



# THE AKRON VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

May, 2016

**Click here to find  
voting  
information by  
state or by topic!**

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

### **Get involved with LWVAA!**

Each month in The Akron Voter we will feature the top ways to be more active with League, click [here](#) for a complete list or fill out this [form](#).

- Volunteers needed for upcoming voter registration events, [contact](#) Jackie Darrow
- Join the Observer Corps, openings for Summit County Council and Akron City Council
- Voter Services Committee to work on

---

## **President's Message**

Dear Members,

Spring is here and it's a busy time for the LWVAA. Plenty of changes are taking place, with an upcoming move from the office where we have been headquartered for over 30 years. At this time, plans are almost complete for moving to the League's new office and the new location will be announced soon.

In the meantime, a decision was made to change the League's mailing address to a post office box to avoid future changes of address. The new address is LWVAA, PO Box 5449, Akron, OH 44334. The telephone number will remain the same and a new voice answering service will expedite calls.

The Annual Meeting on June 2 will include a report of activities over the past year and the priorities for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. With this being a presidential election year, we will do extensive outreach to reach prospective voters and educate them on the mechanics of registering, early voting and how to find their polling locations. We also will use creative methods to promote use of the VOTE411 online voter's guide.

Each member is invited to the Annual Meeting and I hope you will attend by registering [here](#). You will hear not only the League's achievements and upcoming plans, but also how your dues are spent and how they bring value to your membership. In addition, you will

Vote411 (replacing  
Voter's Guide)  
- Update the National  
Database (ongoing)

To volunteer, email  
[lwvaa@lwvaa.org](mailto:lwvaa@lwvaa.org)



## LWVAA Upcoming Events

### **May 5, 2016** **LWVAA Board Meeting**

380 Mineola Ave. Akron  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

NOTE: The June 2  
Board Meeting will be  
included with the Annual  
Meeting

**June 2, 2016**  
**LWVAA Annual Meeting**  
**5:30-8:00p.m.**

meet new and existing board members who work on your behalf. I look forward to seeing you there!

Barbara Hunsicker, President

---

## Call for LWVO Lobby Corps members

Do you feel strongly about one of the League's positions, e.g., on healthcare, redistricting, gun violence, clean water? Use that passion to become a member of the League's Lobby Corps. Much of the League's legislative advocacy is done not by experts but by dedicated volunteers who learn about their subject along the way. Contact [Carrie Davis](#) at LWVO for more information.

---

## Committee Updates

### **Natural Resources**

Submitted by Arrye Rosser

Cuyahoga County has created a sustainability toolkit for local cities and citizens. It's a treasure trove of info for everyone in Northeast Ohio interested in public policies related to air quality, land use, watershed management, energy, food, preservation, transportation, and solid waste.



Café Bricco  
3150 West Market  
Street, Fairlawn, Ohio

Click [here](#) to RSVP and  
select meal (optional)

**November 8, 2016**

**VOTE!**

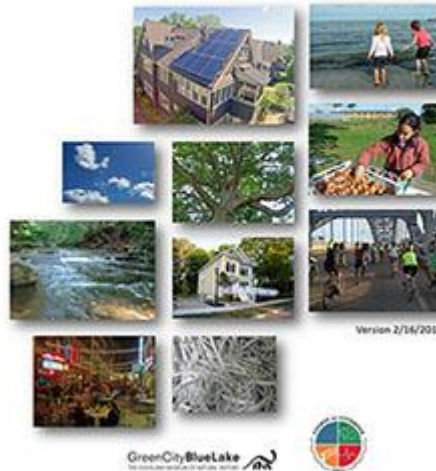
**Ohio General Election**



[Customized information  
from LWV by state and  
by topic](#)

## Sustainable Cuyahoga

A toolkit of recommended best practices  
for communities in Cuyahoga County



This is the direct [link](#) to download the toolkit.

Additional information and links are also available in this [blog](#) post.

### **Voter Services**

Submitted by Jackie Derrow

Ardith Keck and Jackie Derrow attended a preliminary meeting for the Knight-funded Joy of Voting project. They will be submitting a proposal which is due May 13.

We have designed and purchased new League-branded display items for use at upcoming events, including a 3ft x 7ft banner and banner stand and a table covering. We also have updated VOTE411.org / Voting 1-2-3 printed cards that are available for use at events and for promoting VOTE411.org. The cards include information and key dates for voter registration, early voting and Election Day for the 2016 general election.



Speaking of VOTE411.org, if you didn't use this new site for the Primary, be sure to do so in the fall — and tell your friends to do so as well. VOTE411.org has everything you need to know to vote - from key dates, to links to find your polling place, to information about the candidates and their responses to questions posed by the League, which the candidates upload themselves onto the site. We introduced the site for the Primary and it was used by 1,114 discrete users over 1,692 sessions. We're proud of this baseline, but hope the fall will bring much stronger usage of this very valuable election information tool.

We are looking for volunteers to help at voter registration events this summer and fall. Please [contact](#) Jackie Darrow at if you have an interest.

## **Membership**

Submitted by Ardith Keck

Ardith will attend LWV Ohio Membership Leadership Development in Columbus May 21-22 to understand new ideas to attract members, and to provide feedback on potential improvements.

Ardith and Barbara Hunsicker met with new members Frederica Cohen and Jan Nolan for an introductory lunch and to talk about League. If you know anyone who would make a great member, please share our online resources or connect them with Membership Chair Ardith Keck.

---

## **Statehouse Day 2016**

Submitted by Jackie Derrow

Barbara Hunsicker, Ardith Keck and Jackie Derrow traveled to Columbus on April 26 for [Statehouse Day](#), the annual education event where all Ohio League chapters converge to connect, share ideas and learn about issues in line with LWVO positions. We heard five excellent presentations by noted experts. Below is a brief summary of the morning sessions; summaries of the afternoon sessions will follow next month.

### **Money in Judicial Elections**

In Ohio judges campaign for election and seek contributions to fund their campaigns. They run in the primaries under a party banner, but are presented without party affiliation on the ballot for the general. Should judges be elected or should they be appointed as in a number of other states?

The data presented suggests that judicial behavior is affected when deciding cases close to elections. For example, a judge may mete out a harsher sentence in a criminal case decided near an election. There is also a notable "lame duck effect" when judges near the end of their term. Data show that judges rule against business to a greater extent when they're stepping down from the bench.

What can be done to promote a more impartial system in Ohio?

- Host a non-partisan ballot
- Require mandatory recusal when there is any suggestion of conflict of interest
- Appoint judges on merit. This is an unlikely path that was turned down by Ohio voters in 1987. "Once you give voters the vote, it's tough to take it away."

### **Looking Back at DeRolph: How is Ohio Doing on Addressing Equitable School Funding?**

DeRolph v. State was a landmark case in Ohio constitutional law in which the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the state's method for funding public education was unconstitutional and directed the state to find a remedy. Twelve years after the 1997 decision and changes to the funding formula, the court relinquished jurisdiction over the matter, but school funding in Ohio remains unconstitutional.

Where are we now? Ohio is:

- Better than most states in allocating funds to the highest poverty districts.
  - Highest per pupil spending is in the major urban districts where students have the highest needs, i.e., more English as a second language pupils, more special ed pupils and more students living in poverty.
- Average to low average in per pupil spending compared to other states.

The funding question is complex, however. Researchers have found that more money in the system doesn't necessarily improve the educational quality. It's how you spend the money that matters most. The ultimate test of school system success is in equalizing educational quality and outcomes.

*Look for more coverage of Statehouse Day in June!*

---

## **Edith Chase Symposium**

Extracted from an update from the Edith Chase Symposium, submitted by Jill Cabe

The Edith Chase Symposium is a series of educational programs to acquaint people who are not specialists, with issues of importance in the Earth Sciences and Water Sciences.

The Symposium was initiated in 2014 to honor Edith Chase, a scientist who contributed her expertise, energy, and outstanding analytic and communication skills to benefit the ecosystems of the City of Kent, the State of Ohio, and the Great Lakes Basin. At the time of Ms. Chase's decision, at age 90, to reduce the public advocacy activities in which she took part, the League of Women Voters of Kent and the Kent Environmental Council together began organizing this program, in recognition of Ms. Chase's service in the two organizations over fifty years.

The first Symposium program was presented June 5, 2015. In 2016, The Edith Chase Symposium Association, Inc., was registered as an Ohio non-profit corporation, and has been approved by the US Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, so that donations may be deducted for federal income tax purposes by donors. As many of you know, Edith was very active in LEBC while she lived in northeastern Ohio. Please see the Symposium website for further information.

<http://EdithChaseSymposium.org>

June 16-19, 2016: LWV National meeting in DC- Caucus "Local Actions for Global Concerns: the Water/ Climate Nexus"

September 20-22, 2016: Healing Our Waters Coalition Great Lakes Conference in Sandusky Ohio. This annual conference helps to set the goals for the next year's messaging on Great Lakes issues.

Thank you in advance for supporting this important community education opportunity with your attendance or your contribution.

Carol Redmond, Co-Coordinator  
LWV, Lake Erie Basin Committee

---

---



## CIFF 2016

LWVAA was thrilled to participate in our second year as a Community Partner for the Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF)! This year's festival was hosted at Tower City and other locations around NE Ohio.

Thank you to Jodie and Ned Delamatre for organizing this wonderful opportunity to support CIFF and promote LWVAA!

---

[Submit article or idea for The Akron Voter](#)



## GET INVOLVED



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Submitted by Ardith Keck, Membership Chair

LWVAA is excited to welcome new members Laura Hunsicker, Frederica Cohen, and Jan Nolan. If you know anyone who would make a great member, please share our [online resources](#) or connect them with Membership Chair [Ardith Keck](#).



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



Facebook



Twitter

 Website

 Email

*Copyright © 2016 \*League of Women Voters of Akron Area\*, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

lwvaa@lwvaa.org

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

League of Women voters of the Akron Area · 380 Mineola · Christ United Methodist Church · Akron, OH 44320 · USA