



Let the "Belles" Ring!

Belle Likover: As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of LWV, we also send congratulations to one of our own Belles, Belle Likover, who turned 90 in October, 2009. In her continued civic activism and commitment to America's ideals, she is a role model for us all. Happy belated birthday, Belle!

Margaret Wong: Immigration lawyer and Belle Margaret Wong just published "The Immigrant's Way: For All Immigrants, By an Immigrant," a book of advice on how to navigate the immigration process. Congratulations, Margaret!

STOP THE PORT AT EAST 55TH **SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO ARMY CORPS BY** **FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

by Barbara A. Martin, Chair, and Bill Gruber, Vice Chair, Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, with the support of the City of Cleveland, is planning to eliminate the Cleveland Lakefront State Park and Marina at East 55th Street with construction of a new 200-acre landmass and future industrial port facility. The new landmass, according to the Port Authority's plan, would be constructed in Lake Erie by the Army Corps of Engineers as a Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) for dredge disposal, and located between East 55th St. and East 72nd St. along Cleveland's lakefront.

This Port Authority-envisioned plan at East 55th gravely threatens the Public Trust and public access to our Lake Erie shoreline. It also poses an unprecedented attack on our Ohio State Park System and the *Cleveland Waterfront District Plan of 2004*. Yet this Port plan is presented as the "preferred" and "tentatively selected" plan in the Army Corps document titled *Draft Dredge Material Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement for Cleveland Harbor (Draft DMMP/EIS)*, a document heavily influenced by the Port Authority.

Fortunately, federal law (the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA) requires that the Army Corps make its document, the *Draft DMMP/EIS for Cleveland Harbor*, available for public review and comment. The public comment period is now in its final month. Please consider that you can make a difference by sending written comments to the Army Corps.

Public comments on the *Draft DMMP/EIS for Cleveland Harbor* must be received by the Army Corps by 5:00 pm, Monday, February 1, 2010. Submit your comments by e-mail or U.S. mail. A sample letter and the Army Corps addresses are given below. If you would like to receive the sample letter electronically, contact barbaramartin2001@juno.com.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Army Corps' *Draft DMMP/EIS for Cleveland Harbor* is available online at www.lrb.usace.army.mil/missions/cleveland/index.html

and at the Cleveland Public Main Library, 325 Superior Ave. and the Cleveland Public Addison Branch Library, 6901 Superior Ave.

The *Draft DMMP/EIS for Cleveland Harbor* sets forth three alternative locations for constructing Cleveland's next confined disposal facility (CDF) in Lake Erie, with two concept plans for each location. These are identified as:

- 1) "Site 2/2A" located at the West Breakwall near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River,
- 2) "Site 3/3A" located at the East Breakwall near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, and
- 3) "Site 4/4A" located at Cleveland's recreational shoreline from East 55 St. to East 72 St., four to five miles east of the Cuyahoga river.

Throughout this 200-page draft document, the Army Corps states that "Site 4A" is the "tentatively selected CDF site" because that is what the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority wants. However, "Site 4A" (the "tentatively selected CDF site") would: a) impose excessive and ongoing costs to the citizens and taxpayers of Cuyahoga County and Ohio; b) destroy the East 55th St. Cleveland Lakefront State Park & Marina; c) environmentally, aesthetically, and functionally degrade all surrounding shoreline uses, including the Gordon Lakefront State Park, InterCity Yacht Club, Dike 14 Nature Preserve, the Lakefront bikeway, and fishing access from East 55 to East 72 St., the residential complex of Quay 55 (a property that is on the National Register for Historic Places), and the private yacht clubs to the west of Quay 55; and d) destroy more than 157 acres of protected waters for recreational boating and fishing within the U.S. East Breakwall.

Thus, the Port's wishes, in our researched opinion, should NOT be the determining factor in CDF site selection. We conclude on all counts that "Site 2/2A" and "Site 3/3A" are far less damaging and costly than "Site 4/4A."

Sample letter insert provided.

Please use the SAMPLE LETTER BELOW verbatim or to inspire your own comments to the Army Corps. Send comments to the Corps by U.S. mail or by e-mail by 5:00 pm, Monday, February 1, 2010.

To: Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Christine M. Cardus, Christine.M.Cardus@usace.army.mil
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207

Date:

Subject: Comments to Army Corps on the Draft DMMP/EIS for Cleveland Harbor

Dear Army Corps,

I strongly object to the Army Corps' "tentatively selected 157-acre CDF site at East 55th" identified as "Site 4/4A" for the following reasons:

1) Site 4/4A **will destroy 157 acres of protected recreational Lake Erie waters within the U.S. East Breakwall, waters that surround our Cleveland Lakefront State Park and Marina at East 55th Street.** Such a huge loss of recreational waters will destroy and degrade recreational boating and fishing in Cleveland's East Harbor and negatively impact the sailing clubs, public boat ramps, marinas, and yacht clubs.

2) Site 4/4A **will destroy public use and enjoyment of the East 55th St. Lakefront State Park even before it destroys public use and enjoyment of the State Marina,** because the Park will be impacted by phase one of construction for Site 4/4A. The East 55th State Park is a small but vital urban lakefront park, where people can experience Lake Erie close up, with spectacular views, a great promenade, fishing access for recreational and subsistence fishing, and convenient and ample parking.

3) Site 4A **is being constructed for and intended to be used by the Port Authority as an industrial port facility, which will ultimately destroy the East 55th St. State Marina and what's left of the State Park, and destroy the recreational shoreline from Burke Airport to the Village of Bratenahl.** This CDF/industrial use will destroy the entire East 55th St. Lakefront State Park & Marina, the 157 acres of protected recreational waters within the East Breakwall, as well as the beautiful views of Lake Erie. It will also significantly and negatively impact Dike 14 Nature Preserve, InterCity Yacht Club, Gordon Lakefront State Park, Quay 55 residential complex (a property that is on the National Register of Historic Places), and private yacht clubs to the west of Quay 55, as well as destroy the Lakefront bikeway and fishing access between East 55th and East 72nd Street.

4) While Site 4A is the Corps' "tentatively selected CDF site" because of its designated "industrial port" end use, **the DMMP/EIS fails to provide any evaluation of the environmental impact of an industrial facility on surrounding properties and uses, both on land and water, and to the water and air quality.** The document does not address any of the significant and negative environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts of an industrial end use. And further the document fails to consider the full public costs of imposing an oversized CDF and an industrial end use on the recreational district from Burke to Bratenahl.

5) **The DMMP/EIS fails to reveal or consider the many hidden public costs** of Site 4A, which include: **(a)** the cost of constructing special outer structural walls of the CDF for future industrial port use; **(b)** the annual cost of filling the CDF, and the added cost of hauling dredgings from the 6.5 mile Cuyahoga Ship Channel to a CDF site that is 4 to 5 miles east of the mouth of the Cuyahoga; **(c)** the annual costs for dredging the 5-mile East Harbor channel, made necessary by the industrial port end use; **(d)** the costs for constructing a 2,000-foot extension to the U.S. East Breakwall to protect the CDF and/or the industrial port facility from damage caused by wave action; **(e)** the costs for infrastructure and construction of an industrial port facility; **(f)** the costs for building a railroad bridge over I-90; **(g)** the costs for building new roadways and highway access ramps; **(h)** the costs for filling in the 43-acre East 55th Marina; **(i)** the costs for building a replacement State Marina; **(j)** the costs for relocating the InterCity Yacht Club and the Gordon Lakefront State Park fishing piers and public boat ramps, and **(k)** the costs for building vast parking areas. Such costs to taxpayers would be excessive and unfair, and all such projects would be to the detriment of Cleveland's east side recreational Lakefront.

6) Site 4A **totally contradicts the Cleveland Waterfront District Plan of 2004,** and all agreements and plans (from 1946 to 2004) by the State of Ohio and the City of Cleveland, which have consistently pledged to protect, preserve and enhance Cleveland's near east side recreational Lakefront, specifically the East 55th St. Lakefront State Park & Marina and the Gordon Lakefront State Park.

Therefore, as a citizen and taxpayer, I request that the Army Corps discard "Site 4/4A" and select instead "Site 2/2A" for Cleveland's new CDF, as is depicted in the DMMP/EIS and on the Cleveland Waterfront District Plan of December 2004.

Your Name:

Your Address:

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: LEARN MORE ABOUT "HERSTORY"!

"A History of the Women's Vote" pamphlet is available at the LWVC Educational Fund web site at www.lwvcef.org. Download a copy or more and help spread the often unknown history of the 72-year struggle for women's suffrage. Also visit the National Women's History Project at www.nwhp.org for accurate information about women's historical contributions to American society. If you're interested in women in politics, go to the Rutgers University's Center for American Women and Politics at www.cawp.rutgers.edu

CLEVELAND LAKEFRONT ALLIANCE

Vision: To have a vibrant, accessible, livable lakefront for all to enjoy for generations to come.

Mission: To protect our Lake Erie shoreline from new and unnecessary industrial development and to preserve our parks and shoreline for public access and recreational use.

Goals:

- 1) Preserve all existing lakefront state parks, marinas and nature preserves;
- 2) Stop the destruction of the East 55th St. Lakefront State Park and Marina, the degradation of Gordon Lakefront State Park and Dike 14 Nature Preserve, and the elimination of public access to the Lake Erie shoreline and protected recreational waters that will be the result of the Army Corps' plan for a 157-acre confined disposal facility at East 55th, and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority's plan for a new 200-acre industrial port facility at East 55th St.; and
- 3) Promote compliance with the popularly developed "Waterfront District Plan 2004." Sponsors: League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area, Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee and the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club

The Alliance invites public participation in its efforts to protect Cleveland's most valuable natural resource--the Lake Erie shoreline. We hope that individual citizens as well as organizations will consider joining the Alliance. Visit our new, evolving, informational and interactive web site at www.saveourshore.org.

OUR NEW GOVERNMENT NEEDS YOU

By Roslyn Talerico, LWVC Vice President

"Cuyahoga County voters took a huge step toward a better future on November 3 when they overwhelmingly approved a charter containing a new blueprint for government. But passing Issue 6 was only the first step. Now the new structure has to work for the good of the public." (Plain Dealer, Dec. 20, 2009)

Now it is our turn to get involved. The Commissioners have already appointed the required Charter Transition Advisory Group, including Gary Holland, Administrator Jim cCafferty (chair) and Joseph Nanni. There will be a steering committee with work groups that we can volunteer to join. These groups will look at what the county does well, what it does poorly, and how it can develop ways to do better. The groups are Finance/Administration, Human Services, Human Resources, Justice Services, Infrastructure/Resource Services, Economic Development/Planning, County Council Planning, and Boards and Commissions.

These groups need broad community participation and, as of early January, over 400 volunteers have signed up. Now it's our turn to do the same. Some League members have already started to work on a code of ethics. Let's all get involved.

There are several web sites for registering to volunteer:

www.charter.cuyahogacounty.us: This site has room for a 5,000-word explanation as to why you would like to work on one of the transition committees.

www.cuyahogacounty.us: Click on The Charter Transition

www.newcuyahoga.com: The charter is available on both these web sites:

www.facebook.com/pages/Cuyahoga-County-Government/12292950824, and twitter.com/Cuyahoga_County

Let me know the task force you will be working with. We would like to keep track of the League's participation. The process should be broad and inclusive. It needs people like us. Do it now. Roslyn Talerico, 216-524-1813 or rrtalerico@adelphia.net

A History of the Efforts to Change Cuyahoga County Government

1933: Citizens and civic groups, including the League, were finally successful in passing a constitutional amendment permitting county home rule. It required approval by four majorities of voters: in the county, in the largest city, outside the largest city, and of the cities, villages and townships.

1934-1936: An elected Charter Commission proposed a charter, providing for a manager, council elected by proportional representation, reorganized departmental structure, and civil service. It did not receive approval by all four majorities.

1949-1950: A second elected Charter Commission proposed a charter providing for an elected county administrator with power to appoint department heads, a nine-member council, abolition of several elective offices, and transfer of municipal functions to the county. It was defeated.

A History continued...

1957: Voters approved a constitutional amendment to eliminate the fourth majority in counties with more than 500,000 people.

1959: An elected Charter Commission proposed a charter providing for an elected executive, 19-member council, a metropolitan government with power for area-wide services, and the termination of many offices. It was opposed by mayors and defeated.

1969, 1970: Ballot issues were proposed for an alternative form of county government, providing for an elected executive, a seven-member legislative body. Both were defeated.

1978-1979: The Ohio Constitution was amended to permit an initiated county charter. Summit County approved a home rule charter.

1980: Voters defeated a proposed charter providing for a county executive, a nine-member council elected from districts, retention of eight elected officials, initiative and referendum, decennial redistricting, and a charter review commission.

1995-1996: Commissioners appointed a Citizens Committee that proposed a charter, providing for an elected executive, a seven-member council, and appointment of seven department

heads. The commissioners did not place it on the ballot. At the request of the Commissioners, the League surveyed voters to discover their level of knowledge of county government and opinions about changing it. We learned that voters did not have a solid understanding of county government, but they believed it was doing a poor job. They strongly supported a legislative body elected by district.

2004: The Cleveland Bar Association, the League and others studied county governance across the country. New strategies with a focus on economic development were recommended.

2008: Commission appointed by the Ohio legislature recommended an alternative plan for Cuyahoga County, providing for a three-member commission with one serving as president and appointing rather than electing seven officials. The proposal was not approved before the end of the session.

2009-2010: The Commissioners placed two proposals on the ballot: one for a charter developed by a citizens group, providing for an elected executive, 11-member council elected by district, and the appointment rather than election of administrative offices, except for the prosecutor; and another for the election of a charter commission. The proposed charter won overwhelmingly. In 2010, Cuyahoga becomes the second home rule county in Ohio. (Excerpted from the "Government of Cuyahoga County," 1998, compiled by Leaguer Doris Geist, and from the LWV 2009 pamphlet. Thanks also to Roslyn Talerico for her



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CLEVELAND AREA &
CLEVELAND EDUCATIONAL FUND

Making Democracy Work for Over 80 Years

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LWVC's Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area is committed to achieve a membership representative of the multicultural composition of our city. Membership is open to all persons, age 18 or older, regardless of color, creed, national origin, race or sex. League welcomes the diversity of thought, opinion and ideas reflective of all citizens in our democracy.