



*July, 2017*

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### **LWVAA SUMMER PICNIC**

**Thursday, August 3 at 5:30PM**

**Mingo Lodge**, Sand Run Park, 1501 Sand Run Parkway, Akron, Ohio

Make plans to join us for the annual summer picnic in a beautiful setting, Sand Run Park's Mingo Lodge. Click [here](#) and scroll down to find a 360 degree tour online!

LWV Hudson Member and Conflict Resolution Consultant Jen Batton will discuss a proposal and grant request for the Akron and Hudson leagues to participate in conflict resolution training. The unique process developed by

consultancy Essential Partners has a track record of helping participants build effective relationships, understanding, and empathy, but also to achieve concrete community action.

The picnic is a chance for LWVAA members and guests to hear a special speaker and enjoy casual networking time. We ask each attendee to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert - beverages, plates, and utensils will be provided.

Contact [LWVAA](#) with any questions.



**LWVAA**

**Upcoming**

**Events**

**August 3, 2017**

**LWVAA Summer Picnic**

**Mingo Lodge**

Sand Run Park  
1501 Sand Run Pkwy  
Akron, Ohio

5:30p.m.

Please bring a dish to

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## A Message From the President

Happy Independence Day!

More than ever we know the importance of the League's mission to encourage engagement and participation in government, increasing understanding of public policy issues, and educating and advocating on those issues.

The deadline for submitting enough signatures for the constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering to appear on this year's ballot was July 5. The Akron League submitted petitions with nearly 1,000 signatures to the Fair Districts campaign to meet the July 5 deadline. Many other Summit County groups including Resistance, the Summit County Progressive Democrats, Indivisible and others were also actively collecting signatures.

The enthusiasm for this effort is truly impressive. Dozens of signature gatherers have visited libraries, festivals, and other public events with great success. However, I have heard that some prospective signers don't know who to call or how to find someone with a petition. Clearly, we need to spread the word about the League and other groups organized to collect signatures.

We also need to continue spreading the word about the meaning of gerrymandering and what it means for Ohioans. The Akron, Hudson and Tallmadge League presidents / conveners wrote a letter to the editor that was published in the West Side Leader the week of June 26. We encourage others to share the message with your networks and through letters to local media.

share!

Speaker will be Jen Batton, LWV Hudson Member and Conflict Resolution Consultant

LWVAA Board will meet briefly prior to the picnic at 5:00p.m.

### **September 7, 2017**

#### **LWVAA Board Meeting**

1250 W. Exchange St.,  
Akron, Ohio  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Board Members only

### **October 5, 2017**

#### **LWVAA Board Meeting**

1250 W. Exchange St.,  
Akron, Ohio  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Board Members only

### **November 2, 2017**

#### **LWVAA Board Meeting**

1250 W. Exchange St.,  
Akron, Ohio  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

On another subject, the annual picnic is August 3 at the Mingo Pavilion at Sand Run Park. Hopefully, we won't have a repeat of last year's weather with huge storms that knocked out the electricity and prevented many members from attending.

Please save the date and plan on attending. It's a great opportunity to meet and catch up with other League members and to enjoy wonderful potluck dishes. The Board will meet from 5:00-5:30 pm followed by the picnic.

Barbara Hunsicker  
LWVAA President

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## **Welcome new members!**

Submitted by Ardith Keck, Membership Chair

We have seen increased interest and membership nationally for LWV, and our League is no exception.

We're excited to welcome our new members to LWVAA!

**Valerie McKittrick**

**Bernadine Burchett**

**Kathryn Duncan**

**Thomas Stone**

**Debbie Walsh**

Welcome to LWVAA, we hope to meet you in person at the August 3 Annual Picnic!

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## **In Memoriam - Betty Taylor**

Submitted by Ardith Keck, Membership Chair

We have lost another member of the LWVAA. Some of you will remember Betty Taylor who was an active member until the last few years and always a strong supporter of the League.

Betty was an avid environmentalist and advocated for all things to keep water and natural resources safe. Betty died on April 10, 2017 and her daughter notified the League that her mother had died. Her obituary was in the Akron Beacon Journal on April 16 in case you missed it.

We will miss you, Betty.

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Board Members only

## Registering New Citizens to Vote

Submitted by Jodie M. DeLamatre, Observer Corps

More than 50 new American Citizens were sworn in at the International Institute of Akron's Naturalization Oath Ceremony on Friday June 23 at the Akron Summit County Public Library.

Once again, League members had the privilege of being the first to ask 33 of these newly sworn-in Americans, "Are you a U.S. citizen?" at the conclusion of the ceremony in order to register them to vote. At this time of high-cynicism and tension in the world, it is a rewarding activity to witness the hope of a new citizen in their adopted country.

Also, at a time when there is so much pointed and ugly talk about immigrants, it is refreshing and inspiring to witness how cherished our system is to those who have seen the worst the world has to offer.

Thanks to Jackie Derrow, our Voter Services Chair, for organizing League's participation in this event.

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## Fair Districts for Ohio

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, Voter Services Chair

Dear Fair Districts Signature Gatherers, I listened to the Fair Districts update call and learned the following:

- The Fair Districts for Congress campaign intends to file for the 2018 ballot
- Volunteers are encouraged to continue aggressive collection efforts through the summer with a new target date of September 1, 2017
  - Note: 25% of Ohioans change residences every year; the sooner we get the data in, the more likely the validated addresses collected will hold for the Board of Elections' review
- Where do we stand re: collection numbers?
  - A flood of petitions have been delivered to the League and Common Cause in Columbus
  - The staff and volunteers are going through the arduous process of logging signatures into the "VAN" database, determining accuracy of voter data (e.g., are signators registered and do their addresses match Board of Elections data), and scanning all petitions into a separate file for the BOE
  - The team hopes to share an update of number of signatures collected and further collection needs by mid-July
- High enthusiasm for the campaign
- Many ideas were shared for optimizing signature collection
  - Summer events
    - Gathering in advance as a team to have coffee and then fanning out for collection upon arrival
  - Identifying optimal traffic days at libraries and post offices and catching people as they enter and exit
  - Drive-by signing events - identifying a location, date and time and sharing the opportunity on Facebook and other networks
- Creating awareness of how gerrymandering reduces voter choice and leads to representatives who unaccountable to their constituents, is a key element of the signature gathering process
  - To counter opposition, remind potential signers that this is an issue of fairness and both parties use gerrymandering to their advantage. We don't know which party will have the advantage in 2020. We need a bipartisan approach for the future.

A few local collection ideas:

- Food Truck Wednesdays at Cascade Plaza - 11am - 1:30pm
- Nantucket Concerts Wednesday, 12pm - 1pm, 11 S. Main St. (between The United Building and the Nantucket Building.)
- Countryside Farmers' Market at Howe Meadow, Saturdays, 9am-noon, 4040 Riverview Rd., Peninsula, OH
- Countryside Farmers' Market at Highland Square, Thursdays, 4pm-7pm
- Lock 3 events
- Libraries, post offices, door to door collection

**We have a good supply of petitions. Please contact Jackie Derrow at [330.869.5412](tel:330.869.5412) or [jderrow@icloud.com](mailto:jderrow@icloud.com) to arrange a pick up time.**



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

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**Contact us:**

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