



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45219

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February 2009

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MISSION STATEMENT


The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all men and women over 18. For information call 513-281-8683, or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email at info@lwvcincinnati.org.

LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The LWVCA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.



COMMUNITY SHARES
of Greater Cincinnati
LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

“NEWS TODAY: WHO CAN YOU TRUST?”

Maryanne Zeleznik, News Director of WVXU

speaks at

SUSAN B. ANTHONY LUNCHEON

February 28, 2008, Phoenix Grand Ballroom

See inside for reservation form and details.



About the Event:

The Susan B. Anthony Luncheon celebrates women's suffrage and full participation in American civic society. It is also an opportunity to gather together League members and friends, and to raise funds to support the membership and advocacy activities of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area. We include a silent basket auction as well as a quilt sale at the event. Sponsorships and patron tickets are available. Luncheon contributions and ticket purchases are crucial LWVCA; they are not tax deductible.

About the Martha Taft Award

A highlight of the luncheon will be the Martha Taft Award, the highest honor the League can bestow. It honors a long-term member and all-round contributor to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area who is also a leader in the general community.

About the topic:

News Today: Who Can You Trust? In an age of media consolidation, shrinking news budgets, amateur blogs, YouTube, and infotainment, maintaining the integrity of hard news reporting is essential to an informed citizenry. But what is really news and how do we know it when we see it? Experienced radio news director Maryanne Zeleznik is our guest.

About our speaker:

Maryanne Zeleznik has been news director at WVXU since 2005. For 20 years before that she she served as WNKU News and Public Affairs Director. At WVXU she is responsible for all news and public affairs programming, hosts MORNING EDITION, covers daily news, produces local features and regularly contributes news stories to National Public Radio. Ms. Zeleznik has won numerous regional and national journalism awards including awards from the Public Radio News Directors Incorporated, Ohio Associated Press, Ohio Society of Professional Journalists, and the Cincinnati Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Ms. Zeleznik lives in Fort Thomas with her husband Paul Sanow and 6-year-old daughter Tammy.

By Marjorie Davies

Our annual celebration of women's suffrage, the **Susan B Anthony Luncheon**, is almost here! Maryanne Zeleznik, News Director at 91.7 WVXU, Cincinnati's NPR affiliate, will speak February 28 at the Phoenix on *News Today: Who Can You Trust?* Event co-chairs **Carolyn Honkomp** and **Joan Honeck** are arranging a most enjoyable afternoon, Silent Auction chair **Jeanne Goings** will have tempting baskets on offer, and there will be a Chinese auction of hand-crafted quilts. As always, a deserving LWVCA member will receive the Martha B. Taft Award. Register for the luncheon today and if you are able, please support the League as a table patron or sponsor.

Membership Director **Carolyn Meyers-Hughes**'s committee has made great strides in building our membership roster, which stood at 423 at the beginning of December. Renewal invoices are mailed in August and by January we unfortunately have to drop anyone who has not renewed. Phone calls were made to all lapsing members in December. If you have never joined the League, or have let your membership lapse, please do join us today – we need your support!

Melissa Currence, VP of Voter Service, and her team are updating our directory of public officials, *They Represent Us*, for the recent elections. Look for your copy of this indispensable guide in early March.

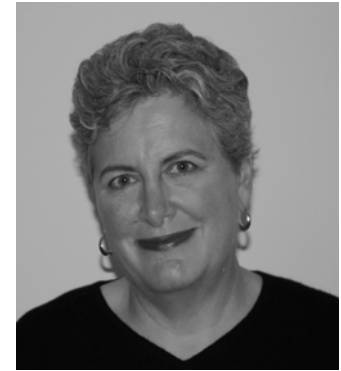
Vice President of Program **Don Rhoad** continues our excellent series of speakers, *Dinner with the League*, at the Vernon Manor. Check our web calendar for future dates. Thanks to a grant from the Steiner Fund, new members joining at DWTL can deduct the cost of their meal from their first-year dues. This is a fun way to introduce your interested friends to the League and the work we do.

Our program committees are hard at work preparing study materials for upcoming units on National Health Care position (February), School Funding (March), and Hamilton County and Regional Issues (April). You'll find these materials in the *Voter* newsletter "buff pages" or online in the newsletter section of our website lwcincinnati.org. Plan to participate in a stimulating and informative neighborhood unit meeting convenient to you.

New York Times columnist and Cincinnati native Gail Collins will discuss *Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity and American Politics* at the Woman's City Club national speaker forum March 12 at the Millennium Hotel downtown. As we have for a number of years, the LWVCA is an event co-sponsor. Tickets are \$25; please call our office for availability.

LWVCA President-elect **Alice Schneider** is planning the Education Fund's annual **Visions for Greater Cincinnati Luncheon** for mid-April. Several exciting speakers and a downtown location are being considered. We will also present the Daniel J Ransohoff Award to an individual or group who has promoted civic action. Nominations for the award are still open; contact **Sylvia Mersfelder** for details.

Mid-May will bring our annual meeting and the conclusion of our program year. In preparation for annual meeting, the Budget Committee, chaired by **Burt Roehr**, is meeting beginning in late January to analyze our revenue and expenses for the coming year.



SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Susan B. Anthony (Feb 15, 1820-March 13, 1906). During her career as a suffragist, writer, newspaper editor, and women's rights advocate, Susan Brownell Anthony traveled nationally and internationally, giving 75-100 speeches each year; she kept that pace up for 45 years! Arrested for illegal voting in the 1872 Presidential election, Anthony was ordered to pay a fine. She never paid; and used the trial as an opportunity to publicize her argument that the right to vote was guaranteed by the 14th Amendment.

Anthony made strong friends and enemies, and she never saw the final victory. In a statement every League committee member and collaboration builder can emphasize with, Ms Anthony defended her single-minded focus on voting: "*We number over 10,000 women and each one has opinions...we can only hold them together to work for the ballot by letting alone their whims and prejudices on other subjects.*"

LWV OHIO STATEHOUSE DAY MARCH 17, 2009

Mark your calendars now for the 2009 State House Day on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. League members are invited to come to Columbus to advocate on important issues to Ohio Legislators. With so many new members of the Legislature and the change in leadership in the Ohio House, the 2009 Statehouse Day provides LWVO members a unique opportunity to build relationships and provide information to members of the Ohio General Assembly.

State House Day 2009 will provide a great opportunity to fully engage in the issues that are important to League members on an internal and external basis. The participation of League members is crucial and effective. The LWVO Board Committee will finalize session topics for State House Day at the January Meeting. Registration materials will be available soon, so start making your plans to journey to Columbus for what will be a successful State House Day.

LWVO 58th Convention 2009/LWV US Council 2009

The 2009 League of Women Voters of Ohio Convention “*Coming together for the Power of All*” will be at the **Crowne Plaza in Dublin** (a northern suburb of Columbus), **May 1-3, 2009**. More details to come. This is a wonderful learning, networking and advocacy opportunity. If you are interested in attending the convention as a LWVCA delegate, please contact League President Marjorie Davies. Some funds are available to offset costs.

LWV US will hold a Council in Washington, DC June 13-15, 2009. This is an opportunity for state and local League leaders to gain an understanding of LWVUS Board and to learn ways to strengthen leadership. For more information, contact the League Office.

ACTION ALERT FOLLOW-UP: OHIO SB 380.

By Gretchen Langdon, Director for Action.

In December, our members were asked to write to their state senators to urge them to vote NO on Senate Bill 380 “Early Voting Requirements.” The bill passed the Ohio House 53-41, the Senate concurred on December 17th. On January 6th, Governor Ted Strickland vetoed the bill saying,

“The bill addresses issues that are too complex and controversial to properly address in a lame duck session, including: the operation of the statewide voter registration database, the role of election observers, the overlap between voter registration and early voting, and the appointment of county board of elections members. In my judgment, many of the provisions are overbroad and may make elections administration even more difficult, potentially limit opportunities for Ohio citizens to vote and expose the Secretary of State’s office and boards of elections to the risk of new and costly lawsuits.

I remain supportive of a deliberative, bipartisan process to craft meaningful improvements to Ohio’s elections system. Ohio voters deserve the thoughtful administrative and legislative changes that can come out of such a process.”

Secretary of State Brunner, who supported the veto, stated,

“Ohio’s voters deserve an orderly election process conceived to place the interests of voters in a fair, transparent and accountable process above the private interests of political parties, caucuses or particular candidates or office holders. History has shown that laws governing elections are at the heart of the rules of fair process, and the best way to craft these rules is by thoughtful, inclusive and deliberative discussion.”

Election reform issues will certainly reappear on the agenda of the new state legislature and I urge all of you to read the LWVO’s 10-Point Plan and The Four R’s of Election Reform, which you will find at www.lwvohio.org.



ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL – AND YOU CAN RUN FOR OFFICE TOO!

By Rina Saperstein – with Patricia Andwan

The quality of local government has a deep impact on the quality of life in our streets, our schools, our neighborhoods, our communities. And our school board members, village councilors, and township trustees are normal residents, just like us, who took the step of running for election for local office. Think you could do a good job? Maybe a better job? *This is your year.* Most local school board, trustee, and council seats are up for election in 2009.

In Hamilton County, twenty-two school districts plus the Hamilton County Educational Service Governing Board are electing members to four year terms. Each of the twelve townships will elect two trustees (also four years). Twenty-one villages and sixteen cities will elect members of council, treasurers and/or mayor (2-4 years depending).

As Leaguer **Pat Andwan** writes, “Most citizens have no idea when or how to file for candidacy, the responsibilities, time commitment or what compensation is provided.” Some of this information is available through League publications such as *Know Hamilton County* and *They Represent Us*; the rest can be obtained through contacting local government offices. But you can’t win if you aren’t on the ballot, so the most important first step is to understand what position you are running for and what the filing deadline is.

Each community can have slightly different election rules as determined by the charter or statute. Some run partisan primaries, some are nonpartisan; some run wards or districts, others are at large. Filing dates can vary depending on these issues. The earliest filing deadline is February 19, 2009, for partisan primaries being held in August; nonpartisan races have a deadline of May 4 for the November election. Candidates for township trustees and school board must file by August 20.

Board of Elections Director Sally Krisel says “Filing is really not that complicated.” There are a lot of pieces of paper, she says, but they aren’t that complex; in small races, campaign finance reports are also simplified or waived. Petition requirements aren’t demanding; often only 25-75 signatures and a \$30-\$45 filing fee will get you on the ballot. The Board of Elections is eager to help. “We want people to run for local office,” she says. “It’s the cornerstone of democracy.”

Information on local government positions, filing deadlines and requirements is available from the Board of Elections or the League office. So find out what’s involved, and get involved in your community.

COMMITTEE PROFILE: LWVCA HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

By Gretchen Langdon, Committee Chair

The Health Care Committee is a relatively new LWVCA committee looking at one of the most complex problems facing the United States today. Local, state and national lawmakers are all engaged in exploring ways to fix our broken health care system.



The local committee has spent much of its first year in exploring how we can be most effective by studying the LWVUS position on health care, by looking at local collaboration possibilities, by talking with state and national LWV health care lobbyists and, of course, by researching the issue. Our committee has decided to concentrate on health care issues at a state level, although we will address local and national issues as they arise.

From our reading and discussions inside and outside the League, we have found a general consensus that health care will be a major legislative issue in the near future. To prepare for this renewed interest and activity, as well as to meet the instructions from National Convention, we have prepared buff pages for unit discussions of our Health Care Policy for February unit meetings. We hope that all of our members will take some time reading this information so that we will be ready to take action on health care.

Like all League committees, the Health Care Committee is open to all interested members and guests; you certainly do not need to be an expert to join. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the League Office.

GO GLOBAL

By Nancy Forbriger

The LWVUS does not have an international action priority this coming year, but we still can be up to date on foreign policy issues through the **Great Decisions** program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. This program puts you in touch with interested, knowledgeable people and some great discussions. At the conclusion of each session, you can register your opinions with the FPA, which sends them on to Washington policy makers.

Great Decisions 2009 topics are:

- The U.S. and rising powers
- Egypt in the 21st century
- Global food supply
- Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Energy and the global economy
- Cuba after Castro
- The Arctic age
- Universal Human rights

The Great Decisions 2009 briefing book can be ordered through www.fpa.org Click on Great Decisions for all the information. The Global Center is not ordering books this year, so they will have to be ordered individually or through a discussion group. Groups in the Cincinnati area will be:

1) at St. John's Unitarian church on Sundays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, starting February 15 for 8 weeks. Dick Fencl is the group leader. Call him for more details at 272-1820.

2) Northeastern Hamilton County, organized by LWVCA member **Louise Stinchcomb**. This group meets Friday mornings at 9:30 starting in March for eight weeks, excluding the week before Easter.

3) The Global Center may have a group for young professionals. Contact Julie at www.globalcincinnati.org.

4) Additional groups may be formed, or you can organize your own! Check www.fpa.org to keep up to date on this.

THE GREATER CINCINNATI COMMITMENT

The Greater Cincinnati Commitment reflects the signer's affirmation or reaffirmation to join with others in taking steps to remove racism, prejudice and stereotypes of all forms from our own lives, as well as the lives of others, and to treat all people with respect. Organizations and individuals can sign. The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area is a signatory to this pledge. You can join in by signing and sending in this form.

COMMIT TO IT - Sign the Pledge!

I believe the full greatness of our city, our region and our nation will be achieved only when every individual has a full and unrestricted opportunity to learn, grow and contribute to the community with all the potential of their innate personal gifts.

I believe that in this new millennium we can and we must move forward to remove the vestiges of racism and other forms of discrimination from our city, our country and our individual lives.

In this spirit, I make this commitment:

- **I commit to** use my individual strength to eliminate discriminatory behaviors, policies and practices from my community.
- **I commit to** openly and intentionally seek to open doors that will ensure everyone the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- **I commit to** embrace diversity and seek equity for all members of the human family.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

E-mail Address
(optional)

Mailing Address
(optional)

LWV 2/09

Please fill in the blanks above and mail to:

The Cincinnati Association

P.O. Box 19191

Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Questions and/or comments may be directed to Stephanie Stoller steph@covap.com

For more information, or to sign online, visit the Cincinnati Association website, www.cincinnatiassoc.org/pages/GCC.html

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DOTTIE COWAN



Dottie is the instigator and leader of our successful "Eastern Day Unit" which meets at Marjorie P. Lee Home. The unit often has 14 or more participants and has generated 3 new members already! You may also get a call from Dottie if you volunteer for public speaking or voter registration events.

Q: When, how and why did you become a League member?

A: In January of 1993 I moved to Cincinnati upon retiring as a Presbyterian Church Educator. Gloria Walker, whom I had known since the early 1950s, invited me to join. She took me to the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon the next month. Having interest in grassroots politics all of my adult life, I jumped at the opportunity to learn and take an active part in the League.

Q: What units/committees are you currently involved with?

A: I promptly joined Metro Day Unit and chaired it for two or three years, and now Chair Eastern Day. I've been discussion leader many times. I also attended the International Issues Forum that first year. I volunteered early on as receptionist for several years, serving as Coordinator for a time. Years ago, I served as Chair of Diversity Committee, which interested me mightily. One year I contacted new members by phone and wrote profiles of new members for the Voter. I pitch in for mailings, proofreading *Who and What* and have taken on several Speakers stints.

Q: What do you enjoy about League membership?

A: I appreciate having access to local, state and national political processes in print and online. I consider serving as Discussion Leader very rewarding because I can learn about burning issues.

Q: What community/neighborhood do you live in and what do you like about it?

I live in Hyde Park but feel no particular identity to the community but consider Cincinnati as my territory and have delighted in its many opportunities.

Q: What have you been reading lately - what do you do for fun?

A: I read mysteries, lately Alexander McCall Smith's *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency Series* set in Botswana. Also, Jill Churchill's *Jane Jeffrey* series. A lot of my free time involves putting together jig-saw puzzles and writing memoir-like profiles of family members and friends.

INSERT, FOLD, LABEL, REPEAT (WITH TALKING AND SNACKING)

By Bridgett Pincus and Pinky Kocoshis, Bulk Mailing Chairs

You received this newsletter because League volunteers came down to the League office to fold, label and sort the copies. The units give us great help with our monthly VOTER mailings, and we appreciate it. Each unit is assigned one month, and we generally need 4 volunteers from the assigned unit to prepare the mailing on a Thursday morning. Our starting time is 10 am, but workers can come any time after 9:30 am. We usually finish by noon. We request that we have a list of the names of volunteers by the Monday of that week of mailing. There is a list in the office of volunteers who can help if you need extra volunteers from outside your unit.

For other mailings, the committee for event/project is responsible for supplying us with the needed volunteers. When planning your event, please let us know your proposed mailing date as soon as possible so we can be both available for the mailing. We can give you an idea of how many volunteers we'll need.

Again, thanks for all your help with this important task.

Units Raise Money at December Parties

Anderson Unit's December White Elephant Auction was a great success (and a lot of fun). It raised \$116.75 for the League. Many thanks also go to the Hilltop unit for their \$55 donation.



Frances Tojo helping with the Voter

FEBRUARY UNIT MEETINGS

TOPIC: Health Care

ANDERSON

Wednesday, February 11, 7 pm
Anderson Center, Conference Room
7850 Five Mile Rd

CENTRAL EVENING

Wednesday, February 11, 7:15 pm
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
103 Wm. Howard Taft Rd

COLLEGE HILL

Tuesday, February 10, 11:30 am Brown Bag
Location: Home of Mary Kay Gardner

EASTERN DAY

Thursday, February 12, 12 pm
Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Center Library
3550 Shaw Ave
Discussion Leader: Don Rhoad

HILLTOP

Monday, February 9, 7 pm
Location: Home of Elizabeth Jamison
Discussion Leader: John Hunter

METRO DAY

Wednesday, February 18, 12 pm Brown Bag
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
103 Wm. Howard Taft Rd
Discussion Leader: Marjorie Davies

NORTH CENTRAL

Tuesday, February 10, 12 noon, Brown Bag
Friendship United Methodist
Corner Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd.
Discussion Leader: Hanna Carp

NORTHEAST EVENING

Monday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Madeira Public Library, Euclid & Miami Ave.

WARREN COUNTY

February 10, 7:30 pm
Mason United Methodist
773 Mason-Montgomery Rd.

E-UNIT

Online at: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvca_internet

All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

A MOVE TOWARD MERIT SELECTION OF JUDGES?

By Bruce I. Petrie, Sr.

In a four year term, Ohio governors typically make appointments to fill about 12% of all Ohio judgeships. Since most Ohio judges first reach the bench by appointment, and with the advantage of incumbency are subsequently elected, the importance of these appointments is obvious.

The methods and progress of Governor Ted Strickland's Judicial Appointment Recommendation Panels are the subject of a program featuring Jeffery Ruppert, Governor's Deputy Legal Counsel, on February 4, 2009, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Room 114. Mr. Ruppert's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with UC Professor Michael Solimine and Cincinnati lawyers Deloris Learmonth and Bruce Petrie Sr. Admission to the program is free and the public is welcome. CLE credits will be available. Parking is available nearby for a fee at the CCM garage.

SIERRA CLUB CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SERIES

Saturday, February 21 & 28

This two-part education and skill development series is designed to provide tools and opportunity for a new conversation about the future of the



environmental movement. Sponsors hope to widen the reach to people that are involved in or care about the environmental movement in Cincinnati and to develop stronger cooperation among local associations and agencies that are leading this movement.

The sessions are on Saturday, February 21 and 28 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and will be led by Peter Block. Location: Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Main Building Conference Center, Room 244, 3520 Central Parkway, Cincinnati. Refreshments will be served starting at 8:30 am. You can sign up online at www.asmallgroup.net under "events." You can also send an email to Collette Thompson at collette@asmallgroup.net or call 513-451-0166. There is no cost.



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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Mon, Feb 2, 7:00 pm - Housing Committee*
- Mon, Feb 2, 5:00 pm - County Government*
- Tues, Feb 3, ELECTION: Mt. Healthy, St. Bernard, Elmwood Place
- Tues, Feb 3, 6:30 pm - League Board Meeting*
- Wed, Feb 4, 12 noon - Nominating Committee*
- Wed, Feb 4, 4:30 pm - "A Move Toward Merit Selection?" (see article on page 7)
- Fri, Feb 6, Newsletter Submissions Deadline
- Tues, Feb 10, 6:00 pm - LWV Education Fund Investment Committee*
- Tues, Feb 10, 7:00 pm - LWV Education Fund Meeting*
- Thurs, Feb 12, 7:00 pm - Natural Resources Committee*
- Mon, Feb 16, 11:30 am - Steiner Fund Meeting*
- Thurs, Feb 19, 10:00 am - Voter Collating* (College Hill Unit)
- Fri, Feb 20, Reservation Deadline, Susan B. Anthony Luncheon
- Sat, Feb 21, 1:00 pm - Day Discussion Leaders Briefing: School Funding*
- Sat, Feb 21, 9:00 am - Sierra Club Civic Engagement Series Part 1. (see article on page 7)
- Mon, Feb 23, 5:00 pm - County Government*
- Tues, Feb 24, 6:30 pm - Health Care Committee*
- Wed, Feb 25, 6:00 pm - Program Development Committee (PDC)*
- Wed, Feb 25, 7:30 pm - Evening Discussion Leaders Briefing: School Funding*
- Sat, Feb 28, 9:00 am - Sierra Club Civic Engagement Part 2 (see article on page 7)
- Sat, Feb 28, 11:00 am - Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, The Phoenix, 812 Race Street
- Thurs, Mar 12, 7:30 pm - Woman's City Club Annual National Speaker Forum (see page 7)
- Tues, Mar 17 - LWVO Statehouse Day, Columbus

JOIN THE LWV!
 Gain a wealth of information for little cost:
 Individual membership - \$55.00
 Household membership - \$75.00
 Student membership - \$25.00
 Dues paid now will carry through
 December 2009.
 Call 513-281-8683 (VOTE)

As always, see our website (www.lwvcincinnati.org) for more information on upcoming events.

*League Conference Room