



Women Who Know Their Place... in Global Activism



Barbara Anne Ferris

Continuing the theme, “*Women Who Know Their Place*,” celebrating highly-successful women in their fields, the fourth First Thursdays in our speaker series features Barbara Anne Ferris, founder and president of the International Women’s Democracy Center (IWDC). The event will be held on **March 4, 2010, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Trinity Commons at Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue.** Sponsored by

the Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area, it is open to the public free of charge.

Established to ensure that women worldwide have the necessary tools and skills to participate in politics, policy and

decision making within their own democracies, the IWDC is headquartered in Washington D. C., with offices in Ohio, Botswana, Northern Ireland, and Tajikistan.

A woman of many facets, Barbara Anne Ferris has been a director for the Peace Corps, advisor to the United Nations, candidate for U. S. Congress, and has visited over 100 countries around the world. Her travels include a Sahara Desert crossing, treks in the Andes, Atlas and Himalayan mountain ranges, a polar expedition in Antarctica and exploration of the Galapagos Islands. She is a sought-after expert on how governments, organizations and communities can ensure that women are equal partners in the economic, social and political development of their countries.

Join us and bring a guest.

For more information, call 216 781-0555

How Does Ohio Do Redistricting? Why Does the Census Matter?

The Urban College at CSU, in collaboration with the League of Women Voters, is planning a public forum event on the topic of redistricting in March. The forum, to be held at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, will address the topic: How Does Ohio Do Redistricting and Why Does the Census Matter?

The forum will explore how Ohio currently draws districts, how other states approach redistricting, the League of Women Voters principles for fair elections, and the Ohio Secretary of State’s work and position on the issue. Related legislative proposals will also be discussed. All three Leagues in Cuyahoga County are working jointly on this meeting.

Check the calendar at LWVCuyahogaArea.org and your next e-newsletter for the date and time of this important event. Information about CSU forums can also be found at: <http://urban.csuohio.edu/forum>

The League of Women Voters Ohio (LWVO) is a member of the statewide Ohio Complete Count Committee (CCC) established by Gov. Strickland to increase awareness about

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Openness in Government: LWVUS Executive Director Appointed to Advisory Panel

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate has been appointed to an advisory panel to help the U.S. General Services Administration manage an online collaborative dialogue to solicit public feedback on USA.gov, an online portal designed to quickly connect Americans with government offices and services. This task fits in well with other open and collaborative government activities at the federal level in which LWVUS has become engaged since the Obama administration increased efforts to improve government openness, participation and collaboration.

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LWVUS recently learned that **VOTE411.org** is featured in a new book, *Ten Ways to Change the World in Your Twenties*. VOTE411.org and the League are featured in Chapter 3, “Ways to Be the Life of Your Party” (p. 60)

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information.

Presidents' Column Winter 2010

It was a very, very busy "election season" for LWV Cuyahoga Area! What we did: We engaged a new generation of voters at Bay Village and North Olmsted High Schools with a multi-day mock election project focused on the mayoral race in each of the two cities. Thirty-three League volunteers participated in this project along with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the social studies teaching staff at the high schools. This project was financed by our Education Fund and coordinated by **Mary Lou Jones**, executive director of the LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund.

We held candidate forums in 12 Cuyahoga County communities. Multiple volunteers helped at each forum and many hours went into planning each event. Thank you to **Nikki Salupo** for her hard work and dedication to our voter service efforts.

And, of course, there was our huge effort helping to put Issue #6 on the November 3 ballot, and then tirelessly educating and advocating for passage of the issue. Our PowerPoint presentation, "Fixing Cuyahoga County At Last", was presented by LWV volunteers to various groups over 30 times prior to the election. On election day, 45 of our members stood outside polling locations (in the cold!) holding up signs saying "League of Women Voters says Vote NO on #5, YES on #6". Success was sweet! All of our volunteers were great, but a special thank you goes to **Lynda Mayer and Janice Patterson**.



Members of the Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area and Shaker Heights Leagues help celebrate the passage of Issue 6!

The place to find information about anything election related was definitely our web site, LWVCuyahogaArea.org. It remains the place to go to find information about upcoming events, program, League publications, regionalism and other topics of local interest. **Bonnie App** does a wonderful job keeping the web site both current and relevant.

Joan Hirsh kept our name in the public eye with publicity in newspapers, online, and on radio and TV. We definitely had fun appearing on *That's Life with Robin Swoboda* just before election day!

Our activities don't end with the end of the election season though. What we are doing now and in the months to come:

We are now in the seventh season of our First Thursday speaker series. This season the focus is on highly successful women: "Women Who Know Their Place". Please plan to join us soon for a First Thursday. Admission and parking are free and we'll even give you a good cup of coffee!

LWV Cuyahoga Area, LWV Cleveland Area, and Shaker Heights LWV are planning a joint event in March on the census and how it will effect redistricting in Ohio. Look for more information in a future e-Newsletter.

Annual meeting is planned for May 22, 2010. Please plan to be there!

We'll close by saying:

Happy 90th birthday League of Women Voters!

Janet and Susan

Census continued from front page:

the 2010 census and educate / motivate Ohioans to participate. LWVO reports that the committee will work collaboratively with local Complete Count Committees and the U.S. Census Bureau to 1) ensure a complete count through education and promotion; 2) increase counts in hard-to-count areas; and 3) increase mail-back rates of census materials. LWVUS is also a CCC partner at the national level.

<http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/cccGuide.pdf>

www.census.ohio.gov

www.nonprofitscount.org

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Regionalism Update

In the flurry of County government reform, which gave our Cleveland region a better engine for cross-jurisdictional collaboration, you may have gotten the impression that our Regionalism interest is on hold. Not so. The Northeast Ohio “**Regional Prosperity Initiative**” (www.neo-rpi.org) has produced detailed interim reports and final to-do lists on a 16-county plan for regional land use planning and “New Growth Tax-base Sharing.” The latter proposal is expected out in its final form by late March.

Additionally, the “**Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration**” (www.ohioreformandcollaboration.org) is working hard to craft legislative carrots and/or sticks to make these and other collaborations more advantageous and achievable statewide.

LWV Cuyahoga Area regionalism program positions* have already been adopted by two other League chapters and, through additional presentations, LWV Cuyahoga Area will be encouraging more League chapters to adopt the regionalism program positions. It is because of program positions that the League is able to do advocacy work.

A new “Google Group” on Regionalism has been established by LWV Ohio. It will facilitate communication between League members across the state. If members have information on regionalism to be shared or are interested in being a resource to **Barbara Guy**, Google Group facilitator and member of the LWV Shaker Heights, please contact the state office at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO (1-877-598-6446).

**To learn more about LWV Cuyahoga Area’s program and how it adopts positions, visit: www.lwvcuyahogaarea.org/program.html*

League For Life

Maxine Slone and **Barbara Reitz** joined the League in 1959. That means that they have now been members of the League for fifty years! In recognition of this significant achievement, the league wishes to honor them with memberships for life. We thank these women for their years of service and support. Congratulations! Last year **Beryl Peck**, **Lois VanAuken**, and **Barbara Williams** achieved the fifty-year milestone.

Over the years, records were not always kept up to date, and sometimes were simply lost. The most common aid women use to recall exactly when they joined the league is to tie it to the birth or age of a child. If there are others who joined in 1959 or 1960, please let our membership VP, **Carol Gibson** know at carolgibson65@hotmail.com.

What brought you to the table?

Some days, I ask myself, “*Oh, why did I join the League?*” And, then I remember why I joined the League.

When I first moved to Lakewood from Kenner, Louisiana in January of 1995, I was looking for a way to get involved. I did not venture out of my house for at least a month because I was convinced I would freeze solid or become trapped in snow. I made small trips and eventually went to City Hall where I attended a Lakewood City Council meeting and met **Pam Smith**, then a council member. She introduced herself and asked me if I belonged to the League of Women Voters. She gave my name and telephone number to **Mary Warren**, president of the Lakewood League at that time. Mary called me and invited me to Lakewood’s Annual Meeting. I went and met a lot of wonderful and interesting women. I also was recruited to help at the Annual Flower Sale Lakewood was so famous for. Then, I was invited to join the Lakewood League’s board. I later served two terms as Co-President with **Anita Adams** and **Ethel Evans**. During those tenures I was involved in a lot of exciting activities including the unification of the Bay Village, Chagrin Falls, Cleveland Heights/University Heights, Fairview Park, Hillcrest, Lakewood, and Rocky River leagues. North Olmsted/Westlake joined us later as a chapter.



Susan Jankite

There have been a lot of challenges during the past years. First and foremost was the process of negotiating the learning curve from being individual Leagues to being a chapter of a larger League. Then, we have been faced with the challenges of sustaining a viable organization due to the effects of aging, death, the economy, and other factors. We are fortunate to have two sister Leagues (Cleveland Area and Shaker Heights) to work and communicate with.

And, working with people who put the good of the organization above their personal feelings is the main reason I joined the League. When the League decides to support an issue, it is after that issue has been analyzed, studied, and the knowledge gained shared with the membership to reach a consensus. The League models the checks and balances it demands from government. A lot of care and caring is put into the volunteers’ work. It’s inspired me to raise my standards in my professional and personal life. And, for that, I thank each and every one of you I have come to know and cherish during the years.

Join the League of Women Voters, a respected national grassroots organization, where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on the local, state, and national levels. Become a member and serve as a leader in your community, and work to shape the important issues that keep our communities strong.

We are -

- Acting as a force to create positive, lasting change in our communities
- Empowering voters to protect their right to vote
- Educating citizens and fostering dialogue on pertinent issues
- Working to ensure that ALL votes are counted and ALL voices are heard.
- Preserving our constitutional rights
- Working together to make democracy work!

We believe that sensible, responsible civil discourse and action based on substance rather than partisanship is essential for civic improvement. We believe that with leaders like you, we can make democracy work.

Join us and be part of the solution! Your community needs leaders like you to participate in order to be a strong, safe and vibrant place to live. Become a member and make an impact in your community. Call now to learn how to become a member: 216-781-0555 or visit LWVCuyahogaArea.org

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

- February 28 LWV Book Club: 7 pm;
The Conscience of a Liberal by Paul Krugman
Discussion Leader: Lolly Jacobsen;
Hosts: Tom and Carol Gibson.
- March 4 First Thursdays
Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave, 7 – 9 pm
- March 28 LWV Book Club
- April 8 First Thursdays
Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave, 7 – 9 pm
- April 14 LWV Ohio Statehouse Day
- May 22 LWV Cuyahoga Area Annual Meeting
- June 11/15 LWV United States Convention in Atlanta

For a complete listing of events visit the calendar on the website:

www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org

**Stay up-to-date with the League's
monthly member e-newsletter.**

**If you're not signed up yet, send a message to:
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