

The Akron Voter

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President's Remarks by Tina Merlitti

This month I would like to alert you to the State's work on human trafficking. I know it can be difficult to believe these practices continue into the 21st century but we need to educate ourselves and the public on the need for action, especially to protect our children.

By Karen Rainey, LWV Ohio Advocate May 8, 2013

Last year, the LWV Ohio completed its study of human trafficking in Ohio and adopted positions that align well with the provisions of the proposed End Demand Act.

Specifically, the League believes that all minors who have been commercially sexually exploited or forced into slave labor should be legally considered as victims. Currently, Ohio law does not agree with federal law, which does consider all minors as victims. The proposed provision in this bill would rectify that situation by eliminating the requirement of House Bill 262 that 16 and 17 year olds must be a victim of human trafficking in order for the solicitor (john) to be guilty of importuning.

The League also supports strategies to reduce the demand for commercial sex and forced labor trafficking, and this bill includes several:

Adding "electronic means" as an illegal method of advertising to promote prostitution;

Increasing the statute of limitations for trafficking to 20 years;

Increasing the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for purchasing sex from a minor;

Requiring that a purchaser of sex from a minor register as a tier two sex offender; and

Notifying a spouse if a person is arrested and charged with a trafficking offense.

In addition to its position on human trafficking, the

League has strong positions advocating for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and the prevention of violence. It is under these positions that we support the termination of parental rights if parents are found guilty of trafficking their own child. It is difficult to imagine a more heinous crime.

We also support adequate funding for the prosecution of traffickers and consumers and for the education and training of law enforcement, service providers, and the general public to enhance awareness of this issue.

Tina

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Action and Advocacy

by Tina Merlitti

We are looking for members interested in participating in a national LWV study on Agriculture.

Hudson LWV has three members interested in the project. Akron members are welcome to join with Hudson members, and members across the country, to study this important topic.

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues,

including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

If you are interested in working on this important timely study please contact Tina Merlitti at 330-322-1295 or email her at tinamerlitti@gmail.com

Board Briefs

by Martha Lester, Secretary

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at Christ United Methodist Church on Mineola Ave. in Akron and are open to the public. The next board meeting will be August 1, 2013.

At the June 27th board meeting we welcomed new board members and those taking on new duties:

VP Program	<i>Kristen Uitenham</i>
VP Organization	<i>Roberta Aber</i>
Publicity	<i>Jessie Malkin</i>
Health Care	<i>Karyn Katz</i>

The Board worked on planning the calendar for the year.

August: League Picnic

September: *A Place at the Table* film partnering with other LWV groups and

the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank.

October: Voting Rights panel discussion

November: Election Day November 5

December: Holiday Party and Membership

January: Program Planning Meeting January 25

February: To be determined

March: "Women in Green" environmental program

April: Fundraiser

May: To be determined

June: Annual Meeting and LWVUS convention in Texas

We are working hard to present informative programming that is valuable to our members and the public. If you have a suggestion for League program please do not hesitate to contact Tina with your suggestions. We encourage you to bring your friends, family, and co-workers to League programming. Often that personal connection and outreach is what encourages new members to join.



Did You Know — Whittaker Chambers

by Maureen Sullivan

Whittaker Chambers, born Jay Vivian Chambers in 1901, was a member of the Communist party for 13 years but later turned against the party. Mr. Chambers testified before Richard Nixon's House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) on August 3, 1948, accusing former State Department official Alger Hiss of being a Communist. The Hiss case polarized the country badly, and the validity of the outcome is still debated today.

Chambers was a remarkable figure of his era because of his 1952 book *Witness*, an autobiography written about Communism by an ex-Communist who later became an anti-Communist.

Taking his mother's maiden name, Whittaker during college, he entered the Communist party in 1925, broke with it briefly in 1929, and then became a spy and went underground in 1932.

He worked at Time magazine from 1939

until the Hiss case broke in 1948. On August 3, Chambers appeared before HUAC and testified for an hour. When the story broke that Chambers, the senior editor of *Time* magazine, had accused Alger Hiss, a former State Department official and the president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, of having been a Communist agent, it was explosive.

Hiss denied the accusation. The famous confrontation between Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss in the House of Representatives was the first great televised congressional hearing in American history.

Hiss lodged a slander suit against Chambers. During this trial Chambers produced his Pumpkin Papers, 65 pages of retyped secret State Department documents and 5 rolls of undeveloped film, so-called because the film was found inside a hollowed out pumpkin on Chambers' Maryland farm. These documents proved that Hiss had passed State Department documents to

Chambers while Chambers was spying for the Communists. The slander suit was suspended.



On December 15, 1948, the grand jury indicted Hiss for two counts of perjury, first for having denied knowing Chambers in 1936 and 1937 (the crux of the HUAC questioning,) and secondly for denying he had given classified State Department documents to Chambers. Hiss was convicted on January 21, 1950 and spent forty-four months in jail.

Fifteen days after the conviction, Joseph McCarthy, a junior senator from Wisconsin, gave a speech declaring there were as many as 205 active communists still working in the State Department and being protected by the Truman Administration, including Secretary of State Dean Acheson. This caused a great furor and set the tone for the 1950's.

Whittaker Chambers died in 1961 of prolonged heart ailments.

Please check your entry in the handbook for accuracy. If there are any changes needed, please phone or email Erica, 330-882-3106 or erica@greerzone.com.

Thank You!

Women’s Equality Day

by Erica Greer

Women’s Equality Day is observed to mark the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution granting women the right to vote on an equal basis with men. This Amendment was certified on August 26, 1920. It was first introduced in Congress in 1878, 42 years earlier!

Every president has published a proclamation for Women’s Equality Day since 1971, when legislation was first introduced in Congress by Bella Abzug, the first female Jewish member of the House of Representatives.

The full text of the 1971 Joint Resolution of Congress follows:

WHEREAS, the women of the United

States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex;

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights: and

WHEREAS, the women of United States are to be commended and supported in

their organizations and activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26 of each year is designated as "Women's Equality Day," and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place.



League Lauds Obama’s Plan to Cut Carbon Pollution

The League of Women Voters of the United States released the following statement from national president Elisabeth MacNamara regarding President Obama’s plan to tackle climate change.

Washington, D.C. (June 25, 2013)

“Today’s speech by President Obama is a turning point in the fight against climate change. We are thrilled that the President is taking the necessary steps to cut carbon pollution in America and stepping up to lead the world through the greatest chal-

lenge of our lifetime: climate change.

“The President’s plan contains many important elements, but cutting carbon pollution from power plants is the central and critical component. Not only will this reduce the risks from climate change but it will improve the air our children and seniors breathe. The President is moving ahead to fulfill his commitment to people, not polluters.

“The League is proud to stand in support of the President’s plan to cut carbon pol-

lution from power plants. We look forward to working with him to implement life-saving measures to protect our children, our nation and our world from the damaging effects of climate change.”



Notable Quotable

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

Nelson Mandela (July 18, 1918 —)



LWVO Regional Meetings

by Erica Greer

Regional League meetings are coming up for area Leagues on August 17th and August 24th from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. There are two topics for discussion:

Voter Education : Judicial Elections

Every election, Ohio voters are asked to choose who should serve as judges in our courts. Yet, many voters skip voting in these races because they don't know enough about the candidates. Other voters cast their vote knowing little or nothing about the candidates. It's time we change that.

Earlier this year, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor announced a set of proposals to challenge Ohioans to think about how we can do a better job electing judges. The Chief Jus-

tice met with LWVO and invited us to be part of the discussion. Come to regional meetings to hear the latest on Chief Justice O'Connor's proposal and LWVO's position on judicial selection, and join the discussion of what role League can play in voter education about judicial races.

League Leadership and How League Works

Whether you are a new member, new board member, a returning leader or an aspiring leader, this training is for you! It will focus on two key areas:

- *The Cornerstones of LWV: Our Mission, Program and Financial Structure* — including a discussion of the concepts of nonpartisanship V. political activity; how we arrive at League positions and League program; the

difference between operating funds (501c4) and education funds (501c3); how to take action and the difference between lobbying and more general advocacy and education.

- *Governance and Management Issues*— including discussion of best practices for Leagues, boards and committees, as well as leadership tips to encourage participation and develop leaders.

If you are interested in attending, please let Tina Merlitti know (tinamerlitti@gmail.com)

August 17 East Cleveland, August 24, West Cleveland, exact locations TBD.

Celebrating New Citizens

by Mary King

The International Institute hosted their annual Naturalization Oath Ceremony at the Akron Summit County Public Library on Friday, June 28th, and they invited LWVAA to register voters, as we have

done in the past. Mary King, LWVAA voter registration chair, handled this assignment.

It is always such an inspiration to see the

newest group of newly naturalized citizens, who are thrilled to become full-fledged members of the United States of America.



LWVAA Voter Registration Chair Mary King registers new citizens to vote

The deadline for the September *Akron Voter* is August 15. Please send any materials you may have to *Akron Voter* Editor Erica Greer at erica@greerzone.com, or via mail to 408 Ott Dr. Clinton, OH 44216

Acme Cash Back

by Janice Jacobs

It's that time of year again-----time to start saving your Acme tapes!

This program has been a small but consistent fund raiser over the years for us. The start date for this year is, **09-21-13**. A registration form is not yet available.

Specific information about the upcoming details and end date should be coming soon, but I believe the program will be

similar to past years. We receive 5% on the purchases of Acme brands like Acme Fresh Market, Academix, Dining-In, Domestix, Electix, Food Club, Full Circle, Paws, Top Care, ValuTime, World Classics, etc.

At the end of each register receipt tape the "Acme Community Cash Back" total will reflect the balance of your qualifying purchases & this is the amount to which the 5% is applied. Save

those tapes & send them to me

at: **P.O. Box 26
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222**

Many thanks to the fine folks at Acme Fresh Markets for their contributions to area non-profits over the years. And also, a big thank you to Leaguers & Friends for saving those tapes. Remember, **no ironing!** (You know who you are!)

Observer Corps

by Jodie DeLamatre

LWVAA's Observer Corps is alive and well and functioning at the Summit County Board of Elections, some Akron City Council meetings, Akron Public Schools and a few MetroParks Serving Summit County meetings. If you have a couple hours a month to visit any of the following, please consider helping out with this important endeavor. If you are able to help, please let me know which meetings you will be attending (jmgd3@neo.rr.com or 330-376-0399).

Akron City Council

Meets every Monday night at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
Committee meetings are the afternoon prior to the meeting beginning at 2 p.m.
Municipal Building
166 S. High St., 3rd Fl. Akron, OH

Summit County Council

Regular Council meetings are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. A 5:00 p.m. caucus precedes Council Meetings. All meetings are held in the Council Chambers, The Ohio Building,

175 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. For further information, please contact the County of Summit Clerk of Council at 330.643.2727

MetroParks Serving Summit County

Tue, Aug 27, 11:30 a.m.
Mon, Sep 23, 11:30 a.m.
Mon, Oct 21, 11:30 a.m.
Administrative Offices
Sand Run MetroPark,
975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron

The primary reason for the Observer Corps is for local governments to know that we are there. We know from experience that elected officials take notice when a League member shows up to watch the proceedings. Sometimes the meetings are confusing and a lot of the business gets done in committee. Don't let that deter you.

Please keep these three important things in mind if you decide to attend public meetings as a member of the Observer Corps.

1. Wear a League button identifying you as a League member. (Ask me to get you one if you don't own one)



2. Do not offer comments of any sort since you are representing the League as an observer only.
3. If you are so inclined, submit a BRIEF synopsis, preferably by email, to me (jmgd3@neo.rr.com) of proceedings. This is secondary to attending the public meeting. This is NOT required.

Call me at 330-376-0399 or email jmgd3@neo.rr.com if you are interested in participating in one of the League's most important endeavors.

More information about the League of Women Voters or LWVAA, plus updated information on meetings and events can be found at:
www.lwvaa.org or

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twitter



Find us on
Facebook



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erica@greerzone.com

IMPORTANT DATES

August 1: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron

August 6: Special Elections (various communities)

August 22: LWVAA Annual Picnic 6:00-8:30 PM
Shady Hollow Shelter
Sand Run MetroPark, Akron

August 26: Women's Equality Day
Marks the ratification of the
Nineteenth Amendment in 1920
giving U.S. women the right to vote



**Join the nation's most respected grassroots political organization —
Become a member of the League of Women Voters!**

Membership in the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, is open to any citizen of voting age, male or female. Annual dues of \$60 include local, state and national membership, including newsletters from each. Dues are \$30 for those under 30 years of age. Household membership (same address) is \$30 for each additional member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



**Vote for civility in
civic discourse —**

**Make checks payable to LWVAA and send with this completed form to:
LWVAA, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron, OH 44320
or join online on our website: www.lwvaa.org**

**Join the League
Today!**

The Invisible War, a documentary

Wednesday, August 28th

6:00 PM

Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High Street, Akron

THE INVISIBLE WAR, a groundbreaking investigation into one of America's most disturbing secrets: the epidemic of rape within the US military. Focusing on the powerful stories of several young veterans, the film is a moving examination of the staggering personal and societal costs of these assaults.

Meticulously researched, the film reveals that hundreds of thousands of service members have been assaulted over the past several decades, with nearly half of those assaulted being male.

Combining interviews with high-ranking military officials and members of Congress with the devastating testimony of veterans, the film outlines the conditions that have protected perpetrators and allowed this epidemic to continue.

Both a comprehensive inquiry and an insight into what can be done to bring about much-needed change, THE INVISIBLE WAR urges us all, civilian and military alike, to fight for a system that protects our men and women in uniform.

The event is co sponsored by Pedal For Heroes USA, in partnership with the Rape Crisis Center of Summit & Medina Counties and the Red Bird Trauma Recovery Center of Cambridge, Ohio.

Have you renewed your membership?

In case it has slipped your mind in these busy times, please take a moment right now to renew your membership in LWVAA.

Dues are: \$60 per year (just \$5 per month for individuals)
 \$30 per additional member in the same house-
hold
 \$30 for members under 30 years of age.

You can pay by check, made payable to LWVAA and sent to Sharley Greer's attention at: LWVAA
380 Mineola Ave.
Akron, OH 44320



OR, you can renew online on the League website. Just go to

Whichever method you choose, don't put it off — **RENEW TODAY!**