



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area and
League of Women Voters of Cleveland Educational Fund

THE CLEVELAND AREA VOTER

SERVING THE CITIES OF CLEVELAND, BEREA, BRATENAHL, BROOK PARK, EUCLID, INDEPENDENCE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OLMS TED FALLS, OLMS TED TOWNSHIP AND STRONGSVILLE

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CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY - SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

On September 17, 1787, the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention held their final meeting. Only one item of business occupied the agenda that day, to sign the Constitution of the United States of America. Since May 14, 1787, the delegates had gathered almost daily in the State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. By the middle of June, it became apparent to the delegates that to merely amend the Articles of Confederation would not be sufficient. Instead, they would write an entirely new document designed to clearly define and separate the powers of the central government, the powers of the states, the rights of the people and the manner of electing the people's representatives.

After being signed, copies of the Constitution were sent to the state legislatures for ratification. In the months that followed, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay would write the Federalist Papers in support, while Patrick Henry, Elbridge Gerry, and George Mason would organize the opposition. By June 21, 1788, nine states had approved the Constitution, finally forming "a more perfect Union." No matter how much we Americans argue about its meaning today, in the opinion of many, the Constitution signed in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787, represents the greatest expression of statesmanship and compromise ever written. In just four hand-written pages, the Constitution gives us no less than the owners' manual to the greatest form of government the world has ever known.

Please join us to celebrate Constitution Day on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the Strongsville Library, 18700 Westwood Drive, directly behind the police station. We are honored to present **Wilson Ray Huhn**, McDowell Professor of Law, University of Akron School of Law, on the topic, **THE SUPREME COURT AT THE TIPPING POINT: HOW THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COULD CHANGE THE MEANING OF THE CONSTITUTION**

We hope that you will be with us as we learn about and discuss our great Constitution. For more information, please call the office at 216-781-8375.

David Ward, Specialist on the Judiciary and the Courts, LWVUS, contributed to this article.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As your president, I had the honor of representing LWV Cleveland Area at the LWV National Convention in Portland, Oregon, 13-17 June 2008. This was my first national convention but there were plenty of mentors among the more experienced Leaguers from all over the US to help new delegates understand the process and activities. The convention is an opportunity to learn about issues and studies done on a national level but also within other localities. At plenary sessions, delegates vote on LWV business and set the program for the next two years.

The League website, www.lwv.org will soon be posting the presentations of the speakers:

Hon. Barbara Roberts, First Woman Governor of Oregon, 1991-1995, "Women as Political Leaders—Our History and Experiences"

Hon. John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon, 1994-2002, "The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century"

Climate Change Panel, with speakers addressing "The State of Climate Change," "Climate Change Disparities: The Effect on the Developing World," and "Energy Tradeoffs: Non-Renewables, Renewables, Conservation and the Future"

All the speakers offered new information and strategies to help meet these great challenges.

Of particular interest to Leaguers was the caucus, "Protect our Great Lakes," sponsored by the Great Lakes ILO, an interleague organization that includes many Leagues in communities surrounding Lakes Michigan, Superior and Huron. It was a chance to bring information on the Lake Erie Basin Committee into the mix. Leaguers also came from the Long Island (NY) Sound and Chesapeake Bay areas, which have similar problems to the Great Lakes. Those who were unfamiliar with the Great Lakes Legacy Act (which Ohio finally voted to support) had an opportunity to learn about the importance of this legislation to protect and rehabilitate the Great Lakes.

The convention did vote to raise the Per Member Payment (PMP) from its current \$26.80. It will be \$28.00 for FY 2008-2009 and \$29.20 for FY 2009-2010. This means that our local dues will not cover the LWV OH and LWVUS PMPs, so there is a need to raise funds in other ways. (Please, when you renew your membership, try to include something extra if you can.)

Locally, the three Leagues (Cleveland Area, Cuyahoga Area and Shaker Heights) are working on a Voter's Guide (VG) for the November election. It will definitely be on our websites but so far we have been unable to obtain funds to make a printed version available free for voters in Cuyahoga County. This is a serious blow to voter education but none of the local foundations or newspapers is interested in underwriting the VG.

Please save the evening of Monday, 10 November. We are in the early stages of planning an ImPACT Town Hall on Election Reform. This will be a great opportunity for LWV members and others to discuss ways to solve current problems.

Finally, please phone the LWVCEF office, 216-781-8375, if you can spare even a few hours to help with answering phones, candidates forums, voter registration and the many other activities involved with this year's elections. Thank you for your support.

In League,

Penny Jeffrey

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(League office 216-781-8375 for more information)

Wednesday, July 16: Lake Erie Basin Committee Annual Meeting and 45th Anniversary Celebration, 10 AM to 2 PM, Beach House Condominium Party Room, 22500 Lake Road, Rocky River. Contact Dorothy Cibula at 440-331-4838.

Saturday, August 9: Burning River Fest, 12 PM to 11 PM, Nautica Entertainment Complex, Cleveland (www.burningriverfest.org).

Tuesday, August 26: Women's Equality Day. Celebrate!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: Belle Sherwin Democracy in Action Awards Luncheon, 11 AM, Windows on the River, honoring **Elva Edger, Mareyjoyce Green** and **Esther Saginor**. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS MAJOR LWVC FUNDRAISER!**

Not a member? Join today!

I want to join the League

Please check one or more:

one-year individual membership \$50

one-year household membership \$75
(two sharing an address)

my/our dues plus something extra _____

sustaining member \$100

I am unable to join now but enclose a donation of _____

Please make checks payable to the League of Women Voters

Return to: **Membership**
League of Women Voters Cleveland Area
850 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1010
Cleveland, OH 44114

Membership dues are not tax deductible. Donations to the Ed Fund are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

LAKE ERIE BASIN COMMITTEE

A multi-League group dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its watershed

At its October 2007 meeting, the Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC) identified the pressing need for informational and educational outreach on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). We are recommending that all Basin Leagues participate in CAFO Outreach, for which we have prepared a CAFO Information Sheet and a Citizen Sign-On Sheet. Based on LEBC research and our position on CAFOs, these documents are designed to inform and engage the public and League members on this critical Lake Erie issue.

We invite and encourage all interested Lake Erie Basin Leagues and individual League members to participate in this outreach. Use the CAFO Information Sheet and the Citizen Sign-On Sheet on the next page as a way to allow citizens to voice their concern, and not to feel helpless, on this most difficult issue. CAFO Outreach will continue through December 2008 and might be a perfect addition to your League's community activities throughout the summer and fall.

Please actively participate. The more signatures we get, the more successful this outreach initiative will be. As a multi-League group, LEBC itself cannot make use of the Citizen Sign-On Sheet but it will make copies of the sheets available to local and state Leagues engaged in action on the CAFO issue.

For more information, contact LEBC Co-Coordinator Dorothy Cibula, LWV Cleveland Area (440-331-4838) or Mary Lou Gault, LWV Akron Area (330-923-8833).

**LWV Lake Erie Basin Committee
INFORMATION SHEET ON CAFOs**

➔ CAFOs - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

➔ A CAFO is a form of industrial agriculture that handle extremely large numbers of livestock—dairy cows, cattle, swine or poultry—that produce, among other things, extremely large volumes of manure.

➔ In Ohio, the number of CAFOs has increased dramatically in just six years: from 15 CAFOs in 2002 to 168 in 2007. Approximately 85 CAFOs exist today in the Maumee River Watershed—a tri-state watershed that includes portions of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. The Maumee River Watershed empties in the western basin of Lake Erie.

➔ Wastewater from humans requires primary, secondary and sometimes tertiary treatment before it is permitted to be discharged into our waterways. Not so with animal wastes. Manure from CAFOs is collected in open-air lagoons and sprayed, *untreated*, as liquid manure onto fields as “fertilizer” and can foul the air as well as ground and surface water.

➔ CAFOs have proliferated in the name of economic development but without regulation and enforcement that protect water resources, including Lake Erie.

The League of Women Voters

LAKE ERIE BASIN COMMITTEE

A multi-League group dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Lake Erie and its watershed

CITIZEN SIGN-ON

In support of a precautionary moratorium on all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that produce untreated animal waste; and

In support of improved and similar wastewater transportation, delivery and treatment systems on each CAFO site within the Lake Erie watershed, equivalent to the state requirements for municipalities producing the same volume of human waste. Safe nutrient management practices and disposal of sludge should be included in the requirements in order to maintain adequate water quality standards in ground and surface waters.

NAME (Please PRINT & SIGN) ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, Zip)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED SHEETS TO:

LWV LAKE ERIE BASIN COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 81604
CLEVELAND, OH 44181

IS CUYAHOGA COUNTY READY FOR A FAMILY COURT?

by Roslyn Talerico, Chair, League Study Committee

The Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas is organized into divisions: 1) General (civil and criminal); 2) Domestic Relations (divorce, dissolution, legal separation); 3) Probate (estates, guardianships, involuntary commitments, adoptions, eminent domain); and 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 outcome for families.

The League Study Committee has interviewed judges, prosecutors, public defenders, Guardian ad Litem and Legal Aid lawyers, magistrates and the bar association members. The committee will bring the results of its study to League members in September and you will have an opportunity through our consensus process to tell us what you think about the situation and what should be done about it.

Please plan to attend one of the following meetings:

September 14, 2 PM: Coventry Branch, Cleveland Heights Library, 1925 Coventry Road.

September 16, 7 PM: Lakewood Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.

September 23, 5:45 PM: Cleveland Public Library, Memorial Nottingham Branch, 17109 Lake Shore Blvd.

September 25, 5:30 PM: Westlake Porter Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake.

LWV Voter Services for Cuyahoga County VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The county-wide voter services committee composed of representatives from all three Leagues serving Cuyahoga County is working to make sure voters are prepared for the important November election.

If you can spare some time this election season to answer phones, assist with voter registration and other tasks, please call the LWV Voter Information Center at 216-781-8376.

There will be a one- hour training for volunteers on **Friday, July 11, 2008, at noon at 850 Euclid Avenue**, 10th floor conference room. This training will cover the basics of voter registration, common questions, recent changes in process and policies. Please RSVP to info@lwvcef.org.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CLEVELAND AREA
850 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1010
Cleveland, Ohio 44114**

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216-781-8375

Fax: 216-619-5026

info@lwvcef.org

www.lwvcef.org

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.

SAVE THE DATE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CLEVELAND

**Annual Belle Sherwin Benefit
Windows on the River**

September 16, 2008

**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Michael Schwartz
President, Cleveland State University**

HONOREES

Elva Edger

Mareyjoyce Green

Esther Saginor