

A Message from LWVAA President

Hello Leaguers,

On Monday, June 7th at 6PM, the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area will host its 2021 Annual Meeting. Again this year, the meeting will be held virtually. It has been a challenging year for us all. Some of us have fallen ill or know someone who has. We have seen others fall on hard times. And many of us have been isolated from family and friends.

Through it all, your League has worked hard and grown strong. The attached packet of information will give you a glimpse of what has happened. You will be proud of us, for we have done our part in defending democracy. Our programs, outreach, membership, and advocacy, in fact every aspect of our League, have become more impactful.

Now, it appears that brighter times are ahead, but that does not mean we can

relax. Defending our democracy seems to be getting harder. We need you with us.

So, please read the materials below, paying special attending to those items that will require your vote (2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, 2021-2022 Proposed Budget, Membership Committee's recommended change to the membership fee structure, and the Nominating Committee's slate of Officers and Directors).

Next, register for the meeting by [clicking this link](#).

Finally, please show up for the meeting on Monday, June 7th at 6PM. Come a little early and see some League friends you may have missed this past year.

We need you with us! Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport!

Rosanne L. Winter, PhD., President
League of Women Voters, Akron Area

LWVAA 2021 Annual Meeting

Calling all LWVAA members! Join us for the virtual June 7 LWVAA Annual Meeting, just [click here](#) to register!

We have a wonderful keynote speaker to kick us off, State of Ohio Representative Emilia Strong Sykes.



BIOGRAPHY

Emilia Strong Sykes was first elected to represent her hometown in 2014. She currently represents Ohio's 34th House district and serves as Minority Leader in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Sykes attended Kent State University. She later attended the University of Florida, where she earned a law degree and a masters of public health.

In office, Leader Sykes has pushed an aggressive job creation plan, fighting to keep local jobs for local workers and expand opportunities for middle and working-class families in Akron. Leader Sykes understands the importance of quality education and job training for people to get ahead.

Leader Sykes has worked with colleagues to improve public health, increase access to care, and combat Ohio's high infant mortality rate. Her passion for social justice extends to issues such as voter rights, criminal justice reform, a more efficient social safety net for struggling Ohioans, and an end to domestic violence. Sykes' work on domestic violence issues has earned bipartisan praise and resulted in her legislation to protect people in dating relationships, House Bill 1, becoming law.

Recently, she and her caucus unveiled the Ohio Promise, a legislative framework to strengthen Ohio and restore its promise of better lives and brighter futures for all, and an economy that works for everyone.

Sykes previously served in the Democratic Leadership before being named Minority Leader in January 2019.

2020-2021 Budget


2020-21 Budget vs Actual Summary


2020-21: July to April

Bank Balance \$23,682

Created: May 3, 2021

	Actual	Budget	Diff
SUMMARY			
Income	10,058	7,955	2,103
Expenses	5,498	9,360	3,862
Difference	4,560	-1,405	5,965
INCOME			
Income	10,058	7,895	2,163
- Donation	2,605	1,000	1,605
- Membership	7,453	6,895	558
Special Events	0	60	-60
EXPENSES			
BOARD	0	100	100
- President Fund	0	50	50
- Publications for Board	0	50	50
COMMITTEES	227	1,025	798
- Fundraiser	0	100	100
- Meetings Programs	58	600	542
- Membership	168	200	32
- Voter Services	0	125	125
COMMUNICATIONS	564	2,295	1,731
- Bus Ads	0	250	250
- Design Services	0	250	250
- Handbook	40	70	30
- Newsletter	0	25	25
- Online Subscriptions	0	300	300
- Print Publication Ads	160	500	340
- Printed Voters Guide	364	150	-214
- Printing	0	200	200
- Social Media Ads	0	150	150
- Video Recordings	0	200	200
- Vote411.org	0	200	200
DELEGATES	0	700	700
- National	0	0	0
- Ohio	0	600	600
- Workshop	0	100	100
DUES	3,331	3,423	92
- National PMP	1,576	1,576	0
- State PMP	1,755	1,847	92
OPERATING	1,377	1,817	440
- Bank Fee	108	75	-33
- Insurance	159	184	25
- Office Operations-Supplies	0	100	100
- PO Box	0	288	288
- Postage	0	50	50
- Rent	600	600	0
- Telephone	110	120	10
- Web Site	400	400	0

	2020-2021 Budget	YTD - April 19, 2021	Proposed 2021-2022 Budget	Additional Costs to be Paid by Ed Fund	NOTES
INCOME					
Membership Dues	\$ 6,895	\$ 7,375	\$ 7,714		members as of Jan 31), \$35/add'l household (24 members)
Donations	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,605	\$ 1,500		
Special Events	\$ 60	\$ -	\$ 60		
RESERVES from Checking			\$ 2,110		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 7,955	\$ 9,980	\$ 11,384		
EXPENSES					
Board					
President's Fund	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50		
Publications for Board	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50		
TOTAL BOARD EXPENSES	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100		
Committees					
Fundraising	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100		
Meetings Programs	\$ 600	\$ 58	\$ 600		
Membership	\$ 200	\$ 168	\$ 200		
Voter Services	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ 125		
TOTAL COMMITTEES	\$ 1,025	\$ 226	\$ 1,025		
Communications					
Handbook	\$ 70	\$ -	\$ 40		
Newsletter	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25		
Printed Voters Guide	\$ 150	\$ 364	\$ 150	TBD	Additional costs associated with the printed Voters Guide
Design Services	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250		
Printing Flyers, Postcards	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200		
Advertising			\$ 900		Bus, social media and print publication
Social Media Ads	\$ 150	\$ -			Combined - see above
Print Publication Ads	\$ 500	\$ 160			Combined - see above
Video Recordings	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 300		
Online Communication Platform Subscriptions	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 500		Real talk, Signup Genius, Zoom
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 2,295	\$ 524	\$ 2,365		
Conferences/Training					
National Convention			\$ 2,000		
State Convention	\$ 600		\$ -		No convention in '22
Workshops/Training	\$ 100		\$ 100		

 LWV LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS	2020-2021 Budget	YTD - April 19, 2021	Proposed 2021-2022 Budget	Additional Costs to be Paid by Ed Fund	NOTES
TOTAL CONFERENCES/TRAINING	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ 2,100		
Assessments/Dues					
LWVUS PMP	\$ 1,576	\$ 1,576	\$ 1,816	\$ 1,816	Ed Fund voluntarily pays for 50% of National PMP
State PMP	\$ 1,847	\$ 1,755	\$ 2,128	\$ 709	Ed Fund voluntarily pays for 25% of State PMP
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS/DUES	\$ 3,423	\$ 3,331	\$ 3,944		
OPERATING					
Bank Fee	\$ 75	\$ 108	\$ 120		
Insurance	\$ 184	\$ 159	\$ 172	\$ 172	Ed fund pays 50% of 2020-2021 expenses
Office Operations/Supplies	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100		
PO Box	\$ 288	\$ -	\$ 288		
Postage	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50		
Rent	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	Ed fund pays 50% of 2020-2021 expenses
Telephone	\$ 120	\$ 110	\$ 120	\$ 120	Ed fund pays 50% of 2020-2021 expenses
Web Site	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,817	\$ 1,377	\$ 1,850		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,360	\$ 5,458	\$ 11,384		
PROJECTED 2020-2021 SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (1,405)	\$ 4,522	0		

BUDGET COMMITTEE

John Fitzpatrick, Treasurer; Rosanne Winter, President; Jackie Darrow; Roberta Aber; Barbara Hunsicker; Laurie Curfman

2020-2022 LWVAA Nominating Committee Report

2021 LWVAA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 12, 2021

Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting with the consent of the nominee.

FOR APPROVAL

LWVAA Officers – Two-year term (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2023)

Vice President, Organization: Robert Aber

Secretary: Mary Ann Jopperi

LWVAA Officer – One-year term (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022)

President Elect: Laurie Curfman

LWVAA Board Members – Two-year term (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2023)

Director: Jessie Coffey

Director: Ardith Keck

Director: Nikki Marchmon-Boykin

Director: Arrye Rosser

LWVAA Board Member – One-year term (7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022) to complete term vacated by Liz King

Director: Cynthia Christman

LWVAA Board Member – *One-year term (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022)

Director: Jodie DeLamatre

FOR INFORMATION

LWVAA Officers – Two-year term, continuing to serve to 6/30/2022

President: Rosanne Winter

Treasurer: John Fitzpatrick

2nd Vice Presidents, Voter Service: Gloria Irwin, Voter Registration and Education;

Barbara Hunsicker, Voter Programs and Information

LWVAA Board Members – Two-year term, continuing to serve to 6/30/2022

Director: Jackie Derrow

Director: Ginny Melver

LWVAA Nominating Committee – Two-year term, continuing to serve to 6/30/2022

Three non-Board members elected, including Chair:

Kathie Brown, Cathy Hunt (Co-Chair), Susan Ross

2021 Board Members: Jackie Derrow (Co-Chair), Liz King (one-year terms, appointed by the Board)

2022 Board Members: TBD

* One-year term to bring election rotation into compliance with Code of Regulations requirement for election of four (4) directors each year.

Board Report: Priority Action Plan 2020 – 2021, Our Work – Our Impact

Submitted by Laurie Curfman

At last year's Annual Meeting our **Priority Action Plan for 2020 – 2022** was approved. This plan has provided our league with strategic, actionable, and measurable objectives to guide our work for two years. Additionally, the objectives are producing a trove of data so that we are able to show our outcomes yearly and, in the future, show change from year to year. This collection of data will also help guide our work so that we efficiently use our resources and have a historical record of our service and impact in the community as we work to uphold our mission.

Once the plan was approved in July of 2020, sub-committees were formed to actualize our priorities. Each sub-committee is positioned with a Lead who developed targeted SMART Objectives in August of 2020 to ensure we had specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound activities to reach our goals. The Sub-Committees are:

Voter Rights: Increase Voter Participation

Increase Voter Registration, **Lead: Gloria Irwin**

Increase Voter Participation, **Lead: Barbara Hunsicker**

Election Rights: Make Elections more safe, secure, accurate, and accessible for every eligible Ohioan, **Lead: Jackie Darrow**

Citizens' Rights: Ensure compliance with Sunshine Laws at public meetings through public awareness and understanding, **Lead: Jodie DeLamatre**

We felt it was imperative to also add **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** as a priority this year due to the intense and targeted work members of our league have committed to so that our league is conducting all of our work through a DEI lens. At our February 4, 2021 meeting, the LWVAA Board voted to adopt and commit to LWVUS's DEI Policy.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Lead, Liz King

We have over 30 individual objectives we are tracking, however, for a snapshot view of our work toward our priorities, the objectives have been grouped in more manageable and meaningful categories. A caveat to this report is a statement regarding the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our work over the last year. We continued to conduct many activities virtually, however, a great deal of work was to provide education and resources to many of our community partners to support their work in voter registration and participation.

The following data represents impact and accomplishments from July 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021:

2020 - 2022 LWVAA Priority Action Plan Impact Yearly Report	
# LWVAA Members, increase of 30%	
2019-2020 Membership	110
2020 - 2021 Membership	143
LWVAA Fiscal Year Reporting July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	
Voter Rights - Increase Voter Registration & Participation	
Leads: Gloria Irwin and Barbara Hunsicker	
Number of Voter Registration Events	19
Outreach Activities with Community Organizations	24
Number of Voters Reached	Unknown*
VOTE411 - users from Akron	2791
VOTE411 - new users	2677
General Election Candidate Forum, 9/30/2020	140 attendees
Number of participants at Forum	140
Number of Candidates	11
Assisted partners to mail Get Out the Vote Postcards	8500
Voter Registration Deadline Posters distributed	150
Voter Guides Printed and Distributed, in partnership with Akron Beacon Journal	10,000
Election Rights - Make Elections more safe, secure, accurate, and accessible for everyone through Advocacy and Voter Service	
Lead: Jackie Derrow	
Educational Programs/Event - Advocacy	
Shine a Light on Dark Money	
National Stage Managers Association Conference	
Health Equity Study (Barbara Hunsicker, Coordinator)	29 participants
Arming School Personnel Study, two part consensus meeting (Jackie Derrow, Coordinator)	Part #1 = 51 participants Part #2 = 24 participants
Impact of the Pandemic on K-12 Education in Akron Public Schools	90 participants
Summit County Complete Count Committee (Liz King, LWVAA representative)	
Summit Suffrage Centennial Committee; Sojourner Truth Statue sub-committee (Jackie Derrow, LWVAA Representative)	
Redistricting activities: postcard campaign 500+ postcards mailed	3 trained presenters
4/2021 – LWVAA Endorsement of Theiss Road Land Conservancy proposal	
Community Partners & Collaborators: NAACP, AkronVotes2020, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority	
Educational Programs/Events - Voter Service	
Community Welfare Forum of Summit County - Voter Registration & Voting Options	45 attendees
Outreach to high school students	
Door to Door canvassing	

In-person Voter Registration	
Voter Education materials provided to over 35 community organizations	
Positions and Priorities 2021, February 13, 2021	
Observer Corps Lead: Jodie DeLamatre	
Number of unduplicated meetings covered by Observers	11
Total meetings Observed in Summit County	105
Number of trained LWVAA Observers	17
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Lead: Liz King	
Number of LWVAA DEI events (as of 3/31/21)	4
Number of participants	114
Number of REAL TALK DEI events (as of 4/30/2021)	8
Number of Real Talk registrants	2519
Number of Real Talk participants (63% of registrants)	1591
<i>Not included in registrant and participation numbers: Real Talk June 2, 2021 (Equality in the Court System) and June 9, 2021 (Collateral Consequences From the Courts)</i>	

2021 – 2022 Preview

LWVAA Areas for improvement, as determined on 12/17/2020:

- Expand and update Voting 101 Program,
- Partner with various community groups for outreach to underrepresented populations – New Citizens, citizens in wards with lower turn-out, and new/young voters,
- Increase membership and engagement of new members, and
- Develop stronger relationship between Communications Committee and Webmaster.

Education Fund: Development Committee will be created and a chair will be appointed.

LWVAA 2019-2020 Annual Meeting Minutes



League of Women Voters Akron Area
Annual Meeting Minutes: July 9, 2020

DRAFT

Virtual Annual Meeting held on TEAMS Videoconferencing Platform

5:45 – 6:00 pm Social

6:00 pm General Session

7:15 pm Speaker, Iris Meltzer

Agenda:

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker, Iris Meltzer, LWVO Board Chair – Jackie Darrow

Review Protocol for Meeting – Jessie Coffey

- 1. Call to order, review of past year, and Agenda for 2019-2020:** President Jackie Darrow officially called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Jackie reviewed the agenda and provided members with a year-end review of the work of the league's voter participation efforts, education, and advocacy with emphasis on the importance of our work in the current environment. Jackie recognized the 100th year anniversary of Women's right to vote and recognized the LWVAA's 80th Anniversary. She shared that it has been an honor to serve as the LWVAA's President and reminded us that Democracy is NOT a Spectator's Sport! We viewed the LWVUS' video, *She is Me*.
- 2. Secretary's Report of attendance:** Laurie Curfman reported 31 members in attendance, meeting the quorum threshold.
- 3. 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes:** The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes were presented by Laurie Curfman. There were no questions.
Roberta Aber moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Liz King, Motion carried to approve the minutes.
- 4. Educational Fund report:** Barbara Hunsicker – Chair of the Ed Fund. Barbara reviewed the Ed Fund's purpose and mission over the last 35 years. She shared that LWVUS had provided guidance to member leagues about League's and companion Ed Fund's merging into a single 501(c)(3) as opposed to maintaining their separate statuses. A subcommittee made up of members of both boards and with the council of Attorney Robert Gippen (also a League member) was formed to explore this option for LWVAA. The committee ultimately recommended not to pursue the merger. The Ed Fund Board voted June 25, 2020, to merge the boards as one common board. Effective at this meeting, The LWVAA Board and Ed Fund Board will be a common board, however meetings will be held separately. The result will be simplification of administrative processes and increased communication between the two boards.

5. **Bylaws Report:** Barbara Hunsicker, Chair with members Liz King and Roberta Aber – Reported that our current By-Laws were out-of-date and did not include provisions contained in contemporary bylaws. Attorney Gippen, who served as a consultant to the aforementioned merger discussion, drafted modified bylaws which going forward will be called the Code of Regulations. The new Code of Regulations is compliant with LWVO and LWVUS and have been approved by the LWVAA Board. The Code of Regulations was presented to the membership for adoption.
Ardith Keck made a motion to adopt the new Code of Regulations as presented, Jessie Coffey seconded the motion. Motion carried to adopt the Code of Regulations as presented.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** John Fitzpatrick – presented the budget summary including, Income = \$9,666.00, Expenses = \$7,558.00, Balance = \$2,108.00. John pointed out that we had fewer expenses and more income than anticipated during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2020. We currently have a cash-on-hand balance of \$18,718.00.
The report was approved to file.
7. **Proposed 2020 - 2021 Budget:** John Fitzpatrick presented the proposed budget for approval: Income = \$7,955, Expenses = \$9,360, and anticipated deficit of \$-1,405.00. He noted that the proposed budget included additional line items for added detail and transparency. Dues will remain the same with no increase.
Barbara Hunsicker made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget as presented, Liz King seconded, the Motion carried to approve the budget as presented.
8. **Recommended 2020 – 2022 Positions and Priorities:** Rosanne Winter – presented the 2020-2022 LWVAA Priority Action Plan with focus on objectives to Increase Voter Participation, Make Elections more safe, secure, and accessible for every eligible Ohioan, and Ensure compliance with Sunshine Laws at public meetings through public awareness and understanding. Three subcommittees have been formed to lead our league in accomplishing these SMART Objectives over the next two years.
A motion was made by Roberta Aber to accept the 2020-2022 Program and Priorities as presented, seconded by Liz King. With no discussion, the motion carried to accept the 2020-2022 Priority Action Plan.
9. **Informational Reports**
 - **Webmaster's Report:** John Fitzpatrick- Reported on our new website activity, which began collecting data in September. He stated the updated format and integration with social media has ensured consistent traffic throughout the year with election season showing the most peaks of activity. The most significant amount of traffic came from iPhones. President Jackie Darrow thanked John and Dick Klosterman for maintaining our website.
 - **Voter Service/Voter Registrations:** Rosanne Winter and Jackie Darrow -

Rosanne – Voter Service/Voter Registration: Rosanne reported we have 11 Registration Event Leaders and 22 member-volunteer Registrars. They staffed 24 venues for a total of 232 volunteer hours during 2019. We had a total of 330 new voter registrations which is a 31% increase over last year. We are working with numerous community partners, including a new group 2020AkronVotes, to continue promoting our education and advocacy activities.

Jackie Derrow (reporting for Kathy Duncan) – Voter Service/Vote411 and Candidate Forums: LWVAA collaborated with LWV Hudson and the Beacon Journal to produce the League-sponsored online VOTE411.org Voter Guide for the 2019 General and 2020 Primary elections. The total number of persons in Summit County using the Voter Guide doubled from 1,999 in 2017 to 3,724 in 2019. The total number of Summit County residents using the Voter Guide in 2018 mid-term election period was 10,661. We hosted a General Election Candidate Forum in October and a 2020 Primary Election Candidate Forum in February.

- **Observer Corps:** Jodi DeLamatre – Jodi thanked all of the members who participated in the Observer Corps, attending Akron City Council, Summit County Council, Metro Parks Board, School Board, and Green City Council meetings. The April 1st training was cancelled, however it is rescheduled as a virtual training for July 27th.
- **Membership:** Ardith Keck – shared that the norm of engaging new members by taking them to lunch or meeting for coffee is now being conducted virtually. Ardith stated we have gained 26 new members during the 2019-2020 year, and since May an additional 8 new members. We currently have 5 members who receive league information via US mail.
- **Communications:** Jessie Coffey – Shared that we have had an increase in the monthly newsletter responses and increased activity on social media. We have 458 followers on Facebook, 627 followers on Twitter, and 279 followers on Instagram.

10. Nominating Committee report: Barbara Hunsicker (Committee included Barbara as Chair, Liz King, Cathy Hunt, Susan Ross, and Gerry Hall). Barbara stated that the committee sought members who are leaders, passionate, and will advance the mission of the league with their time and talent. She explained that rather than have “experts” in certain areas, we are moving to have “generalists” to serve as Directors who will all serve and support our priorities and activities for the next two years. The following slate of nominees was presented for approval:

For a two-year term:

President: Rosanne Winter

Treasurer: John Fitzpatrick

2nd V.P. Voter Service: Gloria Irwin – Voter Registration and Education

Barbara Hunsicker – Voter Programs and Information

LWVAA Board of Directors:

Cindy Christman, Director, (one year term)

Jackie Darrow, Director

Mary Ann Jopperi, Director

Liz King, Director

Ginny Melver, Director

LWVAA Nominating Committee: Two-year term 2021 and 2022 elections:

Three non-board members to be elected, including chair

Cathy Hunt, Susan Ross, Kathie Brown

Board members Jackie Darrow and Liz King (one-year terms appointed by the board)

Continuing to serve to 2021 Officers and Directors:

Vice President: Roberta Aber

Communications: Jessie Coffey

Secretary: Laurie Curfman

Membership: Ardith Keck

Arrye Rosser, Director

Program and event coordinators: Kim Nelson and Michelle Mostow (Non-board members).

Kim Nelson made a Motion to accept the slate of officers as presented, Mary Ann Jopperi Seconded the Motion, Motion carried to approve the slate of officers as presented. There were no nominations from the floor.

11. **Installation of New President:** Rosanne Winter was installed as our new President.
12. **Introduction of New Board:** The new board was introduced.
13. **Other business:** No new business was brought to the membership.
14. **President's Remarks:** Rosanne Winter encouraged the membership to "suit up and join us", urging all of us to focus on local leadership for change.

Liz King made a motion to adjourn, a second by Jessie Coffey, Motion Carried to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

7:15 p.m. Speaker, Iris Meltzer

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Curfman

LWVAA 2020-2021 Annual Meeting Informational Reports

LWVAA Voter Service Information and Programs Annual Report June 7, 2021

Last year's pandemic and campaigns, marked by misinformation about the elections, emphasized the need for broader voter education. The League made great efforts to reach voters and inform them on how to register to vote, request and complete absentee ballots, find polling places and find factual information about candidates and campaigns. In addition, 10,000 print voter guides were distributed widely throughout the Akron and Hudson areas. Under an agreement with the Akron Beacon Journal, an abbreviated voter guide was printed in the newspaper and was accessible online through beaconjournal.com.

A candidate forum was held via Zoom on September 30 last year. With the help of a new member, it was conducted smoothly and was well-received. Over 140 voters attended and evaluations were positive.

The 2021 Primary election is May 4 and there are no primaries in Akron this year. The general election will include four School Board seats and one municipal judge seat. We hope to have an in-person forum for those candidates before the general election. If that is not feasible, another Zoom forum will be held.

We are continuing the partnership with the Hudson league and the Akron Beacon Journal. This year we will cover all elections within Summit County including small cities like Reminderville and Twinsburg that total about 180 seats. We are grateful for the partnership with the ABJ, which expands the availability of candidate information to voters outside the Akron area.

Most elections this year are nonpartisan and candidates have until August 4 to file. Thereafter, we will invite candidates to participate in VOTE 411.

LWVAA produces print and online voter guides every year. Since the number of Akron elections is so small this year, it bears discussion about if and how a print voter guide would be produced. Candidate information for the small cities in Summit County will be printed in local weekly newspapers under the ABJ umbrella.

Barbara Hunsicker
VP, Voter Service Information & Programs

Voter Services. Education and Registration: Gloria Irwin

Many new citizens in Akron's Ward 2 encountered issues that kept them from voting in last fall's presidential election. They were confused about the need to update registrations, what identification they needed to take with them to the polls, where their polling place was and more. The impact of unfamiliarity and confusion about voting for North Akron residents was documented in an Akron Beacon Journal article in early December.

The North Akron community cast provisional ballots nearly twice as often as the voters countywide and higher than the city average, according to the story written by reporter Doug Livingston.

The Voter Registration and Education Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area seeks to change this situation. We will educate new citizens in North Hill about voting so that they can equitably access the polls and make their voices heard.

The committee seeks to produce voter education materials in seven languages so that these new citizens can more fully understand their rights. We applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Akron Community Foundation in March. Laurie Curfman identified this funding opportunity and wrote the grant application, with input from me, Gloria Irwin, as committee chair and other board members. We learned in late April that we were awarded \$2,000. I have since approached the Knight Foundation for additional grant money.

I have written an initial script of about 8 minutes along with visual suggestions. We received a quote from noted local film-maker Josh Gippin of \$6,000 to produce eight videos – in Burmese, Mon, Karen, Arabic, Spanish, Swahili, Nepali and English. ASIA Inc. has agreed to support us by providing translation services. We are recruiting North High School students to narrate each version of the video, which will be presented to community groups in partnership with the International Institute and ASIA Inc. We will rely on these partners to identify the best opportunities and venues to present the videos. An LWVAA volunteer will be present to answer questions, through an interpreter, about voting.

We also aim to produce printed material in the eight languages for voters to take with them as reminders of the important points in the voting process.

As a backup in the event we do cannot afford Josh Gippin's expertise, I have reached out to the supervisor of the videography program at the University of Akron and we are discussing the possibility of having a student intern or recent graduate work on this project as a way of building a portfolio.

Another option is to work with translators in the seven languages to produce slide shows and record a narration to accompany them.

It's vitally important that we help the North Hill community fully access their right to vote. Although a professionally produced video might have the most impact, our goal is to use whatever means is effective and practical to accomplish this outreach.

We will conduct some voter registration activities beyond North Hill in coming months, focusing on events and venues that have been yielded the most results in the past.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please get in touch. My cell is 330-687-6911; my email for League work is gloriairwin44685@gmail.com.

LWVAA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Following our desire to retain new members, we have acted by zooming with them. Rosanne Winter, President, joined with Ardith on numerous digital meetings with new members. We felt it invaluable to learn to know the new member and to help them understand the League. It has resulted in new members often becoming involved and appreciative of the meeting. In this day of Coronavirus, all meetings have been scheduled virtually.

Letters were sent to all League members who had not renewed by October. This did inspire some members to send their dues or rejoin. Welcome letters and other materials were sent to all new members who gave us their USPO address. A welcome email was sent to those who didn't respond with a snail mail address. The Handbook was sent to all. Letters are also sent to all those who express interest in joining the League even though they haven't officially joined.

Members of the Board are encouraged to use a committee and to involve co-chairs as replacements for the future. Guests at most events are welcome and the Board and members are encouraged to always ask "Would you like to join?" and to carry membership brochures at all times.

Past suggestions from the committee still stand: always have a membership pitch at any event. Visibility is important, so we should always have co-sponsors, display our banner, write letters to the editor once a month or at least bi-monthly. Letter writing should not be another burden put on the President, but letters can be written by Board members or committee chairs and given to the President for approval. The speaker's bureau within the League should be more active, trained to give a presentation featuring the activities of the League, voting essentials and registration.

The Chair has been mailing the Voter info and other information to the six members without email so that they would not be left out without getting newsletters or other information about League happenings.

New members this year: Mary Robbins, Braylon Arsenault, Elizabeth Himmelein, Cheryl Metcalf, Linda Gauer, Prava Nepal, Kathleen Doody, Katherine Butler, Debbie Walsh, Victoria Berger, Frances Massaro, Jill Ghosh, Scott Curfman, Virginia Price, Suzanne Maliszewski, Susan Kushner Benson, Angela Parsons, Jeanette Bell, Sarah Pfeiffer, Stacie Novelli, Leslie Henry, Elaine Dietz Fisher, Alicia Marchand, Jane Bryan, Terie Zimmerman, Sheila and Gary King, That's 27 new members. Each year we have exceeded the last year with new members.

In an effort to grow our membership to include citizens who may not be able to afford the full fee, the Membership Committee (Gerry Hall, Sharon Gandee, Alicia Marchand, Margo Works, Mary Robbins) is recommending an addition to our categories of membership dues (keep our normal categories) to include a final category "Pay What You Can". This change will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting by the Membership.

Ardith Keck, Chair

Communications Annual Report, Jessie Coffey:

The Communications team faced a lot of challenges in 2020 with significantly increased social media and online activity and helping with virtual meetings during a Presidential Election year. We also improved our ability to respond to graphic design requests by formalizing our committee (meeting once per month) and building our first Editorial Calendar. We increased our social media reach to 487 followers on Facebook and 443 followers on Instagram, and in 2021-2022 a major focus will be to better engage those followers, as well as our members and supporters.

We set a vision for our committee and specific measurements of success: The LWVAA Communications Committee is focused on effective member, community, and media engagement by leveraging various platforms to share voting, advocacy, and event updates.

Annual Report for Observer Corps, 2020-2021-submitted by Jodie M. Grasgreen DeLamatre

It has been a very fluid year for membership. We were able to host an outstanding Observer Corps introduction and training in July. It was taught by Pat Simons of the Hudson League. In addition to her training that was attended by 17 LWVAA members, she also provided handouts including a reporting form for Observers Corps members to use as a guide to follow at a meeting and acts as a record if irregularities are consistently found.

Most meetings are remote and it appears most Observers may prefer that format. We currently have 13 members attending 11 meetings. This includes Summit County Council & Committees, Akron City Council & Committees, Green City Council, Summit Education Service Center, Akron Public Schools, Akron Summit County Public Library, Summit County Board of Elections, Summit Metro Parks.

Please consider joining the Corps. It's our way to ensure the public bodies are performing their duties in an open and transparent manner. We also can be on hand as issues may develop.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report
Annual Meeting June 7, 2021

The LWVUS made a public commitment to the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by adopting a DEI policy for our national organization in December, 2019 and encouraging state and local leagues to educate and discuss these important areas. We, in the LWVAA, began our education by developing four DEI virtual workshops based on LWVUS training modules. This was in partnership with LWV Hudson and targeted to our memberships.

The Workshops covered developing a common ground for defining diversity, equity and inclusion; ways to apply DEI to all areas of the league; developing a commitment to these principles; and finally, developing avenues to better understand our communities and potential partner organizations. A number of additional resources were included for further information. There were 114 total participants with an additional 47 registrants who had later access to the module materials.

The Greater Akron Area League joined with three other Northeast Ohio Leagues, Cleveland, Hudson and Kent to develop a DEI program designed to fully examine, educate and initiate action to affect change in our systemic institutional discrimination. "Real Talk" has become a virtual program focusing on one subject for two nights a month, bringing in experts and system participants. The first program topic in September was "Barriers to Voting" followed by "Anti-Racism and Equity in Ohio Schools" and "Racism is a Public Health Crisis." The topics of "Financing Ohio Public Schools" and "Asian American Hate" were one-week programs. We will be focusing on the courts, policing, incarceration and mental health as future areas to impact. As of April, 2021, there were 1,591 participants in the programs with another 928 registrants who have access to the fully recorded sessions.

The LWVAA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee reviewed the national DEI Policy Resolution and recommended adoption of the Policy by the LWVAA Board. It was adopted on February 4, 2021. The Committee discussed potential goal and program possibilities targeted for our members and the League as an organization. Examples include working with other committees on promoting membership inclusion, voter education and registration activities with wide community representation, interorganizational programming, our members attending or joining other community groups, and social media. Many of these areas have been in process or will be further expanded by the League. The Committee also was involved in discussing the future criminal justice programming for "Real Talk".

Elizabeth King, Chair

Advocacy: Jackie Derrow

The Advocacy Committee is a newly formed committee led by Jackie Derrow and Cindy Christman. We are still developing ideas, but redistricting is and will be a key focus until the 2022 -2032 maps have been finalized.

In collaboration with Fair Districts / Common Cause three Akron members have been trained to give presentations to groups on why Fair Maps matter. Fair Districts is continuing to recruit members interested in leading community groups on what goes into making a fair map by using mapping technology and applying the rules overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2015 for statehouse districts and in 2018 for US congressional districts.

We have begun a postcard campaign to send postcards to all members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission in addition to the representative and senator who represent the individual writing the postcards. We intend to send out 500 in April and May and redouble our efforts later in the year once the census data have been received and the redistricting work is underway.

We see our task as a committee as one of reinforcing the priorities of the Ohio League by communicating with our legislators and sending letters to the editor based on League positions with Board approval and by supporting League studies and consensus meetings. For example, with the support of five member / facilitators we conducted consensus meetings on the subject of Arming School Personnel. The results of our work will be taken together with that of the other participating leagues to form a position on this subject that will be voted on by the delegates at the LWVO Annual Meeting in May.

When local issues surface we also reach out to representatives and write letters to the editor with Board approval. Jodie DeLamatre took the lead in responding to Akron's proposal to lease mineral rights to a company interested in fracking for oil and natural gas in the LaDue reservoir, a watershed that provides drinking water for >300,000 Summit County residents. Three local leagues, Akron, Geauga and Hudson, wrote a letter in opposition to this arrangement. Coupled with the voices of hundreds of other citizens and groups, the City of Akron backed down from this plan.

Join us!

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