

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA
THE AKRON VOTER
Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

January, 2019

FREE PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

VOTING RIGHTS FORUM: what have we learned about how to run elections?

WHEN: Thursday, February 7, 2019
7:00 pm

COST: Free & Open to the Public

WHERE: CWRU Beachwood Facility
25700 Science Park Dr #100, Beachwood 44122

MODERATOR: Rich Exner
Cleveland.com

PANELISTS: Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

Michael Li
Senior Counsel
Brennan Center for Justice
Democracy Program

Camille Wimbish
Director, Ohio Voters Rights Coalition



Co-sponsored by Cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer, Case Western Reserve University Siegal Lifelong Learning Program, League of Women Voters-Greater Cleveland, League of Women Voters-Akron, Bliss Institute for Applied Politics at the University of Akron, Common Cause Ohio.

Corporate Sponsor: First Interstate Properties, Ltd.

For more information: teachingcleveland@earthlink.net





LWVAA

Upcoming

Events

January 18, 2019

Acme receipts due to
Janice Jacobs for
Cashback Program

Send to PO Box 26,
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
44222

January 26, 2019

**LWVAA Program
Planning Meeting**

10:30-12:30 p.m.

Fairlawn-Bath
Public Library
3101 Smith Road,
Akron, Ohio

Review existing
League positions and
give input to LWV
Ohio for 2019

A Message From the President

Dear Members,

It's a new year with a new set of opportunities and challenges. But lest we forget, we had many accomplishments including:

- Delivering the grassroots support that convinced the legislature to work with LWVO and its partners on a new redistricting plan that was passed overwhelmingly by the voters in May
- Registering 252 new voters, or about 10% of the 2500 registrations completed by the 29 Leagues throughout the state
- Conducting candidate events for the primary in May and general election in October
- Gaining candidate participation and promoting our online election information site, VOTE411.org
- Unique User Visits to VOTE411.org increased from 9,730 for the 2016 Presidential election (a time of greatest election interest) to 10,651 Unique User Visits for the 2018 Midterm election. We aim to be the “go-to” source for unbiased election information and to continue to see increased user participation
- Printing and distributing 9,000 Voter Guides based on downloaded content from VOTE411.org

Conducting several events including:

- An Election Post-Mortem forum, the first of a 4-part public information series in collaboration with the University of Akron Bliss Institute and the LWV of Greater Cleveland
- The Annual Picnic with Board Member Arrye Rosser's talk previewing progress on the Cuyahoga River clean up after 50 years
- Our Holiday Brunch with LWVO Executive Director Jen Miller and featured speaker Iris Harvey, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio
- Initiating an informal book discussion. First selection: “Give Us the Ballot” by Ari Berman

As we turn to 2019, we look forward to confirming

January 31, 2019

**LWVAA "Book"
Discussion
"Big City Problems
in Ohio's Small
Towns"**

10:30 a.m.

Panera Back Room
Montrose location

Refer to the article
below for details

February 7, 2019

**Voting Rights
Forum: What We
Have Learned About
How to Run
Elections?**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

CWRU Beachwood
Facility, 25700
Science Park Drive,
Beachwood, Ohio
Suite #100

Panel Moderated by
Rich Exner,
cleveland.com

Panelists:
- Frank LaRose, Ohio
Secretary of State
- Michael Li, Senior
Counsel, Brennan
Center for Justice
Democracy Program
- Camille Wimbish,

our areas of focus for 2019 during the Annual Program Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 26 from 10am-12:30pm at the Fairlawn-Bath Public Library, 3101 Smith Rd. New and old members alike, please join us for this most important event in the League calendar.

What is Program Planning?

The Program Planning Meeting is an every-member opportunity to review existing League positions and select the issues upon which the League will spend time, talent, energy and money. Our input, along with that of the other Ohio Leagues, is sent to the Ohio League Board who will develop a proposed program of positions.

Local Leagues may choose to make no recommendations regarding new or updated positions, but also have the option to propose one new study, one review/update of an existing position and/or one concurrence. At the State Convention May 10-12 in Columbus, recommended and non-recommended items will be discussed and debated. Delegates will then adopt the 2019-2021 state program of positions.

In advance of the January 26 meeting, please review our local Akron positions. You can find them in the Member Handbook you recently received. State League positions will be forwarded within the next week for your review as well.

I'm looking forward to a productive 2019. With your help we can do great things!

Director, Ohio Voters
Rights Coalition

Jackie Derrow
LWVAA President

March 1, 2019

**Crooked Chronicles:
A Century of River
Cleanup in
Cuyahoga Valley**

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:00

Happy Days Lodge
1403 West Hines Hill
Rd, Peninsula, Ohio

More details soon

REMINDER! Please send your Acme receipts to
Janice Jacobs by January 18!

**Send them to PO Box 26, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
44222**

Thank you to Janice Jacobs who takes the time to run
the [Acme Community Cashback](#) every year and raise
money for the LWVAA Ed Fund.



March 27, 2019

**LWV Ohio
Statehouse Day**

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sheraton Columbus
Hotel, 75 E. State St.,
Columbus, Ohio

Voting in Peru

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

I just returned from Peru where voting in elections is mandatory with those who don't vote receiving a substantial fine. All voting is on a Sunday and citizens dress up to participate in the ritual of electoral decision-making.

By comparison the United States had 58% participation for the last Presidential election, a far cry from Peru's 100%.



May 10-12, 2019

[We are looking for a volunteer to report on highlights from the State Legislature for](#)

[the Akron Voter newsletter. Click here to let us know if you're interested.](#)

LWV Ohio State Convention

Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center,
100 Green Meadows Dr, Lewis Center, Ohio

June 6, 2019

LWVAA Annual Meeting

More details soon

LWVAA Board Meetings

February 7

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6 (Annual Meeting)

6:30-8:00 p.m.

1250 W. Exchange St., Akron, Ohio

Board Members only

LWVAA "Book" Discussion January 31

Our spirited discussion of "Give Us the Ballot" by Ari Berman prompted the selection of a new date and reading choice.

We'll meet at 10:30am, Thursday, January 31 at the **Montrose Panera (back room), 3895 Medina Road, Akron**, to discuss "[Big City Problems in Ohio's Small Towns](#)," a 2016 research monograph by John Begala of the Center for Community Solutions. (click the link to view the article)

Beacon Journal Editorial Editor Michael Douglas referenced the work at our November forum as the discussion shifted to trying to understand the voting divide between Ohio's more rural communities and its urban centers.

Begala's research identifies the commonalities between these population centers and suggests possible policy solutions.

After reviewing Begala's piece, consider reading this [NY Times article](#) about how big cities are leaving small communities behind in the race for jobs.

Have you read a great book recently? Let us know and maybe we'll include it in a future Akron Voter and Book Discussion!

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, January 19, 2019: [The Women's March Akron](#)

The March will start downtown Akron at the Federal Building with speakers at 11:00

a.m. and the March starting at 12:00 noon. Please [email](#) LWVAA if you plan to participate, if there is enough interest we may meet up at the event.

Friday, January 25, 2019: Political scientist Norman J. Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute will deliver a speech entitled “**Is the 25th Amendment Enough? Challenges in Presidential Succession**” at the Akron Press Club 11:30am, at Quaker Station, 135 S. Broadway, Akron. There will be the opportunity for questions following the speech.

This event is presented by the Akron Press Club and co-sponsored by University of Akron’s Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics and the University of Akron School of Law.

Fast & easy [online registration here!](#) Or, contact Lianne Fowler, Press Club administrator, at [330-552-8860](#) or [email](#). Cash or check only accepted day of luncheon. Reservation deadline: Noon, Monday, January 21, 2019. \$20 Members, \$25 Non-Members includes luncheon buffet.

Please [email](#) LWVAA if you plan to attend, we will have others going and will get a table if there is enough interest.

Iris Harvey Shares Thoughts at Holiday Brunch

Submitted by Gloria Irwin

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

In Ohio, women’s rights to choose abortion is increasingly under assault as the state has enacted new restrictions on reproductive rights.

Iris Harvey (pictured below), president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, spoke Dec. 8 to the annual holiday luncheon of the Akron Area, Tallmadge and Hudson Leagues and addressed the Ohio Legislature’s ongoing assault on access to abortion, her organization’s response and actions League members can pursue.



Twenty pieces of abortion-related legislation have been introduced in the Ohio Legislature in the past eight years, Harvey said. The legislation has focused on imposing restrictions on how abortion services are provided, shaming women who seek procedures, limiting options among procedures, restricting minors' access to abortion and eliminating abortion providers' rights to participate in reproductive education programs.

As a result of these anti-abortion efforts, the number of abortion providers in Ohio has declined from 16 in 2011 to only seven now, according to Harvey. Additionally, 93 percent of Ohio counties lack any abortion provider.

The decline has disproportionately impacted minorities and poor people, Harvey said.

Planned Parenthood continues to fight such efforts through lobbying, committee testimony and legal action. Days before Harvey spoke, Planned Parenthood and abortion rights advocates succeeded in temporarily stopping a so-called "heartbeat bill" that would ban abortion after a heartbeat can be detected. (A heartbeat can be detected at six weeks, before many women know they are pregnant. The bill subsequently passed and was vetoed by then-Gov. John Kasich.) The gubernatorial election of Mike DeWine, who supports the heartbeat bill and opposes abortion rights, is expected to bolster efforts to restrict abortion access.

Despite the political climate, "we will be here in Ohio," Harvey declared. The organization, which observed its 100th anniversary in 2010, will continue to advocate for a woman's right to control her reproduction. She urged League members to support Planned Parenthood's efforts and safeguard reproduction choices by writing their legislators and making their opinions known.



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

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