



# THE VOTER

## President's Podium

Dear League Members and Friends,

Happy 2011! We begin the New Year with exciting programs. Take a few moments and read about the upcoming topics on disaster preparedness & response, the Charter Review Commission and the organization called African Sky. Other upcoming events include the LWV of Ohio regional meeting on February 26, StateHouse Day on April 6, the State Conference on May 13-15 and our annual meeting on May 21. Mark your calendars!

Soon we will begin our fund-raising campaign and you will receive a letter asking you to make a donation to support our mission of promoting citizen participation in government. As you consider making a donation to our chapter I urge you to be as generous as possible.

In League,  
*Julia Spiker*

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Speaker: George Reidel  
Red Cross

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING  
Thursday, February 17

6:30 p.m.

Tallmadge Public Library  
Meeting Room



## Nominating Committee – Volunteer Needed

Marlene Fire will serve as the chair for the nominating committee. Congratulations Marlene! And thank you in advance for your efforts.

It would be helpful to have at least one board member serve on the committee with Marlene. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Marlene directly ([mgfire@gmail.com](mailto:mgfire@gmail.com)) and cc Julia Spiker ([spikerj@neo.rr.com](mailto:spikerj@neo.rr.com)).

## Board of Education Update

by Valorie Prulhiere

2011, although still very “young,” has brought changes to the Board. After 11 years of service, Dennis Loughry resigned his position on the Board to become the Service Director for the City of Tallmadge. After a community wide search, the Board appointed **Christine Cipa** to fulfill the unexpired term. Chris is a parent of 2 students and active volunteer in the schools. She and her husband own a small business in Tallmadge. She is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Two renewal levies** will be on the ballot in May. One is an operating levy that was originally passed in 2001. This is its third renewal and will NOT raise your taxes. The other levy is a renewal of a permanent improvement levy that was originally passed in 1976. It has been renewed or replaced ever since. Passage of this levy will NOT increase your taxes.

A combined group of community and school people have been meeting since last Fall to create a **5 year strategic plan** for the district. When complete, it will be presented to the Board (later this Spring .

## Meet Our February Speaker: George Reidel

Despite the demands of a professional consultant and small business owner, **George Reidel** has managed to devote a considerable amount of his time as a Red Cross volunteer. George is a key member of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT), which responds to local disasters such as house fires with emergency food, clothing and shelter for displaced residents.

George especially enjoys driving the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV). His many years of experience in responding to disasters gives George a unique insight into disaster preparedness and prevention. As a result, George has recently taken on additional volunteer duties as a Red Cross Disaster speaker.

*"It's a concern to me and the Red Cross how few people are prepared for an emergency," says George. "The thing I hear most often when I'm out on a disaster call is "I never thought this would happen to me."*

In his professional life, George is the owner of Accurate Air Associates, Ltd., which is an environmental services consulting firm located in Akron. As a Red Cross disaster volunteer, George is also able to call on his experience as a former Lake County police officer and MARS Emergency Radio Operator.

## Highlights from Your State League

*This is a snapshot of some of your state League's activities since the November general election. For more information about any of these items, please call the LWVO/EF office (toll free) at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO or at 614-469-1505.*

- Coordinated the 2010 Post-Election Audit Observation Pilot Project in which nearly 50 members from 15 Leagues assessed the compliance of 14 county boards of elections with Secretary of State Brunner's post-election audit requirements per the 2009 lawsuit settlement agreement. The pilot project is also intended to build Leagues' relationships with their election boards and provide a framework for a more comprehensive project in 2012, when the next audit is required.
- Collaborated with the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law to assess the quality of 32 county boards' election administration plans, with a full report due this spring. We will share the results with you and the Secretary of State when the report is finalized. This is another activity to ensure the 2009 settlement terms of our historic 2005 election lawsuit are honored.
- Promoted a 2011 redistricting competition similar to the 2009 model cosponsored by the League with Secretary of State-elect Husted and strategized with redistricting reform partners regarding next steps.
- Engaged Joanna Helon as Interim Executive Director for LWVO / EF. Helon has 10+ years non-profit leadership experience and over the next few months will help us chart our future course.
- Monitored the Ohio Budget Commission meetings; met with LWVO lobbyists to gain their perspective on the Ohio budget; and joined Advocates for Ohio's Future whose goal is to maintain vital public services at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our state's most vulnerable populations.
- Determined where there was consensus among Ohio Leagues on the State Taxation and Finance Update Study and approved the updated position.
- Distributed 2011 LWVO Program Planning and Legislative Interview materials to local Leagues for member involvement.
- Determined not to recommend at this time that LWVO move to a 2-year budget cycle.

*Now it's time to start filling in your 2011 calendar! Dates to remember....*

Feb. 26, 2011: Regional meetings focusing on idea exchanges regarding advocacy.

April 6, 2011: Statehouse Day 2011 at the Riffe Center, Columbus.

May 13-15, 2011: LWVO Convention at Maumee Bay State Park.

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  
Carmen Thompson  
Nancy Wack

#### Appointed Board

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 @ [njtpw@yahoo.com](mailto:njtpw@yahoo.com)

#### We're on the Web!!

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

### Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Dates

February 5	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	To be confirmed
February 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Library Meeting Room
	Topic: Disaster Preparedness & Response		
March 5	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	To be confirmed
March 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: Charter Review Commission (tentative)		
April 2	Community EXPO	10am.-4 p.m.	Tallmadge Rec Ctr.
April 14	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: African Sky Speaker – Cherie Wade		
May 21*	Board Meeting	TBD	
	ANNUAL MEETING	11:30 a.m.	River Brasserie in Cuyahoga Falls
	Speaker: Judge Linda Teodosio		

*\*Note change in date.*

## Summit County Council Observer Needed

In the spirit of regionalism and cooperation, Summit County area LOWV's have been asked to find a member to participate in a **County Council Observer Corps**. We could use someone to go to one of the regular meetings or the committee meetings. It would be nice if we had a commitment of say the first meeting a month, or second. They alternate regular council meetings at 5:30 one Monday then committee meetings the next Monday at 4:30.

Of course, this is just to observe and be a League presence. We have found just having someone there, preferably with a League pin on, helps with our visibility and have been asked to serve on committees.

If you are interested, you may contact Jodie DeLamatre at 330-376-0399, directly.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO



## **REGIONAL MEETING**

for the members of the

## **NORTHEAST LEAGUES**

LWV Akron, LWV Canton, LWV Greater Youngstown,  
LWV Hudson, LWV Kent, LWV Northern Portage,  
LWV Tallmadge, LWV Trumbull County & LWV Wayne County

**ARDITH KECK, LWVO VP & TERRIE NIELSEN,**  
LWVO Director will lead a discussion in

**ADVOCACY: Jumpstarting at the  
Local Level** focusing on Education

**FEBRUARY 26, 2011**

**9:30-12:00 am**

at

**Hiram College, Garfield Meeting House**

White church on NE corner of State Routes 700 & 82

*DONATIONS WELCOME*

RSVP to Jean Koznarek, [jkozlwv@aol.com](mailto:jkozlwv@aol.com)