



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS©

Cuyahoga VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area

Summer 2011

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

www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Carol Gibson
Susan Gray

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Adele Cohn,
Program
Mary Warren,
Membership
Rosemary Sutton,
Voter Service
Janice Patterson,
Fund Development
Janet Kershaw,
Outreach

SECRETARY:

Cassandra Talerico-Kaplin

TREASURER:

Bernice McGovern

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Joan Hirsh and Barbara
Ebright, Bay Village Chapter.

Nikki Salupo, Fairview Park
Chapter.

Maryann Barnes, Heights
Chapter.

Roz Peters, Hillcrest Chapter.

Kathy Kosiorek and Made-
line Carr, Lakewood Chapter.

Jean Rounds and Sally
Ebling, Rocky River Chapter.

Carole Koscielny and San-
dra O'Dell, Westlake/North
Olmsted Chapter.

New Officers Elected for 2011-12 League Year



Outgoing co-president SUSAN JANKITE (left) transferred the presidential gavel to the newly elected co-presidents, CAROL GIBSON and SUSAN GRAY, at the LWV Cuyahoga Area annual meeting May 21..

The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area marked the end of one busy year and launched another at its ninth annual meeting on May 21, 2011 at Canalway Center, Cuyahoga Heights. During the business session, members approved a \$16,565

budget for the upcoming year, elected the proposed slate of officers (*see list at left*), elected five members to serve on the nominating committee, adopted a bylaws amendment to conform with the recently changed LWVUS bylaw regarding honorary members, and re-adopted all program positions without change.

Those elected to the nominating committee for 2012 were: **Becky Thomas**, chair; **Maryann Barnes**, **Mary Osburn**, **Lesley Hahn**, and **Susan Jankite**.

Members of the LWVCA County Government Observers Corps and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Observer Corps were recognized with a vintage League poster.

Outgoing co-president **Susan Jankite** introduced the newly elected co-presidents, **Carol Gibson** and **Susan Gray**, who then made thought-provoking remarks to set the tone for the League's work in 2011-2012 year and beyond.

Refreshments were provided by the Westlake-North Olmsted Chapter.

EDUCATION STUDY PAPERS AVAILABLE

Delegates to the 2010 Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States adopted a study of the federal role in public education. The study committee, selected shortly after the June 2010 convention, spent the past year developing materials on issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment in pre-K through grade 12 public education.

Five background papers are now available on the LWVUS website as a prelude to presentations at local League meetings throughout the country in the fall of 2011. The following papers have been posted on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org:

- Common Core Standards and Assessments (Rivers).
- Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding (Pat Aaron).
- Funding and Equity Issues (Pierce).

- Legislation and Funding for the Education Of Children Who Are Disadvantaged (O'Brien- Libutti).

- Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives (Jefferson-Jenkins and Hill).

The LWVUS Education Study committee members are: Peggy Hill, Texas, and Joanne Leavitt, California, co-chairs; Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Colorado; Patricia O'Brien Libutti, New Jersey; Pat Aaron, Illinois; Jean Pierce, Illinois; Sanford Ostroy, Massachusetts, and Janelle Rivers, South Carolina.

The committee encourages members to send in information and documents that will help with the study. Materials should be e-mailed to Peg Hill, hillp@uhcl.edu, or Joanne Leavitt, ac997@lafn.org

Highlights from Ohio League Convention

Delegates from LWV Cuyahoga Area attended the LWV of Ohio convention in May at Maumee Bay State Park. Here are key items from the business sessions.

- **Nancy Brown** joined **Meg Flack** to become co-presidents of the Ohio League. **Janet Kershaw**, one of our LWV Cuyahoga Area outgoing presidents, was elected as a state board director.

- A non-recommended study proposal on *Human Trafficking*, presented by the Delaware League, was adopted. Anyone interested in becoming part of the study committee can contact **Karen Rainey** at **Karengr@yahoo.com**.

- The recommendation that the Education Finance Update Committee continue its work was defeated. Barbara Brothers, Committee Chair, asked the delegates to not support the recommendation because Governor Kasich's administration has dropped the changes the committee was supposed to study. This means that our current position remains adequate.

- The state board continues to monitor the Secretary of State's office to make sure it is complying with the settlement reached with the Ohio League in the 2009 lawsuit.

- The LWVO will once again sponsor a contest to see who can create the best nonpartisan plan for redistricting. A new grant is supporting the effort.

- The Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area and Shaker Heights Leagues will be hosting the state convention in the greater Cleveland area in May 2013.

VOTER Co-Editors:

WENDY DEURING
JANICE PATTERSON

PRESIDENTS' POINTS →→→→→

The "why" in League membership

I recall clearly why I joined the League nearly 30 years ago. I had one strongly opinionated relative who could argue circles around me. I saw horrific blind spots in his world view, but I simply didn't have the chops to answer back. When I joined the League, I didn't find a sudden transformation in my ability to get my point across, but I felt like the League somehow had my back. Practicing good grassroots democratic behavior is a process, not a final result. The more you do with League, the more confidence you have to speak up and participate in the public realm—and talk back to relatives.

League is hard to explain. Maybe our motto should be, "stick around." It's much clearer what one-issue groups do, but they come and go. League, on the other hand, has been continuously educating people about good government, registering voters, and studying public policies for over 90 years.

So what will the League be like in the year 2111, 100 years from now? Let's imagine 4000 active League members in Cuyahoga County, staffed offices in Tower City, and a widely known and respected corps of government observers and lobbyists throughout the county. That's a leap, of course, but we have 100 years to work on it! We are living differently than the 1920 suffragists who were members of the first League. What the suffragists did in the Twenties has propelled us forward for nearly 100 years. Where will we find the "jet fuel" we need to give the same gift to the next century?

Let's ask ourselves what the League's founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, would do today. I think she would rail against undisclosed corporate funding of elections, and advocate for real campaign-finance reform. Locally, she'd keep an eagle eye on Cuyahoga County government. Her League colleagues, of course, would "have her back."

What do you think Ms. Catt could inspire us to do?

—**Carol Gibson**, Co-President

REMEMBERING IRENE

One of our 50-year League members, **Irene Pramisloff Kay**, died in January 2011. Irene had spread her prodigious leadership talents generously. She was president of the Hillcrest Area League of Women Voters and a vice-president of the LWV of Cuyahoga County ILO. She won six four-year terms on the Mayfield school board and served as its president more than once. In 1983 she was appointed to the Ohio Lottery Commission by Gov. Richard Celeste and served as its chair as well. Irene seldom missed a League meeting unless it conflicted with the other community activities.

By ANONYMOUS

Member **Mary Worthington** found this poem posted next to a flyer announcing the League's "First Thursday" program that she had placed on a bulletin board at her workplace, Westlake's Porter Public Library. The program theme was prominently announced as "Women Who Know Their Place." Mary has no idea who penned these thoughts and placed them there!

*They talk about a woman's place as though
it has a limit.*

There's not a task to mankind given,

There's not a place on earth or heaven,

*There's not a blessing or a woe, a whispering
yes or no,*

There's not a life or death or birth

That has a minute's weight of worth

Without a woman in it.

Lynda B. Mayer Honored as “Leaguer of the Year”



Lynda Mayer with her husband Charley (left), her son Arthur and her daughter Robin Outcalt.

The dining room at the Cleveland Skating Club bristled with energy and activity on April 16, 2011, when members and friends of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area honored **Lynda B. Mayer** as “Leaguer of the Year.” County Council member **David Greenspan** was on hand to present Lynda with a resolution passed by the Cuyahoga County Council, commending her for leading and developing a comprehensive Code of Ethics for the Council’s consideration.

Co-President **Susan Jankite** described Lynda’s long-standing interest in county government reform, praising her forthright action in the Issue 6 campaign that managed to put a charter form of government on the county ballot in 2009.

She also provided highlights from Lynda’s service as chair (simultaneously) of the county government and the regionalism committees. Lynda’s personal remarks added behind-the-scenes stories to the event’s acknowledgement of her outstanding efforts as an advocate for good government.

Prior to the luncheon, attendees tried their luck at silent auction items, took chances on mysteriously packaged bottles of wine and purchased 50/50 raffle tickets, concluding with a grand cash prize which was won by **Barbara Ebright**. DJ Ray Carr provided music for the occasion.

Mary Worthington, VP Funding and Development, was general chair of the event. **Conda Boyd** handled reservations and served as event treasurer. Others on the planning committee were: **Joan Hirsh, Margie Hirsh, Kate Howley, Mary Lou Jones, Bernice McGovern, and Kathy Woodbridge**. Proceeds from this event support the League’s advocacy and education programs.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO KNOW YOU

(Editors’ Note: Our newly elected co-presidents were asked to introduce themselves to us by providing a list of five things each cannot live without. Here are their responses.)

Co-President **CAROL GIBSON** can’t live without...
 ...the daily New York Times (especially Gail Collins)
 ...The Daily Show & The Colbert Report
 ...good books (biographies are favorites)
 ...a comfortable sofa for napping and reading
 ...my monthly “search committee” with a few good friends

Co-President **SUSAN GRAY** can’t live without:.....
 ...air,
 ...light,
 ...water,
 ...the opportunity for satisfying work, and
 ...a good night’s sleep in my warm, safe, comfortable bed.
Susan reflected, “ I am very grateful that I have them, every one of them, right now.”



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Cuyahoga Area VOTER
SUMMER 2011

*** * * * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * * * ***

- June 26 LWV Book Club Meeting : *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Text book Got Wrong* by James W. Loewen. For information on location and time, contact Carol Gibson, carolgibson4042@gmail.com, or call 216-932-8733.
- July 4 Fly your flag for America's Independence Day.
- July 13 7:00 PM Informal Board Planning Meeting, Home of Carol Gibson.
- August 6 9:15 AM LWV Cuyahoga Area Board Meeting, Home of Mary Warren
- September *Pay your dues for 2011-2012!* (\$60 single/\$90 couple) Payable to LWVCA and send to Treasurer Bernice McGovern, 9 Westfield Lane, Rocky River 44116.

BITS & PIECES

Did you know that only 5% of the water entering Lake Erie comes from rain and snow? According to the City of Cleveland's 2010 Water Quality Report, 95% of the water entering Lake Erie comes from the upstream Great Lakes as well as the rivers and streams that flow into these lakes.

The Cuyahoga County Council is considering two resolutions that could result in placing charter amendments on the November 2011 ballot. Both would clarify provisions that are expected to change when redistricting occurs.

In the works – a “mystery trip” for League members and their friends in late August. Members and their friends will gather at a central spot to be taken to a surprise destination for the day. We'll have lunch, an interesting tour, and raise funds for LWV Cuyahoga Area while we're having fun. Watch for your invitation!

Committee reports presented at the 2011 LWV Cuyahoga Area annual meeting are now available on the website:

www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org