

The Akron Voter

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President's Remarks by Tina Merlitti

Election time is upon us. Make sure you check your polling location before you vote! The Summit County Board of Elections has made changes yet again to precincts and polling locations.

Please watch for your orange card from the Board of Elections with your new voting location and READ IT. If you misplace your card you can check your polling location on the Board of Elections website, www.summitcountyboe.com, or by calling 330-643-5200. If you are going to call, be sure to do so well before Election Day to be sure you can get through. .

This constant changing of voting location and precincts is a real problem for voters. Voters

need routine. Last election many people went to the polling place where they had been voting for years, only to learn, after waiting in a long line, that they were in the wrong location. How discouraging to wait for over an hour only to find out you are in the wrong place and then get to the right location only to find you have to wait in yet another line! I always wonder how many people will just give up and go home.

We still don't know what will happen to early voting. HB 250, currently before the Ohio Legislature, would cut early voting from 35 days to 17 days and would eliminate early voting on weekends and the Monday before the election.

The League of Women Voters and other voting rights groups question why this popular program

would be cut. While we agree early voting should be uniform across the state, the goal should be to help *increase* voter turnout at the polls, not make things more difficult. Voting early has given working voters and busy people more of a chance to vote and helped to decrease lines and confusion on Election Day. More changes will just cause more confusion.

Fortunately, the Board of Elections has listened to the many complaints from citizens, booth workers and the League of Women Voters about the multiple problems that occurred during last year's Presidential Elections. Summit County Leagues' observers, at the polls to monitor the progress of the election, witnessed long lines, questionable use of provisional ballots, voters at the wrong loca-

tion, or with no ID or the wrong ID. The Board has been working on corrections to many of these areas of concern. You can watch for changes to early voting or other changes at the Board of Elections website.

Akron Area, Hudson and Tallmadge Leagues will continue to send observers to the Board of Elections meetings to watch how voters are being treated and to monitor the changes that are being made. We are hopeful that this year's elections will go much smoother for the voters and the booth workers. These constant changes are a deterrent to voters and our democratic system and should be looked at carefully.

Tina

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Action and Advocacy

by Tina Merlitti

The League of Women Voters in Summit and Portage counties partnered with the Akron Canton Regional FoodBank during Hunger Action Month to bring the award winning documentary "A Place at the Table" to the community, in order to increase awareness and highlight the current problem of hunger in America.

The film provides a wake-up call by documenting the struggles of three families to battle food insufficiency and provide

adequate diets for their children.

Between 2010 and 2012 16.1% of Ohio households were found food insecure a 6.3% increase over the last 10 years. Stimulus package increases are due to expire and current talks in the U.S. House are to further decrease support over the next 10 years. We are going in the wrong direction.

Since the 1970's The League of Women Voters has actively

supported programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Please join us and let your congressional representative know your concerns about hunger in America.

Jim Renacci: 330-334-0040
Tim Ryan: 330-630-7311
Marcia Fudge: 330-836-4758
Dave Joyce: 330-425-9291

This Month in Women's History

by Erica Greer

October 3, 1904 - Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida

October 4, 1976 - Barbara Walters becomes the first woman co-anchor of the evening news (at ABC)

October 4, 1993 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman Justice

October 8, 1993 - Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature

October 10, 1983 - Dr. Barbara McClintock receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for her discovery in genetics about mobile genetic ele-

ments

October 11, 1984 - Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan is the first U.S. woman astronaut to "walk" in space during Challenger flight

October 15, 1948 - Dr. Frances L. Willoughby is the first woman doctor in the regular U.S. Navy

October 16, 1916 - Margaret Sanger opens the U.S.'s first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York

October 23, 1910 - Blanche Stuart Scott is the first American woman pilot to make a public flight

October 24, 1956 - Reverend Margaret Towner is the first woman ordained a minister in the

Presbyterian Church

October 28, 1958 - Mary Roebling is the first woman director of a stock exchange (the American Stock Exchange)



Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan

From The National Women's History Project website: www.nwhp.org

Did You Know — Ida B. Wells-Barnett

by Maureen Sullivan

Ida B. Wells was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi in 1862, the oldest of eight children. Wells attended Rust College and became a teacher in Memphis, Tennessee.

Shortly after she arrived in Memphis she had a confrontation with a white railroad conductor. Ida had purchased a first class ticket and was seated there until the conductor ordered her to sit in the Jim Crow (i.e. black) section which did not offer first class accommodations. She refused to sit there and was forcibly ejected from the train. It took three men to eject her. She sued the railroad company and won in the lower court but the decision was overturned by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

While teaching in Memphis, she became a co-owner and editor of a local

black newspaper called The Free Speech and Headlight. She wrote editorials under the pseudonym "Iola". She condemned violence against blacks and women, poor schools and the failure of black people to fight for their rights. She was fired from her teaching job and became a full-time journalist.

In 1892, Tom Moss, a black store owner was lynched along with two of his friends after defending his store against an attack by a white mob. Wells, outraged, took on the evils of lynching in her newspaper. While Wells was out of town, her newspaper was destroyed by a mob and she was warned not to return to Memphis. Wells took her anti-lynching campaign to England and was well received there.

In 1895 she married Ferdinand Barnett,

a prominent Chicago attorney. The following year she helped organize the National Association of Colored Women. She was opposed to the policy of accommodation advocated by



Booker T. Washington and had ideological differences with W.E.B. Dubois.

In 1909 she helped formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wells-Barnett continued her fight for black civil and political rights and an end to lynching until shortly before her death in 1931. She had written her autobiography in 1928 called Crusade for Justice.

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!

Acme Cash Back

by Janice Jacobs

We are all registered and set to go for another season of this fundraiser. The dates this year will be: **09-21-13 thru 02-08-14.**

Please remember to save your tapes from the local Acme Fresh Market stores. As previously reported, we get 5% of the designated purchases on Acme Brands, Food Club, Valu Time,

Top Circle, etc. The store shelves should be marked to help let you know the qualifying brands.

At the end of your register receipt you will see the "Community Cash Back" amount. Please send your tapes to me at: Janice Jacobs
P.O. Box 26
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222

Please forward tapes to reach me by or before, **02-20-14. Thank you.**



League Supports Five-Point Agenda on Elections

The following is from a press release issued by LWVUS on 9-20-2013.

In a statement submitted before the final public hearing of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA), the League of Women Voters of the United States urged the commission to improve the polling place experience so that all eligible citizens can become active participants in our electoral process.

“Major improvements in election administration would let voters know that they are the central actors in our nation’s democratic system, just as customers are central to any business enterprise,” Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President stated.

“Accurate, up-to-date voter registration lists are key to efficient management of the polls and to ensuring that voters are not faced with confusion, long waiting times and excessive numbers of provisional ballots,” MacNamara said.

Chief among the League’s recommendations to the PCEA was a call for all states to develop and implement secure online voter registration systems that serve all voters. “While the League is encouraged that 15 states have begun to upgrade their voter registration systems, we must do all we can to be sure that these programs are designed for all eligible citizens,” MacNamara said.

“Unfortunately, many states currently restrict online voter registration to those who have a driver’s license, which means that millions of eligible voters, particularly younger citizens who already are disproportionately unregistered, cannot register or update their registrations online. Not only does this limitation substantially reduce the effectiveness of online registration, it also raises concerns about the discriminatory effect.”

The League outlined four additional key areas that election officials could implement to significantly improve the poll-

ing place experience for voters including:

- permanent and portable statewide voter registration,
- expanded early voting,
- improved polling place management,
- electronic streamlining.

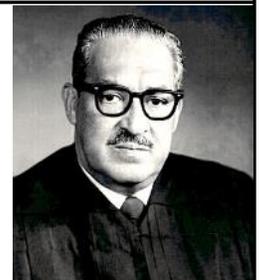


The PCEA is co-chaired by attorneys Robert Bauer and Ben Ginsberg. When President Obama gave his acceptance speech on election night 2012, he pointed to some of the challenges that voters faced when casting their ballots earlier that day, saying "we have to fix that." The President later appointed this commission to examine the problems and propose solutions, particularly those that could be adopted at the state and local levels. The commission is to report this year on its recommendations.

Notable Quotable

“History teaches that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure.”

Thurgood Marshall, first African-American Supreme Court Justice, appointed October, 1967



Voter Information Websites

by **Bruce Greer, webmaster**

One of LWVAA's primary functions is to provide voters with timely information to help them make informed and intelligent decisions when they cast their ballots. Our Voters Guides have become a trusted source of unbiased information on candidates and issues.

Our goal is to provide non-partisan assessments of the pros and cons of vari-

ous issues facing voters and to allow candidates to articulate their views in their own words.

LWVAA believes that accurate facts offer the best chance of selecting the best candidate or issue. As a result LWVAA has compiled a list of links on our website which offer non-partisan fact-based information which we hope will be helpful in

providing more in depth data for voters.

Some of those websites are shown below. You can access these links and more on our website www.lwvaa.org/voter_info.htm, as well as an expanded version of LWVAA Ed Fund Voters' Guide and links to the LWVO voters' guide.



National & State non-partisan election information from LWV US Ed Fund



Official site for the Summit County Board of Elections



Non-partisan information on Ohio Issues from LWV Ohio Ed Fund



Nonpartisan coalition formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.



Non-partisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics.



Non-partisan, nonprofit organization revealing the influence of campaign money on state-level elections and public policy in all 50 states



Non-partisan nonprofit guide to money's influence on U.S. elections and public policy.



PolitiFact, a project of the *St. Petersburg Times*, examines political statements and rates their accuracy

LWV Ohio Position on Redistricting

from **LWVO Website**

(Adopted January 1980, amended May 2005)

LWVO supports an impartial districting process that may include, but is not limited to:

Districting for Congress and state legislature based substantially on population equality with a variance of no more than plus or minus 5 percent among districts.

Use of a bipartisan commission comprised of an odd number of members to determine congressional and state legislative district lines.

Congressional and state legislative dis-

tricts that are compact, contiguous, bounded by a non-intersecting line and follow local political boundaries as much as possible.

Opportunity for citizen participation.

No more than 99 House districts and 33 Senate districts within the Ohio legislature.

Outlook for Redistricting

The general assembly districts as well as the Congressional districts consist of safe seats gerrymandered to favor whichever party controls drawing the districts, currently the Republican Party.

In the summer of 2011 the LWVO and Ohio Citizen Action sponsored the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting which provided an opportunity for people to submit maps for the Ohio General Assembly Districts as well as Congressional districts. These [were] submitted to the Apportionment Board and the General Assembly. Hopefully these maps showed a better way to draw districts [that would] improve the quality of government in Ohio. Both major political parties have shown interest in redistricting reform, along with the media and concerned citizens. The LWVO will continue its efforts for reform.

The deadline for the November *Akron Voter* is October 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

“A Place at the Table”

by Karyn Katz and Mary King

On the evening of September 26th, the Leagues of Women Voters of Tallmadge, Hudson, Kent, Northern Portage, and the Akron area, along with the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank, sponsored a viewing of the documentary “A Place at the Table.” The event began with a reception, followed by the film and a panel discussion organized to address questions about food problems in our own communities.

The topic of the evening was food insecurity in the United States. The film highlighted families throughout the country, from Colorado to Mississippi, to Philadelphia. Relationships between hunger, obesity, and health were explored throughout the film. We saw that, paradoxically, obese people may be hungry because their nutritional needs are not being met by the cheap calories they consume.

Since 1980, the cost of fruits and vegetables has risen by 40% whereas the cost of processed foods has fallen 40%. Many other issues that influence hunger were addressed: cost of healthy food, availability of healthy food, a distribution system that does not serve small stores in “food deserts,” poverty, and a welfare system that penalizes those who obtain work by withdrawing support that would permit them a modest standard of living.

Panel members answered many questions related to hunger locally. Dan Flowers (Akron Canton Regional Food Bank president and CEO), Paula Prentice (Summit County Council vice president), and Mary Helms (Fish and Loaves Food Pantry) provided additional information about the specific needs of our community. Several facts were shared through this discussion:

- Food Banks, which generally began after the 1980’s are dependent on surplus food. Additional nutritional foods must be bought.
- 86% of the children in Akron Public School quality for free breakfast-lunch
- Recent legislation has reduced funding for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Summit County Council member Prentice reported having lived for a week on the \$4.50 per day allowed by Ohio’s SNAP. (Just imagine!)

Those in attendance were encouraged to write to legislators, particularly those at the federal level, asking for their support for the SNAP program, as well as other related legislation.



Dan Flowers, Paula Prentice, and Mary Helms discuss food insecurity in our area.



LWVAA’s Ardith Keck moderates the panel discussion



Attendees enjoy a reception prior to the screening of the documentary film *A Place at the Table*

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

follow us on
twitter





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erica@greerzone.com

IMPORTANT DATES

October 3: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron

October 8: Voter Registration Deadline

October 17: LWVAA Candidates' Night, 7:00 PM
Candidates for Akron School Board
Shaw Jewish Community Center
750 White Pond Drive, Akron

November 5: Election Day

November 7: LWVAA Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
CUMC, 380 Mineola Ave., Akron



**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: _____



**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**

**Vote for civility in
civic discourse —**

**Join the League
Today!**

YOU'RE INVITED!

To the Battered Women's Shelter

3rd ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT!

Enjoy an evening filled with the lights and excitement of Las Vegas while supporting a great cause in our own back yard!

- ◆ Guests will receive \$10 complimentary starter fun money and the opportunity to purchase more (\$1 = \$2 fun money)
- ◆ Play - **Black Jack - Slots - Texas Hold'em - Poker - Craps - Roulette**
- ◆ Open Bar, Light Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts; **Cocktail attire**
- ◆ Bid on an eclectic array of silent auction including condos and vacations

Tickets: 1 for \$60 or 2 for \$100

Payment by Cash, Check, Credit Card by calling the office @ 330 374-0740

Or pay online <http://bwscasinonight2013.eventbrite.com/>



FRIDAY, October 11

7:00—11:00 PM

**Battered Women's Shelter
974 East Market Street
Akron, OH 44303**

Proceeds to benefit The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties

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 household
 \$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 www.lwvaa.org and click on JOIN on the homepage.

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