



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CUYAHOGA AREA**
Serving 48 Cuyahoga County Communities

**CUYAHOGA AREA
VOTER**

Volume 4 Issue 3

Jan/Feb 2007

**ABCD CONSENSUS MEETINGS
A LWVCA FIRST**

The LWVCA County Government Committee has completed its study of the Authorities, Boards, Commissions, and special Districts (ABCDs) to which the Cuyahoga County Commissioners make appointments. Now it is your turn. You are invited to visit the League website (www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org) to learn about this part of county government. Fact sheets have also been available in the Voters. Now you are invited to join in the consensus process. There are two ways for you to participate:

1. Mail format: Members will receive a questionnaire to complete, sign and return to Adele Cohn, 4004 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Hts., OH, 44121. Mailing will go out in December.
2. Traditional discussion format followed by members completing questionnaires at January meetings:

January 10 at 1PM: The Rocky River and Fairview Park Chapters will meet at Nikki Salupo's home, 19453 North Sagamore Road, Fairview Park (440-333-3842)

January 11 at 10AM: The Westlake/North Olmsted and Bay Village Chapters will meet at Ellen Mullarkey's home, 29844 Lake Road, Bay Village (440-835-9394)

January 18 at 6:30PM: The Lakewood and Cleveland Hts./University Hts. Chapters will meet at Maryann Barnes' home, 2611 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Hts. (216-321-7525) Supper party tray provided.

January 20 at 9:30AM: The Chagrin Falls and Hillcrest Chapters will meet at the Mayfield Regional Library, 6080 Wilson Mills Rd. Continental breakfast provided.

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FYI FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year end often reminds us of the resolutions we made last year at this time—you know the ones I mean—join the health club, workout daily, read a book every week, always respond to the LWV Action Alerts, say yes when you're called to serve on the bylaws committee or observe the County Commissioners—things like that. Well, right now nothing is as important as writing that check to renew your LWV membership for 2007-2008. Nothing is as important as you are to us. We just can't imagine League without "u". Happy New Year!

Kathy

FIRST THURSDAY FORUMS AWARDED GRANT FROM GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION

The current fourth season of the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund's successful public dialogue series, First Thursday Forums, has received a grant from The George Gund Foundation that will provide partial funding for the popular public dialogue series.

The focus of the 2006-07 Forum series, The Environment: Putting First Things First, spotlights critical global environmental issues facing our region and nation today. This season's Forums are being held in a newly designed 'Green' meeting facility in West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Rocky River.

First Thursday Forums are planned for:
 November 2 Global Climate Change
 December 7 Alternative Energy Sources
 March 1 Water Conservation & Quality Air
 April 6 Sustainable Land Use

The fourth season of the FTF series is presented in partnership with: Eco-City Cleveland and The Earth Day Coalition. Additional funding for FTF is provided by The LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund and member contributions.



Dec. 7th Forum presenters: John McGovern & Richard Stuebl

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND LAKEWOOD SCHOOLS HOST NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

December 2, 2006 was one of the most important days in the lives of 42 people who became naturalized citizens at a



special ceremony held in the L Room at Lakewood High School.

With over 150 people in attendance, the program began with the Presentation of the Colors and readings. The League was honored to have a number of public officials participate in the ceremony. Mark Hanson, Director Division of Immigration and Citizenship Office of Homeland Security delivered the keynote address. Chris Boyko, Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, issued the Oath of Allegiance to the new citizens. In their remarks, both Mr. Hanson and Judge Boyko stressed that the privileges of being a United States citizen are accompanied by responsibilities one of which is participation in the voting process. Judge Boyko also reminded the audience that ours is still a very young country compared to others in the world and very much a work in progress. A democracy works best where there exists a strong spirit of open debate amongst the citizenry and active participation through the voting process.

In the English as a Second Language class at Lakewood High School 23 countries are represented along with 13 languages. These students provided colorful posters representing each county and culture.

A reception followed immediately after the ceremony with music, singing, and lunch. Of course the League registered many of the new citizens to vote.

OTHER NATURALIZATION EVENTS

Naturalization Ceremonies are held the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month at 9am and 11:30am in the County Courthouse, 1 Lakeside Ave. NE. The President's Council of the three Cuyahoga County Leagues invites anyone interested to be a part of this inspiring event. Sherice Gray at the LWV Cleveland Area office is coordinating the volunteers. Please call her at 216-781-8375

CHAPTER NOTES - UNSUNG HEROES

Bay Village: **Joan Hirsh** does the press releases for LWV Cuyahoga Area.

Rocky River: **Ruth Stadler** monitors city council meetings and reports to chapter members via the chapter voter.

Bay Village: **Gerry Schreiber** monitors city council meetings and reports to the chapter board.

PROTECTING LAKE ERIE: KEEPING OUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK

If you have been pondering water issues that affect Lake Erie, add very large livestock farms to the list. Known by names such as **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)**, factory farm, mega-farm, they involve thousands of animals housed in big barns now referred to as “confinement buildings”. Large dairy farms (700+ cows) are proliferating within the Lake Erie watershed.

There are that may give a boost to Ohio’s agriculture and the state’s economy. But there are negative consequences to large-scale farming such as: the withdrawal of huge amounts of ground water, contamination of ground and surface waters from runoff from the fields where manure is applied, contamination of local streams and rivers, the unnatural crowding of animals, poor air quality due to the generation of ammonia and methane, and the generation of enormous amounts of manure.

For those of us who drink the water of Lake Erie, the biggest concern is its pollution. While wastewater from humans requires primary, secondary and sometimes tertiary treatment before discharge into our waterways, the CAFOs, which produce large quantities of untreated animal waste, are not subject to these requirements. In addition, liquid manure is spread on fields where it can run off, causing fish kills and stream pollution.

The Lake Erie Basin Committee has requested Leagues within the basin to concur with its proposed position statement on CAFOs:

Support of a precautionary moratorium on all new CAFOs that produce untreated animal waste, and support of improved and similar wastewater transportation, delivery and treatment systems on each CAFO site within the Lake Erie watershed, equivalent to the state requirements for municipalities producing the same volume of human waste. Safe nutrient management practices and disposal of sludge should be included in the requirements in order to maintain adequate water quality standards in ground and surface waters.

This information is excerpted from LEBC materials. More information will be posted on the LWV website at www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org. You will be mailed a concurrence package later in spring.

PROGRAM PLANNING

It’s State and Local program planning time, your opportunity to make your voice heard. One of the highlights of LWVO Convention is the adoption of state program that will position the League as a leader in advocacy and education in Ohio. In selecting issues that are important, lively and relevant, you can ensure that the League will impact the significant policy issues facing our state.

Selecting local issues is just as important as issues at the state and national level, perhaps even more relevant to us.

You will soon receive a letter describing the state and local positions and have an opportunity to weigh in on whether LWV Ohio and LWV Cuyahoga Area positions should be retained, dropped, or updated. You will also have the opportunity to recommend new issues for the League study.

State and local positions will soon be posted on the League Website at www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org.

If you have any questions about the process after you receive the information and questionnaire, please call Roslyn Talerico, Vice President, Program and Advocacy at 216-524-1813 or email rrtalerico@adelphia.net

CHAPTER CHAIRS AND BOARD MEET

On a November Saturday, we met at Lesley Hahn’s home for brunch and business. We discussed League strategic planning--where we chapters want to be in 5 years and what our dreams are for League. We reviewed intraLeague financial responsibilities. There was discussion of funding and development. Our very full program and Voter Service activities for this year were reviewed to elicit comments and suggestions.

As membership chair, Lesley asked us what each chapter was doing and what they wanted from the organization. We also discussed how we can serve the members better and reach out to underserved areas of the region.

Best of all, we made our own “Ziploc” omelets. Ask your chapter chair for the recipe.



JAN/FEB CALENDAR

- **January 10**--1PM--ABCD Consensus meeting at Nikki Salupo's
 - **January 11**--10AM--ABCD Consensus meeting at Ellen Mullarkey's
 - **January 18**--6:30PM--ABCD Consensus meeting at Maryann Barnes'
 - **January 20**--ABCD Consensus meeting at Mayfield Library
- check page 1 for ABCD details**
- **February 24**--Cleveland Area Consensus meeting Port Authority. Details will be on the web

LWV-CA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Not a League member? Here's your chance to join other citizens in encouraging active participation in government, better informed voters and responsible political campaigns. Membership is open to all citizens 18 years of age or older.

_____ \$58.00 for Annual Individual Membership
_____ \$87.00 for Annual Household Membership (two persons)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (home) _____
(work) _____ E-mail _____

I would like to affiliate with the following Local Chapter(s) _____

Check here if you would prefer being considered a member at large _____

Clip this form and mail it along with your check to LWVCA, 50 Public Square #938, Cleveland OH 44113.

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