

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Leaguers,

2009 was a very busy year for LWV Cleveland Area and 2010 is starting with many challenges.

On March 10, 2010, the three Leagues in Cuyahoga County are co-sponsoring an imPACT Town Hall Meeting on the Census and Redistricting with Cleveland State University, at the Levin College of Urban Affairs. The tentative time is 9 a.m.- noon, and Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner is scheduled to speak. As the LWV Ohio has stated:

"With the 2010 Census, many states are emphasizing the importance of a complete count, but NO state has more to lose than Ohio. After each US Census, the process of redistricting begins anew. Under the US Constitution, the House of Representatives consists of 435 members, each representing a district in a state. These congressional districts must be distributed according to population. A number of states may lose one Congressional district, but only Ohio has the chance of losing two districts. Ohio has not lost population but it has gained fewer residents than other states.

Because of this once-a-decade opportunity, this is a critical time for influencing the process of redistricting reform. Ohio uses an Apportionment Board, consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State and the State Auditor with one Democrat and one Republican to determine the Ohio House and Senate district lines. Because the US Constitution leaves federal congressional redistricting for each state to decide, the Ohio legislature draws the US House districts by agreement, with the governor having veto power. Both the Ohio House and Senate and the US House redistricting methods can be improved. As the Ohio Redistricting Contest demonstrated, there are different formulae and methods to draw districts that can utilize more objective criteria to balance four elements: Competition, Compactness, Communities of Interest and Representational Fairness. (<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/redistricting.aspx>)"

We will communicate more details as they become available.

In 2009, LWV was active in the campaign for Ballot Issue 6, which was passed by every community in Cuyahoga County. Now the hard work of creating that new government has begun, and as you will see in Roslyn Talerico's article, "Our New Government Needs You," there can be a part for you in this dynamic governmental change.

LWV Cleveland has joined the Cleveland Lakefront Alliance along with other groups committed to opposing the move of the Port Authority to the East 55th St. Marina. CLA has a website www.saveourshore.org with news on the latest activities and information. (See page 5 for more.)

I look forward to working with League members on all these important activities in 2010. Happy New Year!

Penny Jeffrey, President
LWV Cleveland Area

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

During 2010: By making a small contribution To statewide or General Assembly candidates, you can earn a tax credit on your 2010 Ohio Income Tax up to a maximum \$50 for individual filers and \$100 for joint filers. Help reduce candidate reliance on special interest money and re-establish citizen control over public policy decisions.

Saturday, January 30: Discussion/consensus on the National League program at the Fulton Rd. Library, 3545 Fulton Rd., 10 a.m.- noon. Library opens at 9:30 a.m., with parking behind the building.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Monday, February 1: Deadline for public comment on the Army Corps of Engineers' Dredge Material Management Plan for Cleveland Harbor. See insert for further details.

Thursday, February 4: First Thursday Forum on the theme "Women Who Know Their Place," with Ohio's Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, at Trinity Cathedral Commons, 2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, 7-9 p.m. Free parking off Prospect Ave.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Monday, March 8:
International Women's Day

MARK YOUR CALENDER: Friday, March 19 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Cleveland Teachers Union ballot counting (LWVC Fund Fundraiser) at the Fraternal Order of Police, 2249 Payne Ave., at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is provided. Free Parking available on Payne or at the FOP Credit Union across the street on East 23rd. We need all Members, relatives and friends to volunteer. RSVP to the League office at 216-781-8375.

Monday, March 29: Deadline for the next issue of The Voter. For questions, please call Voter Editor Barb Sones at 440-460-0330 or email materials to strangetrue@cs.com.

Sunday, April 18: EarthFest at the Cleveland Metro Zoo, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22.