



# THE VOTER

## President's Podium

Dear League Members & Friends,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the League members for making my first year as president so enjoyable. I send a special thanks to the Board Members who dedicate so much of their time and effort in support of our mission.

I also want to thank everyone who attended our April meeting. Susan Schunk gave an excellent presentation on the history of the League of Women Voters and organized the viewing of the movie "Iron-Jawed Angels." Even as we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters the evening served as a powerful reminder of the difficult struggle for equal voting rights.

Please make every effort to attend the **Annual Meeting on May 8** at The River Brasserie and Bar in Cuyahoga Falls. Our Keynote Speaker is Meg Flack, the president of the League of Women Voters in Ohio. We will also have opportunities in May for voter registration and awareness.

Please remember to send in fundraising donations by the first week in May. We greatly appreciate the donations already received. Thank you for your generous support.

In League,

*Julia Spiker*



**Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

**Saturday, May 8**

**11:30 a.m.**

**River Brasserie**

in Cuyahoga Falls

(formerly LeFever's Restaurant).

### **BUSINESS TO INCLUDE**

Election of officers & board members,  
Approval of 2010-11 Annual Budget  
Vote to modify program of regionalism.

### **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

**Meg Flack**

**President of the Ohio LOWV.**

We will be ordering from the menu.

Your reservations are due to

Nancy Treichler (330-633-6308)

or via e-mail at [nancyt@neo.rr.com](mailto:nancyt@neo.rr.com),

by Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.



*Happy Mothers Day!*

## The League Thru Nine Decades: 1920 to present

*In introducing the movie, "Iron Jawed Angels" at the April meeting, Susan Schunk shared information from an article entitled "The League of Women Voters Through the Decades compiled in 2007 by Kay J. Maxwell. Highlights are reprinted here to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the League of Women Voters.*

### LOWV ESTABLISHED

In 1900. **Carrie Chapman Catt**, succeeded Susan B. Anthony as president of NAWSA (the National American Women's Suffrage Association). In her address to the NAWSA convention in St. Louis in 1919, Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight." On **February 14, 1920**, six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. **Maud Wood Park**, who steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification, became the first national president.

The first League program adopted in 1920 contained some 69 items in broad subject areas: child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public health and morals and independent citizenship for married women. **The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.**

### 1920's

The League trained volunteer teachers for citizenship schools and organized institutes to study defects in our system of government. They organized candidate questionnaires and meetings, nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns, and, **in 1928, sponsored "Meet the Candidates," the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum.**

### 1930's

Because of the depression and the onset of WWII, the National League's budget was cut in half, necessitating a major reduction in staff and services. Because of gas rationing, League members began to meet in small groups in their neighborhoods to discuss fundamental issues. **Grassroots activity thus was firmly institutionalized as a way of assessing concerns, studying, and strategizing.**

The League worked successfully for the enactment of the **Social Security and Food and Drug Acts, as well as the TVA.** It was the only national organization that acted consistently in support of the **merit system** for selecting government personnel, to eliminate the "spoils" system and place them under Civil Service.

### 1940's

The League helped lead the effort to establish the **United Nations** and to ensure U.S. participation. **The League still maintains official observer status and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council.** The League also worked to create the **World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, NATO, and the Marshall Plan.**

### 1950's

The McCarthy era inspired the League to undertake community education programs focusing on **individual liberties protected by the Constitution.**

### 1960's

**Membership reached a high point - 157,000.** During the civil rights crisis, the League directed its energies to **equality of opportunity** and support for equal access to education, employment, and housing. It supported presidential suffrage for the District of Columbia and was the first organization calling for normalization of relations with China. It hosted an exchange with women from the USSR.

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## *The League Thru Nine Decades--- continued*

### 1970's

The 1974 convention amended by-laws to allow men to become full voting members.

The League began its efforts to achieve an **Equal Rights Amendment**.

In 1976, it sponsored the first televised presidential debates since 1960, receiving an Emmy.

### 1980's

The League was in the forefront to pass the **Voting Rights Act Amendments** of 1982 and contributed significantly to the enactment of the **Tax Reform Act of 1986**. It developed positions on fiscal policy and U.S. relations with **Developing Countries**. LWV pressure helped achieve Senate ratification of the **Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1988**.

In 1983 it developed a position on public policy on reproductive choice.

### 1990's

The League adopted a **position on gun control in 1990** and worked to pass the **Clean Air Act** after a 10-year campaign. In 1993 it won passage of the **National Voter Registration Act**, better known as **Motor Voter**.

In the last years of the decade the League focused on voter turnout, campaign finance reform, civic education, diversity of representation, community dialogues on water resources, energy, and health care, and political careers for young women.

### The 21st Century

Since 2000, the League has been instrumental in the enactment of the **Help America Vote Act of 2002**, and the bipartisan **Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002**. Legislative work has included redistricting, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, election reform, and ethics and lobbying reform.

It fostered dialogues on the critical issue of balancing homeland security and civil liberties. It has continued its **international work** through Global Democracy programs.

*Since 1920, the League has evolved from a mighty political experiment designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women carry out their new responsibilities, to what it is today, a unique, nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.*

## Fundraising Campaign

Our fundraising campaign is progressing well. We sincerely appreciate those of you that have already made their donation. If you have not yet done so, please mail your check to LWVT, P.O. Box 435, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278.

The money is used for great programs such as "Voter Awareness Night," "KIDS Vote," our speaker series on such important topics as regionalism, town hall meetings on vital topics like the U.S. Census, voter registration drives, and college scholarships. This fundraiser is our primary source of revenue.

Thank you again for your support.

Tallmadge  
League of Women Voters  
PO Box 435  
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

#### Officers

President Julia Spiker  
Vice President Nancy Treichler  
Treasurer Barb Mattern  
Secretary Leslie Zaynor

#### Elected Board

Sue Ellen Hughes  
Viona Smith  
Carmen Thompson  
Nancy Wack

#### Appointed Board

Marlene Fire  
Susan Schunk  
Sue Yatsu

#### Ex Officio Members

Kim Marfy –Membership Chair  
Tammy Shomo – Past President

#### LWV of Ohio Liaison

Ardith Keck

*The Board of the Tallmadge League of Women Voters meets on the first Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are on the third Thursday of the month September thru November and February thru April. December and May meetings are held on Saturday. No meetings are scheduled in June, July, August or January.*

#### THE VOTER

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Tallmadge League of Women Voters*

Contributions to our local  
THE VOTER are always welcome.

Please e-mail articles  
by the 30th of each month to  
Nancy Wack @ [nitpw@yahoo.com](mailto:nitpw@yahoo.com)

**We're on the Web!!**

**For more information, visit**  
[www.lwvtallmadge.org](http://www.lwvtallmadge.org)

## POINTS TO PONDER: JUDICIAL REFORM

*This article was sent from **IMPACT** and is based on a Letter to the Editor of the Columbus Dispatch sent in April by Meg Flack, president of the LWV–Ohio Education Fund.*

Gov. Strickland's recent appointment to replace the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer is a reminder that it is time to begin consideration of a better way to select justices for our state's highest court.

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVOEF) predicts the November general election for chief justice could be more partisan, more expensive and involve more special interests than we've seen in a decade. If we are right, this will further erode the public's trust and confidence in the judiciary. But there is something we can do about this.

The LWVOEF believes there is a better way to select our Supreme Court justices—and has for almost 40 years, through both Republican and Democratic administrations. And for the past 18 months, LWVOEF worked with the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer, a champion of judicial reform, and with the Ohio State Bar Association to educate Ohioans about moving to an appointment/retention–election system for the state's top court.

Of course, those who like things just the way they are tend to mischaracterize an appointment/retention–election system in two fundamental ways. They argue it would be highly political and it would take away Ohioans' right to vote on Supreme Court justices.

Nothing could be further from the truth. An Ohio Plan as envisioned by LWVOEF would use an open, transparent, bipartisan judicial–recommendations process. A diverse commission would base its recommendations on qualifications of an applicant—not their politics.

In addition, justices appointed under such an Ohio Plan would participate in a public review of their judicial performance prior to their retention election. This information would then help the electorate—finally—cast their ballots with comprehensive knowledge about a justice's performance on the bench.

*For more information on judicial reform in Ohio and across the U.S., go to <http://www.judicialselection.net/> where there are a host of resources. To see a compilation of articles on the topic go to League website at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/In-the-News.cfm>*