



THE AKRON VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

January, 2018

[Click to support LWVAA Voter Registration efforts for 2018 elections!](#)



LWVAA

Upcoming

Events

A Message From the President

As I thought about a topic for this month's Voter, I decided to look back 100 years and see what some of the important issues of the day were. The United States was involved in World War I and in an effort to quash negative statements against the US, the Sedition Act of 1918 was passed in Congress.

The Sedition Act was actually a series of amendments to the Espionage Act of 1917, and resulted in an expansion of activities declared illegal during times of war. It forbade the use of "disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" about the United States government, its flag, or its armed forces or that caused others to view the American government or its institutions with contempt. Those convicted under the act generally received sentences of imprisonment for five to 20 years.



January 13, 2018

**Women's March
Poster-Making Event**

The Church in Silver
Lake
United Church of Christ
2951 Kent Rd, Silver
Lake, OH

12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.

January 20, 2018

**LWVAA Annual
Program Planning**

Cuyahoga Falls Library
Sutliff Room
2015 3rd Street,
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

9:30a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Click [here](#) for more
details and photos
posted after the event

An important historical event related to the Sedition Act took place here in Northeastern Ohio. On June 16, 1918 while making a famous antiwar speech in Canton, pacifist and Socialist Party co-founder Eugene V. Debs was arrested for violating the Sedition Act.

He was convicted in a federal court in Cleveland and sentenced to ten years in prison. He served his sentence in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary from April 1919 until December 1921, when President Warren Harding commuted Debs' sentence to time served and pardoned him effective on December 25.

The law was repealed on December 13, 1920. Though it was in effect only 19 months, the Act demonstrates the chilling effect the government can have by suppressing citizens' rights to free speech. Perhaps it is an example of a good intention gone wrong, but was ultimately a demonstration of abuse of power by the government.

Fast forward 100 years. The right to free speech has been challenged many times in history, and several times this past year we have heard threats to take steps to silence the media, authors, football players and others, sometimes with the claim that the actions of those individuals or entities are unpatriotic. But the First Amendment prohibits those in government from threatening "[to employ coercive state power](#)" against private entities "to stifle protected speech" of individuals exercising their constitutional rights.

Finally, a 1943 Supreme Court opinion regarding the right of school children to refuse to salute the flag and say the Pledge of Allegiance said, "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."



January 20, 2018

**Women's March
Anniversary: Power
To The Polls**

Cleveland Public
Square

11:00a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Speakers 11-12
March begins at 12noon

Click [here](#) for more
details

If there is a March in
Akron details will be
posted [here](#)

February 1, 2018

**LWVAA Board
Meeting**

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

Board Members only

March 1, 2018

**LWVAA Board
Meeting**

What great words to live by.

Barbara Hunsicker
LWVAA President

LWVAA Annual Program Planning

It's our favorite time of year when we gather after the holidays to review our goals and priorities for LWVAA, and validate what our League will focus on in the upcoming year.



In spite of the name, this is not a session to plan sessions. This is a great way to learn about League, and align our local priorities with LWVOhio and National LWV.

Your participation is critical, and if you know someone who has been interested in becoming more active with the key issues that we

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support, please invite them to join us Saturday 1/20 at the Sutliff Room at the Cuyahoga Falls Library starting at 9:30 a.m.

April 5, 2018

LWVAA Board Meeting

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

Board Members only



May 3, 2018

LWVAA Board Meeting

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

Board Members only



June 7, 2018

2018 Annual Meeting

Location Announced
Soon
6:00-8:00 p.m.



Members and their
guests welcome

August 23, 2018

2018 LWVAA Picnic

Location Announced

Soon

5:30-8:00 p.m.

Members and their
guests welcome

2017 League Holiday Brunch

Thank you to LWV Hudson and Tallmadge for joining us for a wonderful brunch on December 9, it was a great new location and an excellent speaker, KSU Professor Jan Leach (pictured above).

We appreciate everyone who took the time out of the busy season to join us, and also who brought donations for the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank.

Bruce Greer took these awesome photos, and you will find more [here](#), along with Jan's presentation.

Fair Districts Action Alert

Our efforts to collect signatures for the Fair Districts for U.S. Congress proposed ballot initiative continue. If you are new to this effort and are interested in getting involved, please contact [Jackie Derow](#) or call her at [330.869.5412](tel:330.869.5412).

Call for LWVAA Meeting Topics

Climate change, workplace harassment, clean water, health care

Have an idea for a program that would be of interest to members and the larger community? Please send your idea to [us](#) or call 330-836-7079. We'll be in touch!

Donate to League

Please consider LWVAA when you're planning your giving for 2018!

Donations to The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area Education Fund are tax-deductible and provide important support for voter and civic education programs, including much of League's voter service work that provides nonpartisan candidate information during the election season. To make an online donation to the LWVAA Education Fund click [here](#).

Donations to The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area, while not tax-deductible, are important for keeping dues low, promoting membership growth, and supporting direct advocacy. To make an online donation to LWVAA click [here](#).



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

Stay up-to-date with LWV Ohio

[Website](#) and [The Ohio Voter](#)

** LWV Ohio has moved! The new address is 100 E. Broad St. Suite 1310, Columbus, OH 43215. Please update your records accordingly and stop by if you're in the area!**

Stay up-to-date with LWVUS

[Website](#) and [The National Voter](#)