



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS©

# Cuyahoga VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area

Winter 2011

**LWV Cuyahoga Area**  
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Cleveland OH 44113  
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[www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org](http://www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org)

**CO-PRESIDENTS:**

**Susan Jankite**  
**Janet Kershaw**

**VICE PRESIDENTS:**

**Adele Cohn**  
**Carol Gibson**  
**Kathy Woodbridge**  
**Mary Worthington**

**SECRETARY:**

**Susan Gray**

**TREASURER:**



**BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!**

Plan to attend one or more of the spirited discussions that the League's Book Club always has. Watch the website for more information, or contact Carol Gibson at

[CarolGibson4042@gmail.com](mailto:CarolGibson4042@gmail.com)

The next discussion will take place on Sunday, January 30 at 7:00 pm. We'll meet at a member's Lakewood home. The book selection is a witty take on the Supreme Court, "Supreme Courtship," by Christopher Buckley.

On March 6, the Book Club will meet in Cleveland Heights to discuss "The Triumph of Hope" by Jonathan Alter.

## LWV OFFERS PROGRAM PLANNING BY MAIL

Members of LWV Cuyahoga Area will soon be receiving a mail-in questionnaire that will start the process of deciding which issues the state League will spend time, talent, energy and money on in the next two years.

Grassroots program planning is a unique League feature. Whether it is done in a member discussion meeting or by mail-in questionnaire, the process ensures that members' priorities are uppermost in directing League activities.

After your responses are received at the LWV-Cuyahoga office, the LWVCA Board will compile the results, approve them and send its recommendation to the state League. The state board will consider the local recommendations at its March 13, 2011, board meeting and select a Proposed Program which will then be returned to local Leagues for review. At this point, some local Leagues may establish a network to rally support for specific items.

Finally, at the state convention (May 13-15, Maumee Bay State Park) delegates will discuss,

debate and adopt the 2011-13 LWVO state program.

Your questionnaire will ask you to mark the specific LWVO Program items as:

**Retain** – *Members are committed to the position and will be involved in supporting LWVO / local League efforts to pursue position's goals.*

**Update** – *A study of limited scope is needed to evaluate a position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position.*

**Drop** – *The position is obsolete or no longer useful at all in its present form or no longer has the support of members.* (Note: if dropped, action on the position will end and any future action will require adoption of a new study and a new position.)

**Study** – *A new study can be recommended on an issue on which there is no current position.*

For further details: <http://www.lwvohio.org/>

## “FIRST THURSDAY” SPEAKERS NAMED

FIRST THURSDAYS' *Women Who Know Their Place* features extraordinary women of accomplishment. Now in its eighth year, this speaker series is coordinated by **Kathy Woodbridge** and organized under the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area's Education Fund. The "First Thursdays" in 2011 will celebrate the following very special women and their success stories:

**February 3, 2011 Janice Murphy**

In January, 2010, the Cleveland Clinic named Janice Murphy president of Lakewood Hospital. She continues as president of Fairview Hospital, which she has led since 2007. She began her career at Fairview Hospital as a bedside nurse in oncology in 1978. Since then, she has served in various leadership roles in the Greater Cleveland Healthcare Community. Co-sponsored by Rocky River Chapter.

**March 3, 2011 Jane Eaglen**

With one of the foremost reputations in opera today, world-renowned dramatic soprano Jane

Eaglen's signature roles include Isolde in Wagner's Tristan und Isolde. She has performed in the greatest opera houses in the world including La Scala and the Met. In the fall of 2010, she joined Baldwin-Wallace College's Conservatory of Music voice faculty. Co-sponsored by Lakewood Chapter.

**April 7, 2011 Evalyn Gates**

Physicist Evalyn Gates was named Executive Director and CEO of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in May 2010. Her PhD in theoretical particle physics is from Case Western Reserve University. Author and educator Gates is a well-known advocate of increasing the ranks of women in science. Co-sponsored by Cleveland Heights/University Heights Chapter.

Join us, bring a friend and meet these remarkable women. First Thursday events are held at Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Free parking is available behind the Cathedral off Prospect Avenue. Complimentary coffee and tea are served.

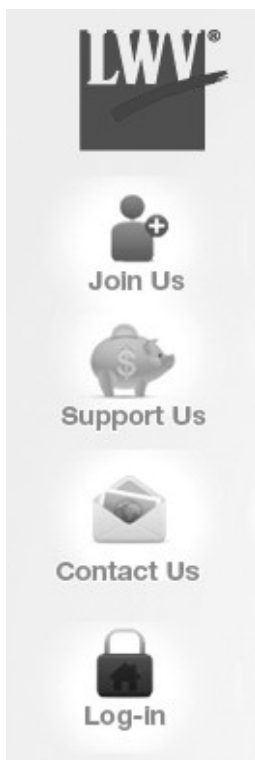
## IS THIS THE BIG 5-0 ?

Was 1961 the year you joined the league? If so, 2011 marks your 50<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the League of Women Voters! Think for a minute to recall what was happening in your life the year you joined; had you just moved? just been married? just had a baby? Those are the guideposts most often used by members to figure out when they joined. If this is your year, please let the membership VP know: 216-932-8733 or send e-mail to:

[CarolGibson4042@gmail.com](mailto:CarolGibson4042@gmail.com)

COMING IN  
JANUARY —  
NEW, UPDATED  
WEBSITE

[www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org](http://www.lwvCuyahogaArea.org)



### VOTER Co-Editors:

WENDY DEURING  
JANICE PATTERSON

## PRESIDENTS' POINTS →→→→→

By Susan Jankite and Janet Kershaw

What an awesome 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party we had! The weather was perfect, the food was good and the company was great! Among our guests were LWVO President **Meg Flack** and several other members of the LWVO Board. We even got an opportunity to dance off some of the calories from that gorgeous cake! Congratulations to Bay Village Chapter member **Barbara Ebright** on winning the reverse raffle and many thanks to all of you who came! We are happy to report that all three local area Leagues realized a profit from the event.

We had company during the month of October! LWVUS President **Elisabeth MacNamara** came to Cleveland on October 4<sup>th</sup>! That evening, your co-presidents, along with **Penny Jeffrey**, President, LWV Cleveland Area, and **Marcia Goldberg**, President, LWV Shaker, had a marvelous dinner with President MacNamara. Also in attendance were Cuyahoga Area Education Fund Ex-

ecutive Director **Mary Lou Jones**, Vice President of Voter Service **Kathy Woodbridge** and Shaker Heights members **Barbara Barlow** and **Linda Lalley**. There was a lot of enthusiastic discussion about the voter service activities of the three local Leagues. Of particular interest were our high school mock elections. (Perhaps that led to the coverage about our project in the November 4, 2010, LWVUS Leaders Update.)

The next day, President MacNamara and LWV Cuyahoga Area Co-President Jankite participated in a meeting with **Jane Platten**, Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and, later, met with **Elizabeth Sullivan** of the Plain Dealer Editorial Board.

Needless to say, the LWVUS President would not have so much to be impressed by were it not for the efforts of our League volunteers during the past few months. Look for more inspiring stories about the mock elections and the candidate events in this issue.

## Mock Elections Held at Four Area High Schools

Our Cuyahoga Area League once again conducted mock elections – this time at Maple Heights, Garfield Heights, Rocky River and Cleveland Heights High Schools. More than 400 students participated. We would like to thank the following volunteers without whom this project could not succeed.

**Mazie Adams, Nan Baker, Maryann Barnes, Karen Beyer, Conda Boyd, Deana Bremer Fisher, Nancy Calcott, Adele Cohn, Mary Lou Collins, Barbara Ebright, Anne Engel, Dorothy Faler, Carol Gibson, Lesley Hahn, Susan Jankite, Fern Jennings, Janet Kershaw, Karen Kirchner, Carol Koscielny, Claudette Kuisel, Nancy Lilly, Lynda Mayer, Charlene Morse, Nan Ellen Passant, Janice Patterson, Roz Peters, Suzanne Rusnak, Nikki Salupo, Joy Sweeney, John Sweeney, Becky Thomas, Kathy Woodbridge, and Mary Worthington.** Major thanks also go out to **Julie Arnold-Hess**, Project Coordinator; **Becky Thomas**, Voters' Guide Editor for this project, and **Joan Hirsh**, Media Contact. — **Mary Lou Jones**, *Executive Director of the LWV-CA Education Fund*



## Recounting Boffo Election Season

by Kathy Woodbridge, VP for Voter Services

Whatever your feelings about the outcomes of the 2010 election season, LWV Cuyahoga Area members are celebrating their work to educate and empower voters to make an informed decision at the polls. We accomplished quite a lot! Here are the Forum facts:

- LWV Cuyahoga Area presented six candidate nights, one in cooperation with LWV Cleveland Area.
- 18 candidates participated in these forums.
- 33 League volunteers staffed the forums in partnership with five other organizations which also provided volunteers.
- Over 300 hours of volunteer time was required to produce these forums
- And, collectively we endured 6,000 minutes of speechifying (I don't know how else to describe it) and lived to tell about it.

That Leaguers are all secret election wonks was proved this season by the record numbers who volunteered to produce outstanding, well-attended forums for District Council candidates in Districts 1, 2, 4, 10, and 11 and an exciting forum for County Executive at Baldwin-Wallace College. The League Board joins me in thanking all these wonderful volunteers for their service this election season: **Maryann Barnes, Gerry Blomgren, Conda Boyd, Madeline Carr, Adele Cohn, Greta DeMeyer, Wendy Deuring, Nancy Dietrich, Sally Ebling, Anne Engel, Deana Bremer Fisher, Janet French, Lesley Hahn, Margie Hirsh, Joan Hirsh, Susan Jankite, Fern Jennings, Janet Kershaw, Carole Koscielny, Kathy Kosiorek, Claudette Kuisel, Mary Lou Jones, Bernice McGovern, Kathy Mook, Mary Osburn, Janice Patterson, Roz Peters, Nikki Salupo, Gerry Schriebman, Jean Seasholtz, Pam Smith, Rosemary Sutton, Carol Gibson, Blanche Valancy, and Mary Warren.**, augmented by the Voter Service Committee, Cuyahoga Area Ed Fund Director **Mary Lou Jones** and **Joan Hirsh**, LWV Cuyahoga Area Media Coordinator. (If I missed your name, please know we value your service and appreciate your understanding.)



## NOTES ON CREATING AN ETHICAL CODE, CLIMATE FOR CUYAHOGA COUNTY

by Lynda Mayer,

Chair, County Government Committee  
and Code of Ethics Workgroup

Last February, the New Cuyahoga Now steering committee (Issue #6 campaign coalition, to which our Leagues belonged) asked LWV County Government Committee specialists to form a committee to study and formulate a proposed Code of Ethics for Cuyahoga County, as mandated by the new governing Charter. A committee of 15 was assembled, nine members of the three Leagues and six "Friends of the League" with very helpful skill sets for the task. Six months later, after much individual study and many public sessions, the Code of Ethics Workgroup (supported by the Charter-mandated transition team), produced a Code of Ethics proposal in language suitable for adoption by the County Council in early 2011.

County Executive Ed FitzGerald and the new County Council have passed short-term stopgap "policies" derived from existing Ohio Ethics Law and intended to cover County operations until Council completes deliberations on a new, tougher Code of Ethics. The proposal submitted by the League's workgroup will form the basis for those deliberations. The boards of all three Leagues of Women Voters in Cuyahoga County have expressed League support for the major features of that workgroup proposal. Here they are:

1. an independent Ethics Board with an enforcement officer who is scrupulously independent of both the legislative and executive branches of county government, with authority to investigate and pursue allegations of violation. (In other words: "Teeth." )
2. a thorough education program which reaches and commits every county officer and employee of every department and agency to compliance with the code.
3. expanded registry and disclosure requirements to be posted and searchable online in a "one-stop-transparency" web link and coordinated with purchasing and contracting departments.
4. a best-practices model whistleblower provision, which will empower and protect all employees, even those under temporary contract with the county.

It is now our job to monitor the action on this proposal, so that the new Code that emerges from Council deliberations VERY CLOSELY, resembles the model code, submitted by the Workgroup.

You can read the Proposed Code of Ethics at:

[http://charter.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf\\_transitioninfo/en-US/COERrecommendations.pdf](http://charter.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf_transitioninfo/en-US/COERrecommendations.pdf)

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It is with sadness that we report the death of **Mary Jarmusch**. Mary was a member of the Fairview Park Chapter and a past board member of the LWV Cuyahoga Area. She was our webmaster for a very long time and a tireless worker. She is already missed.



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WINTER 2011

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Monday, Feb. 14<br/>3 PM to 5 PM</p>                                                 | <p>The League of Women Voters of Cleveland invites LWV Cuyahoga Area to join in a celebration of the 90th birthday of LWV.<br/>The Renaissance, 26376 John Road, Olmsted Township<br/><i>For additional info and to RSVP contact the Cleveland League office at 216-781-8375 or e-mail <a href="mailto:sherecegray@lwvcef.org">sherecegray@lwvcef.org</a></i></p> |
| <p>Thurs., Feb. 24<br/>6:30 -8:30 PM</p>                                                | <p>Health Care Reform Forum<br/>Speaker: Gary Benjamin, Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage<br/>Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Ave., Fairview Park<br/><i>Coordinated by Fairview Park and Lakewood Chapters.</i></p>                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Feb. 26<br/>April 6<br/>May 13-15<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays</p> | <p>LWVO Regional meetings focusing on idea exchanges<br/>LWVO Statehouse Day 2011, the Riffe Center, Columbus<br/>LWVO Convention, Maumee Bay State Park<br/>LWVO Lobby Lunches at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus</p>                                                                                                              |

### KEEP THOSE PHONE LINES BUSY!

Would you like to be a member of a virtual league committee? We need a few members willing to make occasional phone calls from the comfort of their own homes. These might be calls to new members, or alerts to an upcoming event, or assistance to chapter chairs or board members who need volunteers.

Please let Co-President **Janet Kershaw** know if you can serve the League in this way.  
Janet can be reached at 440-892-0734 or [JLYKershaw@aol.com](mailto:JLYKershaw@aol.com)