron. They are holding two events in the near future. Here are the details:

- Friday, August 21 at Mustard Seed Market in Highland Square, 6:00pm-8:30pm
- Saturday, August 22 at the Akron Public Library - North Hill Branch, 11:00am-1:30pm

They are inviting Akronites under 35 to discuss the recent mayoral debates, assess what the candidates are saying and how the media is covering the race, and deliberate about the priorities of younger residents. The discussion will be relatively informal, with some exercises to get conversation going. Attendees should ideally plan to be there the whole time, but they will create ways for people that show up later to participate. Food and drinks will be available at each event.

Attendees can register (though they're not required to register) at jefferson-center.org/akron/



Observer Corps Report : APS

Submitted by Ray and Karen Barta

APS Board of Education meeting, August 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by president Lisa Mansfield.

Community and school reflections: Board member Bruce Alexander talked about attending a seminar in Atlanta that focused on equity in education and about a workshop in Columbus about school report cards. Board member Veronica Sims talked about attending a prayer vigil held by young people who feel hopeless about many things but are still able to feel hopeful about some aspects of life.

People addressing the board: Gladys Ingersoll, who addressed the board a year ago about the same issue, is still concerned about the property of the former Harris School. It is across the street from her house, and she says it is being used by young people who hang out there and drink. She requested that the pile of mulch be removed and the rusted fence taken down. She said the neighbor who was with her last year and who addressed the board about the same situation could not be there because he was working. Tiffney Gary addressed the board in executive session. Denise Baba of the Ohio School Board Association North East Region Executive Committee presented a certificate of recognition to board member Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker, Sr. She also reminded the board that OSBA opposes House Bill 70 and asked for the board's support. The board noted that they already have a resolution opposing HB 70. Jonathan Greer and Andrew Ziccardi spoke about a grant received by the Office of Student Support and Security for a mentoring program, *I C.A.R.E. Mentoring: Become Part of the Solution*. The grant, they explained, targets students in grades 5-12 and links them with a responsible adult from the community. The grant provides training for the adults.

Minutes were approved and the superintendent's recommendations were approved.

New administrators to the district were introduced.

Board president Lisa Mansfield shared her experience

of being in Europe with choirs from Miller South.

Committee report: Rev. Walker explained that he and Veronica Sims have drawn up a new graduation policy for the 2018 graduation. He will explain it in greater detail at the next meeting.

At 7:06, the board went into executive session.

Note: Besides the LWVAA and those there because of board appointments or addresses to the board, about five people were present as observers, which is more than usual.

APS Board of Education meeting, July 27, 2015

At 5:30 p.m., vice president Bruce Alexander called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a high school ROTC cadets from Garfield High School.

Community and school reflections were shared by board members Veronica Sims, Tim Miller, Rev. Curtis Walker, and Bruce Alexander.

A presentation on on-line school was given by Marcie Ebright, APS technology specialist. A pilot project for on-line education was put into place during the fourth grading period of the last school year—spring, 2015. She referred to students who participated in this project as “pioneers.” Students described their experiences with the project in videos, on tape, or in person. The students’ responses were positive with excellent reviews for their teacher/mentor. Ebright said goals are to expand enrollment to K-12, have more mentors on staff, and strengthen and support infrastructure and use existing systems. Ebright said that she hopes the program will bring students back from charter schools and other on-line schools. A Q&A followed the presentation, but only a few board members asked questions.

(Note: Sometimes the LWVAA member is only person there as an observer. League observers are just there to observe and do not ask questions or make

comments.)

The superintendent's recommendations and resolutions were voted on. Superintendent David James talked about his experiences attending a new-tech conference in Chicago.

Treasurer Ryan Pendleton gave a report.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Akron Public Schools



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



Facebook



Twitter



Website



Email

Copyright © 2015 League of Women voters of the Akron Area, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp