



THE VOTER

President's Podium

Dear League Members and Friends,

We have a couple of exciting programs in March & April. Check our schedule for the dates as the program has changed slightly. The annual Statehouse Day takes place on April 7. Last year we had a large contingent attend. It was informative. Also, meeting league members from across the state was energizing. I encourage you to attend this year. The topic of "Civil Discourse" is important.

Our fund-raising drive continues. Thank you to those who have already responded. If you have not yet responded I urge you to consider making a donation to our chapter. It is through the generous support of our community that we are able to continue our work.

In League,
Julia Spiker



AFRICAN SKY

Speaker: Cherie Wade

MARCH GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, MARCH 17

6:30 p.m.

Tallmadge High School
Community Room

Become a Star Supporter

LWV Tallmadge Annual Fundraising Drive

By now you all should have received the letter asking you to become a Star Supporters at one of 3 levels:

Red: \$100 or more

White: \$50 to \$99

Blue: \$25 to \$49

Your generosity is what will enable our local League to promote voter awareness and citizen participation, sponsor voter registration drives and town meetings, award scholarships and lobby legislators.

Send your donation to
Tallmadge League of Women Voters
PO Box 435

Tallmadge, Ohio 44278
Or, bring it to the next meeting on March 17th

Meet Our March Speaker: Cherie Wade

Cherie Wade is on the board of the non-profit organization, **African Sky**.^{*} About a year ago she traveled to Mali, West Africa, with her son Corbin, a Junior Ambassador. They, along with other African Sky Board members, traveled to several different villages where Dr. Scott Lacy, Executive Director of African Sky, plans to build 10 schools. During their visit Cherie and Corbin experienced life in rural Mali, staying in huts with no electricity or running water, eating typical Malian food, sharing in Malian special events, and traveling Malian style in an overcrowded small bus with chickens and other farm creatures.

Cherie, using her DVD of slides, will talk to us about her trip and about her involvement with the African Sky organization, which is building bridges and fostering hope thousands of miles away.

On another note, a small group from the Board of Social Action and Missions Ministry at the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge has raised well over \$9,000 to build one of the schools. The school built with these funds will be called The Tallmadge School!

**African Sky is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization that creates enduring friendships between US and Malian communities to transform lives at home and abroad. As a community development organization, African Sky volunteers work with individuals and communities to confront the devastating effects of endemic poverty and inequality. Our philosophy of community development is based on the belief that humanity's physical, ecological, and spiritual well-being is rooted in universal compassion and sustainable living. African Sky projects are organized according to four thematic service programs: [education](#), [community health](#), [food security](#), and [community arts](#).*

Board of Education Update

by Valorie Prulhiere

At its February business meeting, the Board voted to **close Overdale Primary School** at the end of this school year. Beginning in the Fall, Dunbar will house grades K-2. Grades 3-5 will be housed at Munroe. The superintendent and treasurer estimate that this move will **save the district approximately \$750,000.**

The **5-year strategic planning process** for the district is underway. Individuals from the community and city administration have joined with district administrators, staff and board members to create a vision, mission and action plan. Look for more information in the near future.

We are still awaiting **state budget** information from the Governor. Anticipated cuts to Tallmadge City Schools have been guesstimated from 10-20%. Please contact Jeff Hostetler, Treasurer, at 330.633.3291 for more information.

Two renewal levies on the ballot **May 3, 2011**. Passage of these levies will **NOT** increase your tax burden.

ImPACT Forum To Address Citizens United Supreme Court Decision

The Akron, Hudson, & Tallmadge Leagues are planning an imPACT forum on the Citizens United Supreme Court decision on **Saturday, March 19 from 9:30 AM to noon at the Red Cross facility on West Market St in Akron.** The forum, held on the final day of Sunshine Week, is titled **“Secret Money in Elections and Transparency in Government.”** Former Secretary of State **Jennifer Bruner** will be the keynote speaker. A panel will address the issue from both sides, if possible. As League does have a position on disclosure, we will also be doing some advocacy on this issue at this forum.

Our liaison, Ardith Keck has requested 2 volunteers from Tallmadge to help facilitate the roundtable discussions. Directions & questions for the facilitators will be provided. The town meeting on the census was a similar format: 100 people and, therefore, would need 13+ facilitators. The plan is to have Jennifer Bruner, Keynote, then the panelists, and then roundtable discussions at the tables where you'll be seated to close out the day. The roundtable discussions are where we need facilitators. Katie Fry from Round River Consulting will put together some clues on facilitating and we will have a few questions to lead the discussions.



STATEHOUSE DAY: APRIL 7, 2011

Join us in Columbus – and bring a friend! – **April 7, 2011**, as the League of Women Voters of Ohio presents **2011 Statehouse Day**. The theme of this year's event is **Civil Discourse** – and will be the subject discussed by our keynote speaker, Fred Anderle, a retired National Public Radio host from the central Ohio area whose radio program was known for inspiring conversation.

Statehouse Day participants may attend workshops on critical state policy issues, i.e., healthcare, education, local advocacy tools and juvenile justice. Legislators will also be invited to attend the workshops and provide their input on where the state is heading as it relates to these and other issues. *This year, attendees will have the option of requesting a meeting with their legislator through the LWVO office.* If you would like to meet with your legislator while in Columbus, LWVO will schedule meetings during the afternoon session time. You will be accompanied by a member of the Lobby Corps and trained to discuss LWVO's advocacy agenda.

We look forward to having you join us for this invigorating, thought-provoking, and particularly League activity! For more information, visit www.lwvohio.org.

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

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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

We're on the Web!!

For more information, visit
www.lwvtallmadge.org

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Dates

March 5	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	To be confirmed
March 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: African Sky Speaker – Cherie Wade		
March 19	Project IMPACT Forum	9:30 a.m.	Red Cross Facili
April 2	Community EXPO	10am–4pm.	Tallmadge Rec Ctr.
April 7	Statehouse Day		Columbus
April 14	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: Charter Review Commission		
May 21*	Board Meeting	TBD	
	ANNUAL MEETING	11:30 a.m.	Samira's Restaurant
	Speaker: Judge Linda Teodosio		Cuyahoga Falls

**Note change in date.*

March: Celebrate Women for their Contributions to Society

Women were making their mark on history long before they had even secured the right to vote. Some of these women are well-known while others are less familiar. Below is a snapshot of some women whose inventiveness, moxie and contribution to society are noteworthy for their presence in our lives today.

Helen Blanchard (1840–1922) designed the zig-zag sewing machine, her first of many patents.

Martha Coston (1826–1904) designed signal flares used by ships and maritime stations all over the world.

Margaret Knight (1838–1914) considered a female “Edison”, having received 26 diverse patents, including inventing a machine, still in use today, to make flat bottom paper bags.

Florence Nightingale Graham (dba as Elizabeth Arden) (1884–1966) started her cosmetics empire in 1915.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (1832–1919) was a Civil War surgeon and Confederate prisoner of war. She remains the only woman to have ever received the Congressional Medal of Honor for Meritorious Service. (awarded in November 1865). In her later life, she became a staunch advocate for women’s voting rights, only to die before seeing the 19th amendment passed.

