



Engaging a New Generation of Voters: Mock Elections in Four Area High Schools

A three day simulated election experience will be held for 10th and 11th grade students in four area high schools, Lakewood, East Cleveland, Westlake, and Parma, before the November presidential election. LWV Cuyahoga Area volunteers and the schools' government teaching staff will conduct the Mock Elections in each individual high school. Approximately 1800 soon-to-be voters will participate in this realistic voting experience. The project is designed to be a positive introduction for students to the responsibilities of being an informed voter and the actual process of voting.

Each Mock Election will include:

- student voter registration and precinct assignment;
- a nonpartisan LWV Candidate Forum including the two major presidential candidates (or their representatives) and the candidates for the two Cuyahoga Commissioner offices appearing on the ballot;
- a two-page LWV Voters Guide for classroom use;

- a simulated ballot election in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections; and
- a candidate/student media conference with the high school newspaper staff.

The Bay Village Chapter conducted a very successful Mock Election pilot project during the 2004 presidential election that is the basis for the 2008 project.

All Mock Election activities will be conducted by LWV Cuyahoga Area volunteers under the direction of project director Julia Arnold-Hess.

Funding for Engaging A New Generation of Voters has been provided by The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc.

WATCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY to volunteer for this exciting project in your mailbox and on email in mid-August!

NICELY PLANTED...

Thanks to Bay's Service Department, this tree planting ceremony was simply symbolic. The League of Women Voters celebrated its 60th anniversary in Bay with the donation of four trees in Cahoon Memorial Park.

Pictured from left are: Bay LWV Treasurer Barbara Ebright, City Arborist Bob Kochmit, Chair of the Tree Commission Nancy Reese Wyatt and League official Mary Lou Jones. (Photo credit: LWVCuy Area)



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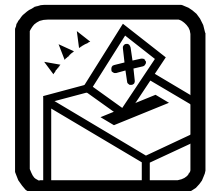
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2008-2009 League year. There are so many exciting things happening in our League.

This Voter is packed with articles on everything from the annual meeting 2008 highlights to the fabulous Mock Election Project 2008! Look for some impressions of LWVUS Convention in Portland, Oregon as well as into the future of the First Thursday Forums.

Oh, there's so much to see and do—**READ ON!**

—Kathy

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ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This year's annual meeting was held on May 28, 2008 at the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park. Members enjoyed a lovely lunch on a beautiful day with Lake Erie sparkling in the background. Business included:

- Election of a new slate of officers to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan:

<i>President</i>	Kathy Woodbridge
<i>VP Funding & Development</i>	Maryann Barnes
<i>VP Membership</i>	Carol Gibson
<i>VP Program</i>	Mary Warren
<i>VP Public Outreach</i>	Bonnie App
<i>VP Voter Service</i>	Nikki Salupo
<i>Secretary</i>	Janet Kershaw
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jean Seasholtz

- Adopted Program for 2008-2009 including a new study of regional Government in Cuyahoga County.
- Indexed dues to support the work of the LWV Cuyahoga Area. Hereafter, the dues of LWV Cuyahoga Area will rise commensurate with the amount voted by the LWVUS Convention every two years.

The work of the board is ably supported by many resource specialists: Asst. Treasurer: Bernice McGovern; Advocacy Chair: Roslyn Talerico; County Government/Regional Government Study: Lynda Mayer. We gratefully acknowledge their contributions.

Recent board action: At the June 7 board meeting Mary Lou Jones was appointed Executive director of the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund. This appointment strengthens our administrative model and is consistent with the goals and objectives of our Strategic Plan.

A New Take on the Lake: Rebirth of a Region

First Thursday Forums 2008-2009

The sixth season of the popular series, First Thursday Forums, will involve, engage and inform our audiences about the most significant and timely issues being decided in our region today — the major redevelopment and regional economic revitalization initiatives currently underway or under serious consideration in the Northeast Ohio Region, the City of Cleveland and the inner-ring suburbs.

The five public dialogue forums, *A New Take On The Lake: Rebirth Of A Region*, will kickoff on Thursday, November 6 with speaker Chris Warren, Chief of Regional Development in Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's administration. Mr. Warren will discuss ways in which regional planning and revenue sharing strategies could strengthen the redevelopment initiatives and economic future of the core cities and suburban communities in the region.

The public is invited to attend and participate in all First Thursday Forums, 7 – 9 pm. The forum series is held at Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

Thursday, December 4: Spotlight on University Circle Expansion and the Euclid Corridor Project completion timetable.

Thursday, February 5: Spotlight on Downtown Waterfront development and the Shoreway and surrounding neighborhood redevelopment efforts.

Thursday, March 5: Spotlight on the Proposed Medical Mart / Convention Center projects and timeline for completion and other downtown redevelopment plans.

Thursday, April 2: The Renaissance of Northeast Ohio Region – an overview.



Happy 60th Anniversary, Bay Chapter!

Is Cuyahoga County Ready for a Family Court?

The Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas is organized into divisions: 1) General (civil and criminal); 2) Domestic Relations (divorce, dissolution, legal separation, support and custody disputes between married parents, and temporary protection orders in domestic violence matters); 3) Probate (estates, guardianships, involuntary commitments, adoptions, and eminent domain); and 4) Juvenile (delinquency, abuse, neglect, dependency, custody and support disputes between never-married parents).

Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile Courts often overlap in the matters they address. Consumers may have to visit more than one court and come before more than one judge to have their issues resolved. This situation can be confusing, time-consuming, expensive, and may not result in the best outcomes for families and children. A grandparent or other relative or interested party who is willing to take care of someone else's child may have to visit several courts at several locations before finding out where to file and have the matter decided.

The League Study Committee has interviewed judges,

prosecutors, public defenders, Guardian ad litem and Legal aid lawyers, magistrates and bar association members. The Committee will bring the results of its study to League members in September. You will have the opportunity to learn about the courts and how family issues are resolved and through our consensus process tell us what you think can be done to improve the process.

The Study Committee hopes to see you at one of the following meetings:

- September 14, 2 PM, at the Coventry Branch of the Cleveland Heights Library, 1925 Coventry Road.
- September 16, 7 PM, at the Lakewood Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue.
- September 23, 5:45 PM, at the Memorial Nottingham Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 17109 Lake Shore Blvd.

If you would like information about the study the League has conducted, please e-mail me at rrtalerico@adelphia.net.

League Lingo, from the LWVO *Spotlight On....Part 1*

League Lingo, otherwise known as "do you understand what I'm saying?"

As in: (HYPOTHETICALLY) "When we go to convention there'll be a program action alert on our health care position that National expects us to take action on immediately and a new concurrence on gun control. Plus, we'll be asked to raise the PMP despite losing our DPM's!

ACTION

Expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or her/his authorized representative.

ACTION ALERT

Request from state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position.

CONCURRENCE

Agreement of League members with position reached by a small group or another League.

CONSENSUS

Collective opinion of League members on a particular subject. Also, process used to arrive at positions on issues.

CONVENTION

State and national League meetings held biennially. Delegates adopt program, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming year, and act on proposed by-laws changes.

COUNCIL

State and national meetings held in the years between conventions. Limited delegate body adopts budget for the coming year; may discuss program.

DPM

Stands for Duplicate Presidents Mailings. Any member may subscribe and receive the same material contained in a national mailing to local League presidents.

EDUCATION FUND

The tax-deductible arm of the LWV. Education funds may be established at all three levels of League. Education monies may not be used for position support activities (action.)

ILO

Acronym for Inter-League Organization. Leagues in a geographic area may join

for joint activities and have a governing board.

LOCAL LEAGUE LIAISON

State board member assigned to receive and read local League minutes and Voters. Primary contact for the local League presidents with the state board.

MAL

Meaning Member-At-Large, this is a member who does not belong to a local League.

NON-PARTISANSHIP

League policy of never supporting or opposing any candidate or political party.

PMP

Acronym for Per Member Payment, which is the amount of money paid to the state and national on behalf of each member. The amount of the PMP is determined by delegates to state and national Conventions and is assessed based on the membership count as of January 1 each year.

More Lingo in the next Voter issue.

REPORT: LWVUS Convention**June 13-17, 2008, Portland Oregon**

After an unprecedented debate over Convention Rules the delegates settled down to business. Program adoptions included:

- Retention of all current LWVUS positions
- Development of a Health Care education program so that members will be well informed and able to educate and advocate effectively
- Amendment of the Principles by adding: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. Government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial."
- Approval of a non-recommended study item entitled: "The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President."
- Approval of "a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change. LWVUS has had a task force working in this area for a year.

As anticipated, delegates voted to increase dues \$1.20 this year and \$1.20 next year: \$2.40 total. Staff, office space, board travel and expenses have been cut to the bone. Any further cuts could seriously impact League's ability to do advocacy on Capital Hill.

Challenging! Inspiring! Revealing! And Mightily Gratifying! Words to describe the feelings elicited by the presentations of five outstanding speakers whose presentations will soon be podcast on the League website: www.lwv.org.

1. **Hon. Barbara Roberts**, First Woman Governor of Oregon, 1991-1995: "Women as Political Leaders—Our History and Experiences"
2. **Hon. John Kitzhaber, M.D.**, Governor of Oregon 1009-2002: "The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century" www.archimedesmovement.org.
3. **V. Ramanathan**, Victor Alderson Professor of Applied Ocean Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, Scripps Institute of Oceanography UCSD: "Overview: The State of Climate Change—What We Know and What we Don't." www.ramamathan.ucsd.edu.
4. **Heather Kaplan**, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Oxfam America, Climate Change Disparities: "The Effect on the Developing World." www.oxfam.org.
5. **Daniel Kammen**, Professor of Energy and Society at the Energy and Resources Group, UC-Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy: "Energy Tradeoffs: Non-Renewables, Renewables, Conservation and the Future." www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynntdk6eGSY.

The banquet speaker was Rebecca Love Kourlis, former Colorado Supreme court Justice, currently Executive Director, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), www.du.edu/legalinstitute. Her topic: how America chooses its judges and the tension between accountability and independence in the judiciary. Also visit www.ohioimpact.org for more information about judicial independence. Impact is a project of the League of Women Voter of Ohio Education Fund.

CONTRIBUTORS: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CUYAHOGA AREA & EDUCATION FUND

June 2007 – June 2008

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Bay Village Democratic Club
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Kenneth B. Burns
Nancy Calcott
Katherine Carr
Robin P. Chandler
Adele Cohn
Lana Cowell
Shirley Culbertson
Nancy J. Dietrich
Carly Donaldson
Sally Ebling
Barbara Ebright
Fairview Park Chapter

John Flowers
Don & Nancy Frazier
Carol Gibson
Jean Glatte
David & Laura Gooch
Kazdan
Lois W. Gross
Lesley Hahn
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Mary C. Warren
Betty S. Weiss
Westlake/ N. Olmsted
Chapter
Allen Wilkinson
Wolpert Fund
Diana Woodbridge
Kathy Woodbridge
Zucker Family

* **Bold denotes multiple contributions**

LWV BOOK CLUB

Save Sunday evening, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. for a discussion of Nixonland by Rick Perlstein. It has received high praise in reviews. One of our members who has already read most of the book says, "The book isn't really about Nixon, but about his era, which was the time a special brand of political bad behavior took root, and has particularly flourished during Bush 43's tenure."

Perlstein is an independent historian and blogger who prides himself on writing about the American Right empathetically and accurately, although he himself is a staunch liberal.

No matter who wins the presidency in November, League members

need to be informed critics. Over a hundred years ago George Santayana wisely observed, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

We will meet at the home of Linda Tobin and Stephen Pepper in Cleveland Heights.

R.S.V.P. to Carol Gibson at (216) 932-8733 by Friday, September 19 so the Tobin-Peppers know how many people to expect. Non-members (including husbands) are welcome. Directions will be e-mailed to everyone who reserves.

We'd prefer scheduling the next Book Club on the west side, so please let us know if you are interested in hosting.



The Ohio delegation to the 2008 LWVUS Annual Convention, "Reaching New Heights Together," held June 13-17 in Portland, Oregon.

Revamped and Updated LWV Website

If you haven't had the chance yet, be sure to check the newly designed LWV Cuyahoga Area website. The new site is easy to navigate and provides the usual wealth of information and links.

www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org

LWVCA DIVERSITY POLICY

The LWV in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual

orientation, national origin or disability. The LWV Recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWV subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds

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and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its board, staff and programs.

Calendar of Events

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|------------|--|
| Sept. 2 | LWV Cuy Area Book Club
Sunday, 7:00 PM
Home of Linda Tobin and Stephen Pepper | Sept. 30 | Vote by Mail/absentee voting opens |
| Sept. 14 | Family Court: Review of League Study
Is Cuyahoga County ready for a Family Court?
Sunday, 2:00-4:00 PM
Cleveland Hts. Library, 1925 Coventry Road | Oct. 6 | Close of registration for the 11/4/08
General Election |
| Sept. 16 | Family Court: Review of League Study
Is Cuyahoga County ready for a Family Court?
Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 PM
Lakewood Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue | Oct. 8-9 | Mock Election
Valley Forge High School
9999 Independence Blvd., Parma |
| Sept. 23 | Family Court: Review of League Study
Is Cuyahoga County ready for a Family Court?
Tuesday, 5:45-7:45 PM
Cleveland Public Library, Memorial Nottingham
Branch. 17109 Lakeshore Blvd. | Oct. 15-16 | Mock Election
Westlake High School
27830 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake |
| Sept. 24- 25 | Mock Election
Shaw High School
15320 Euclid Avenue, East Cleveland | Nov. 1 | Deadline for absentee ballot applications
by mail |
| Sept. 27-28 | Mock Election
Lakewood High School
14100 Franklin Avenue, Lakewood | Nov. 4 | ELECTION DAY
Deadline for absentee ballot returns: 7:30 PM |
| | | Nov. 6 | A New Take on the
Lake: Rebirth of a Region
Chris Warren, speaker
Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM
Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Avenue |

CUYAHOGA AREA
COMMUNITIES

Bay Village
Beachwood
Bedford
Bedford Heights
Bentleyville
Brecksville
Broadview Heights
Brooklyn
Brooklyn Heights
Chagrin Falls Township
Chagrin Falls Village
East Cleveland
Cleveland Heights
Cuyahoga Heights
Fairview Park
Garfield Heights
Gates Mills
Glenwillow
Highland Heights
Highland Hills
Hunting Valley
Lakewood
Linndale
Lyndhurst
Maple Heights
Mayfield Heights
Mayfield Village
Moreland Hills Village
Newburg Heights Village
North Olmsted
North Randall
North Royalton
Oakwood
Orange
Parma
Parma Heights
Pepper Pike
Richmond Heights
Rocky River
Seven Hills
Solon
South Euclid
University Heights
Valley View
Walton Hills
Warrensville Heights
Westlake
Woodmere

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-
CUYAHOGA AREA
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