



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Cuyahoga Area VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area

Fall 2010

LWV Cuyahoga Area
50 Public Square, #938
Cleveland OH 44113
216-781-0555

www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Susan Jankite
Janet Kershaw

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Adele Cohn
Carol Gibson
Kathy Woodbridge
Mary Worthington

SECRETARY:

Susan Gray

TREASURER:

Bernice McGovern

FLASH!!!

ED FUND RECEIVES
GRANT FOR WEBSITE
EXPANSION

The LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund has been awarded a Cleveland Foundation grant of \$13,150 earmarked for the planned www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org website upgrade, redesign, expanded site capacity, and outsourced professional website management.

The Impact Group of Hudson, Ohio has been retained to undertake the project with input, design oversight and final approval of a LWV Website Committee. Project work will begin immediately with an anticipated new www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org site launch date later this fall.

Historic Election Forums Scheduled

As a prelude to the historic change to an executive-council form of government for Cuyahoga County, the LWVs of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Area, and Shaker Heights are collaborating to present 16 Candidate Forums in August, September and October. The two-hour sessions will introduce the County Council and County Executive candidates who will be on the November 2 ballot.

Included are a *pre-primary* forum for County Executive candidates on Tues., Aug. 31, 5:30 PM, at Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs, and three *post-primary* forums for County Executive in October.

The LWV Candidate Forum schedule:

District 1 - Mon., Sept. 20 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Westlake Performing Arts Center, Westlake High School, 27830 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake.

District 2 - Wed., Sept. 29 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Lakewood Women's Pavilion, Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Ave., Lakewood.

District 3—Wed., Sept. 22 - 7:00-9:00 PM

West Side Community House, 9300 Lorain Ave., Cleveland.

District 4 - Mon., Oct. 4 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Parma Senior High School, 6285 West 54th Street, Parma.

District 5—Thurs., Sept. 30 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Middleburg Heights Community Center, 16000 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights.

District 6 - Tues., Sept. 21 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Solon High School, 33620 Inwood Drive, Solon.

District 7 - Tues., Oct. 5 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Bethany Baptist Church, 1211 East 105th St., Cleveland and **District 7-Date TBA.** 7:00-9:00 PM. Boys and Girls Club, 6114 Broadway Ave., Cleveland.

District 8 - Tues., Sept. 28 - 7:00-9:00 PM.

Maple Heights Library, 5225 Library Lane, Maple Heights.

District 9 - Mon., Sept. 27 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Shaker Heights Middle School, 20600 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights.

District 10 - Thurs., Sept. 23 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Cleveland Heights Library, 2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.

District 11 - Wed., Oct. 6 - 7:00-9:00 PM

Brush High School, 4875 Glenlyn Road, Lyndhurst.

West side Candidate Forum for County

Executive - Thurs., Oct. 7 - 8-10 PM

Baldwin Wallace College, Strosacker Hall (College Union), 120 E. Grand Street, Berea
(*Note later starting time.*)

East side Candidate Forum for County

Executive - Tues., Oct. 12-7:00-9:00 PM

Shaker Heights Middle School, 20600 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights.

Downtown Candidate Forum for County

Executive - Tues., Oct. 19, 7:00-9:00 PM

Cleveland State University TBA

MOCK ELECTIONS SET FOR FOUR AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

For the third election year, *Engaging A New Generation of Voters: Mock Elections For High School Students* events will be held for 11th and 12th grade students in four public high schools in Cuyahoga County during October: Maple Heights, Garfield Heights, Rocky River, and Cleveland Heights.

The three-day program in each school will include student voter registration and precinct assignments, a published Voters Guide, and a Candidate Forum Assembly with actual candidates appearing to answer students' questions. The programs will culminate with a ballot election overseen

and verified by Board of Election staff.

The 2010 Mock Election will focus on candidates for the new County District Council from the school's community district and the County Executive position.

Since 2008, the High School Mock Election project has reached approximately 2,700 soon-to-be-voters and is expected to involve an additional 1,400 students in 2010.

Approximately 40 LWV volunteers, under the direction of Mock Election Coordinator **Julia Arnold-Hess**, will be needed to staff the popular project in four high schools.

PRESIDENTS' POINTS



President SUSAN JANKITE took the mike at the LWVUS Convention to support a resolution for immediate action on the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



A MESSAGE FROM KATHY WOODBRIDGE, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

Thank you all for the responses to the first call for help! Volunteers are still needed for Screening, Timing and Ushering at several Candidate Forums. Please call me with your preference of job and district at 216-978-0244, or email me at woodbridgekathy@gmail.com

With your help we can give voters the nonpartisan opportunity to see and question their candidates — a service the public has learned to expect from the League of Women Voters.

VOTER Co-Editors:

WENDY DEURING
JANICE PATTERSON

By Susan Jankite and Janet Kershaw

Yes, Janet and Susan went to Atlanta in JUNE. It was hot and so were the issues! We were in great company — approximately 600 delegates. It was the first time either of us attended National Convention and we absorbed a lot.

Elisabeth McNamara of Georgia was elected as our new national president. Delegates did raise the P.M.P., although your Co-Presidents voted against it. (*P.M.P. is the Per Member Payment — the amount of your dues that local leagues pay to National and State.*)

A factor in majority approval was that two new studies were approved: 1) the Federal Role in Public Educa-

tion, and 2) Privatization. In addition, the LWVUS position on Arms Control was updated, we adopted two positions by concurrence — one on marriage equality and another supporting the use of the National Popular Vote.

Here at home it's been a busy, busy summer for our League. We would need reams of paper and gallons of ink to thank all of the League members who keep this organization viable and visible.

Members have been participating on workgroups for Cuyahoga County Transition planning, attending nearly every county commissioner meeting despite frequent schedule changes, planning a gala 90th birthday party and organizing post-

primary candidate forums. And that's just the beginning. We will continue to need our strong volunteer force through the upcoming year.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated "90 Years of Women Making Waves" with our sister leagues, LWV Cleveland Area and LWV Shaker Heights. While cruising Lake Erie on the Goodtime III, attendees enjoyed dinner, a colorful birthday cake, and favorite tunes provided by a DJ. A 50-50 raffle and numerous door prizes added to the fun.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
and
HAPPY WOMEN'S
EQUALITY DAY

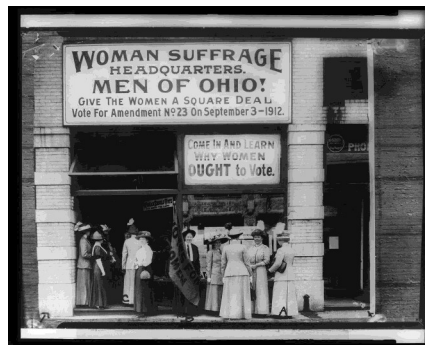
Books, Books and More Books

If you've been thinking about joining the league's Book Club, the August meeting is a good meeting to attend. Those present will select books for the next year from a list compiled by regular attendees.

On Sunday, August 29th at 7:00 pm the Club will meet at a home in Rocky River. All are welcome! If you plan to attend, contact Carol at 216-932- 8733 or <CarolGibson65@hotmail.com>

Tom and Carol Gibson will lead a discussion of Naomi Wolf's 2007 book, *End of America*. A bonus book is Frances Trollope's 1839 book, *The Domestic Manners of Americans*.

Women's right to vote in the U.S. was still a few years away when these Cleveland women urged men to give women a "square deal."



***** The League of Women Voters ***
Celebrating 90 Years of Service!**

BITS & PIECES

College students may register to vote using their Ohio school residence address. However, the student cannot also vote an absentee ballot where he or she last lived (e.g., with one or more parent or guardian). By registering in Ohio using one's college address, that place becomes the student's "permanent" voting location — until changed by a subsequent change of address action.

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It takes less ink to print in Courier New than in Times New Roman font.

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The Federal Trade Commission's Do Not Call Registry does NOT expire this month, despite some widely-circulated e-mail notices.

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LWVCuyahogaArea's membership has grown by 18 members as of July 2010. League continues to benefit from a very active year of service and learning.

EASTSIDE, WESTSIDE MEETINGS SET FOR OHIO TAXATION CONSENSUS

What exactly is the role of our state government? What is the state's responsibility to provide public services and how do we pay for these services? Taxation is an important issue and we – as members of the League - need to know, understand and advocate for fair and equitable taxation. Mark your calendars and attend one of the two meetings that will update members on the League of Women Voters of Ohio positions on state finance.

The Ohio League's taxation positions were adopted in 1983 and 1989. In 2007 LWVO appointed a study group to review the taxation-related parts of the position and make recommendations. The Taxation study committee for LWVCuyahogaArea includes **Helen Brinich, Gerry Blomgren, Lois Gross, Lolly Jacobsen, Mary Rack, Laurel Rowen, Jean Seasholtz, and Mary Warren**, Chair. The committee will present the background and current need for this update to help everyone understand the issues and the proposals. The input of all League members is needed to reach a strong and valid consensus.

**Tuesday, September 14
7:00 PM**

Cleveland Heights Library, 2345 Lee Road

**Thursday, September 16
7:00 PM**

Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road

50-YEAR MEMBERSHIPS HONORED, RENEWALS UNDERWAY

Seven remarkable women who have been a part of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years are valuable reminders that **now** is the time to renew **YOUR** membership, said **Carol Gibson**, Vice President for Membership.

Our 50+ members (and their home chapters) are **Irene Kay** (Hillcrest), **Beryl Peck** (Westlake-North Olmsted), **Barbara Reitz** (Fairview Park); **Maxine Slone** (Hillcrest), **Lois VanAuken** (Westlake-North Olmsted) and **Barbara Williams** (Fairview Park).

Gibson said that annual renewals will be mailed to current members in early September. She is also seeking suggestions of people whom you think would enjoy being a part of the League. Please send names and addresses for letters of invitation to <CarolGibson65@hotmail.com>



Carol Gibson (left) presented LOIS VAN AUKEN with her 50-year membership pin at the May 2010 annual meeting of the LWV CuyahogaArea.

TWO NEW STUDIES APPROVED BY LWVUS

LWVUS delegates approved two studies at convention in June. Although we will not have information for the studies until 2011, Program VP **Adele Cohn** would like to begin forming the committees.

The two studies are The Federal Role in Public Education and Privatization. The first study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards, and governance relationships among all levels of the government. The second study will focus on the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

Interested? Please contact Adele at 216-382-3549 or <cohn@earthlink.net>

INFO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org
www.lwvohio.org
<http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/>

OHIO LEAGUE BEGINS PHASE 2 OF LAWSUIT MONITORING PROJECT

A lawsuit settlement agreement in June 2009 between the League of Women Voters of Ohio and the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State (*LWVO et. al vs Brunner*) established new requirements for county boards of elections. Phase 2 of the monitoring project mandated in the settlement is now underway. This involves an assessment of the plans developed by county boards of elections in preparation for the November 2010 election.

Representatives of the LWV of Ohio Education Fund will collect plans submitted to the Secretary of State from 32 counties and work with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to review strategies that were designed to address past election-administration problems. **Chuck Wolfe**, the new manager of the Lawsuit Monitoring Project for LWVOEF, will be contacting local Leagues to further discuss the project.

The report on Phase 1 is available on the Ohio LWV website: <www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments>



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FIRST THURSDAYS TO RESUME IN NOVEMBER

Since 2003, the popular First Thursdays programs have been introducing interesting, cutting-edge topics and expert speakers to our audiences. Continuing the theme, *Women Who Know Their Place*, celebrating highly successful women in their chosen fields, five forums are planned for the 2010/2011 season. The 7 PM events will, again, be held in Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, beginning Thursday, November 4, and continuing in December, February, March and April. Invitation postcards to each First Thursday event will be mailed to LWV members and past guests.

Three LWV Cuyahoga Area Chapters are sponsoring individual First Thursday events this season: Bay Village, Cleveland Hts./University Hts. and Rocky River. All First Thursdays programs are open to the public free of charge with complimentary coffee and tea provided for guests.

The First Thursdays Planning Committee includes: **Kathy Woodbridge**, Chair, **Joan Hirsh**, **Adele Cohn**, **Kate Howley** and **Mary Lou Jones**.

KEY DATES FOR VOTERS TO REMEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 4, noon — last date to request absentee ballot

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 6:30 AM-7:30 PM — Primary Election for County Executive, County Council

Monday, Oct. 4 — Registration ends for November 2 General Election