



**THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA**

# THE VOTER

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45219  
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*February 2010*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...**

- President's Letter - page 2
- Board Notes - page 2
- LeagueNews - pages 3 - 7
- February Meetings - page 8

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.



**HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY LWV!  
Gala Celebration for the  
League's 90th Anniversary**

The League will hold its Susan B. Anthony Dinner/90th Anniversary event on February 27th at the Westin Hotel main ballroom downtown. This will be a special celebration with music, an updated silent auction and raffle, with baskets and individual items and prizes including a wonderful, handmade quilt, a flat screen HDTV and wine.

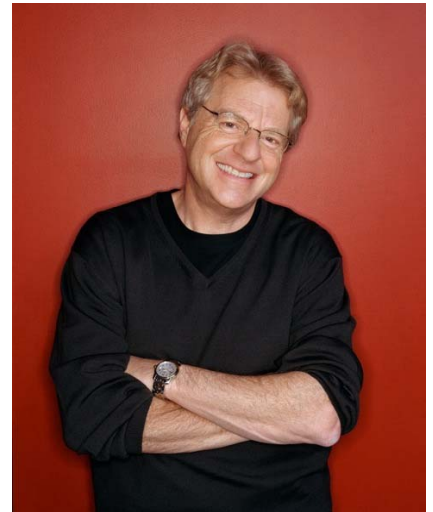
After a great dinner, we'll have entertainment: a modified nonpartisan political roast with Jerry & Jene Galvin, Councilmember Chris Bortz, former Councilmember Jim Tarbell, Mayor Mark Mallory, Judge Nadine Allen, and a surprise person. Our Master of Ceremonies will be former Mayor of Cincinnati Jerry Springer.

Invitations will be in the mail soon, and the planning has been in the works for several months, so we hope you all can be there. This will be a fun event for all. The cost for all this will be \$75 for the public and \$50 for League members. See you there!

**90TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE  
Raffle Tickets now available  
for sale!**

- Grand Prize: 42"x42" log cabin quilt
- 2nd Prize: 19" Flat Screen HDTV
- 3rd Prize: Case of wine
- Tickets: 1 ticket for \$5; 6 tickets for \$25

*Drawing February 27, 2010. You do not need to be present to win. Call the office at 513-281-8683 to get tickets. Proceeds benefit LWVCA Education Fund.*



*Political Roast Master of Ceremonies: Jerry Springer*

*This quilt wall hanging could be yours!*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In resolutions for the upcoming year, I am divided between bold, risky, and far-reaching ideals versus realistic, down to earth goals. Recently, I have been reading **K2, Life and Death on the World's Most Dangerous Mountain**, by Ed Viesturs, a book about climbing one of the highest mountains in Pakistan. While reading, I ask, "why do people try to climb these high mountains when many die, or freeze their hands and feet?" However, because the mountain is there, and the challenge looms before them, daring men and women attempt it. Ed Viesturs believes that climbing mountains "teaches you lessons and those lessons can be applied to the rest of your life."

I myself, on the other hand, like to learn lessons in a safer way, to move step by step and achieve something more realistic. For instance, I train for running marathons. Slowly, our training group starts out in the fall running only a few miles. We slowly build over the weeks to more miles until we have reached 26.2 miles. It is a step by step training that goes methodically and regularly until the goal is met.

This brings me around to planning and resolutions for the League. We need some people in the organization to give us ideals (or goals) that are high as the mountains, as breathtaking and as risky as climbing K2. It is those ideals that will move us from being stagnant to being vibrant and relevant. Are you one of those kinds of people? Conversely, we need people who can listen to those ideas and change them into action. We need people who can plot out the steps one by one for a week, a month until we have achieved what we set out to do. Perhaps we will not always achieve the goals, but we will have learned lessons and will be in a better place than just remaining static. We need both visionaries and realists. Hopefully, we attract both kinds of people to the League and foster their contributions.

Come to our membership reception on Wednesday, February 10, 7pm First Unitarian Church and learn what the League is doing as well as hear Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls elaborate on how citizens can be more effective in the political realm.

Sincerely,

*Alice B. Schneider*



*Melissa Currence,  
President Elect*

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## BOARD BRIEFS

- On Jan 5, **Melissa Currence**, VP Voter Service, was elected LWVCA President Elect. (this was an open position). This means she will move to President in the 2010-2011 year.
- As of January 1, 2010 we have 387 members. 68 members are still not paid
- In early December **Gretchen Landon** moved that the board president send letters to the Ohio senators urging swift action on Health Care reform, which we did. After the bill passed the Senate the National League "*acknowledged the Senate for passing its version of health care reform this month, remaining hopeful that the final version of the bill will include a public insurance option.*"
- **Marjorie Davies** reported that The League's Annual Fundraising Campaign has exceeded budgeted numbers for member and community contributions.
- **Melissa Currence**, VP of Voter Service, reported that the results of the Hamilton County November 3 election are on Smart Voter [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).
- Attend the **Member Reception** on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 7pm First Unitarian Church Linton & Reading Rd. Our guest is **Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls** speaking on "*Advocacy: What Works? Are Public Officials Listening?*"

## LEAGUE HISTORY

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. The League began as a “mighty political experiment” designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy.

From the beginning, the League was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. However, League members are encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

*On Friday, October 1, 1920, the first meeting of the executive committee of the League of Women Voters of Cincinnati was held... political action began immediately.* Along with our keynote voter service throughout the years, many issues have been mainstays for the League. Below are some of the local issues addressed by the LWVCA to show how we have progressed and why we are still in existence 90 years after our founding- we have yet to gain a county government charter!

- 1920's:** School Board corruption; public library policy of not hiring married women; licensing automobile drivers.
- 1930's:** Reorganize county government; urge the mayor to appoint a woman to the University of Cincinnati's Board of trustees; allow married women to teach school; endorsement of tax levies and supported several; for schools, parks and the county.
- 1940's:** School curriculum, especially civics; City Smoke Abatement Ordinance; employment of 30 policewomen; local planning and zoning.
- 1950's:** Proportional Representation, implementation of the Cincinnati Master Plan, fluoridation of Cincinnati water, reorganization of county government and passage of a county charter; county zoning laws; appointments to Cincinnati and Hamilton County boards and commissions; bond issues and tax levies; County-Wide Town Meeting of all area mayors.
- 1960's:** Urban renewal, environmental (especially water); civil rights; school levies; city manager government in Cincinnati; reorganization of Hamilton County Government and passage of a county charter.
- 1970's:** School levies and school integration; urban renewal and housing; transportation; city manager government; comprehensive planning; better rehabilitation programs in the prison systems; fluoridation of Cincinnati water; campaign finance; opposing direct election of the mayor; environmental issues.
- 1980's:** County Charter; City manager government; clean air and water; pay equity for women; school tax levies; housing.
- 1990's:** City of Cincinnati Independent Boards and Commissions; County home rule; state funding of education; state funding for affordable housing; public education quality solid waste management; structure and election method of Cincinnati City Council and mayor; campaign finance reform; discrimination on sexual orientation.
- 2000's:** Housing; juvenile justice; abolish death penalty; police-community relations; city and regional planning; sustainable indicators; climate change; recycling; county tax levies; school levies and state education funding; charter/community schools; shared government services; discrimination on sexual orientation; racial profiling; public transportation (buses, rail, roads); voting methods and standards.

## SUSAN B. AUCTION

By Lora Jollis

The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Susan B Anthony Dinner is only weeks away! The silent auction items are fascinating – several framed fine art prints, antique blown glass, jewelry, books, gift certificates, including the Cincinnati Symphony, Cincinnati Opera, The Reds and several others. Don't forget to get your items and baskets into the LWVCA office! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

## WHAT IS SMARTVOTER?

Smart Voter is an internet website produced by the League of Women Voters to: 1. Provide voters with comprehensive nonpartisan information about the contests on their ballot in an easy-to-use presentation. 2. Provide a means for candidates to publish information about themselves and their candidacy directly to voters.

The Smart Voter site allows users to find their custom ballot and polling place by entering their street address and zip code. Users may access “home pages” of each participating candidate that include their biography, endorsements, top priorities if elected, and position papers. All candidates in the participating counties are invited to participate. Each page about a contest includes links to relevant news or analysis articles written by online local media organizations or other nonpartisan information. Our participation in SmartVoter is funded by contributions to the LWVCA Education Fund.

## SPOTLIGHT: HOUSING COMMITTEE

Interested in housing issues at the local, state, and national levels? The Housing Committee is looking for members who want to learn more about various housing issues and to help make an impact in our region.

Topics researched in the past include substandard housing, affordable housing, the impact of lead found in our housing stock, fair housing, and predatory lending. The League has also featured affordable housing during summer tours and sponsored forums concerning fair housing and senior housing. In the summer of 2009 the committee held a bus tour to visit programs serving the homeless. The committee is currently compiling information concerning the state of homelessness in the Cincinnati area and what services are available. Our findings will be presented in the April Unit discussions.

The League is a member of the Affordable Housing Advocates and the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. We provide representatives to each of these organizations, and opportunities are available to monitor meetings such as CMHA, Cincinnati City Council, and other groups making decisions concerning housing.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** Join our committee to learn more and to help make a difference in housing in our community. Please call **Helen Rhoad** or the League office for more information and for meeting times.

## WHAT IS ADVOCACY AND WHY SHOULD WE SUPPORT IT?

### An 'AHA!' Moment in Cincinnati

By Michelle Dillingham, Affordable Housing Advocates Coordinator (Abridged)

Note: LWVCA is a founding and active member of AHA.

Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) is a group of housing providers, advocates and consumers dedicated to the goal of ensuring good, safe, accessible, affordable housing for all people in Southwest Ohio. Our focus is on meeting the housing needs of individuals and families with very low, low and moderate incomes. We are a diverse group of advocates, spanning the grassroots, faith-based development and planning communities.

When we say we “advocate,” what do we mean? The word “advocate” is from the Latin, *advocatus*, for “one called to aid,” from *ad* (“to”) plus *vocare* (“to call”), related to *vocem* (“voice”). So, the root meaning of advocacy is a response to a call for help, providing a call to action and a voice.

What is intriguing about being a member of an advocacy group? For me it is the action. It is the purposeful transformation of injustice, anger and frustration into an argument for change. It is being part of a greater call to action. It is knowing I am part of meaningful change. The most compelling thing about advocacy is (drum roll, please) it works. This was made ardently clear to me as I worked on the “other” side (the listening side) of advocacy working at City Hall. There is no greater influence on policy makers than a group of well prepared advocates speaking on behalf of large numbers of constituents standing together.

But that is the very thing that challenges us, isn't it? To take action takes time. There are so many causes to support that it can be overwhelming. Personally I have at least four issues I am interested in. The volume of e-mails, newsletters and updates from just those four are many. By the time I scan through them all (inner thoughts: “Hmm, that article looks interesting... I should download and sign that petition. . I should really go to that meeting.”), I could throw my mail in a pile, close the e-mail messages and turn on a mindless television show. So much to fight for - but where to start? And I have to make dinner, do laundry, run the kids around (you fill in the blank). Can you relate?

One role of AHA as an advocacy organization is to help make your advocacy efficient and effective. A successful advocacy organization recognizes the challenges of its individual members and helps facilitate the group's advocacy so that, as a whole, it is effectual and reaches the right ears.

Effective advocacy is an art - it is more than a group of individuals writing an e-mail to their elected officials. Organized advocacy typically starts with an action agenda that covers both incremental and fundamental goals. It identifies who has the greatest impact on policy decisions; it formulates the evidence, makes the case for policy change on multiple levels and holds policy-makers accountable. The broader the base of our individual membership, the better we can engage in organized advocacy.

Please consider joining AHA. Help us help you to be an effective housing advocate. For information, ask League Housing Chair **Helen Rhoad**, or see [www.ahacincy.org](http://www.ahacincy.org).



## FUND RAISING UPDATE

By Marjorie Davies, VP Finance

Total revenue from all sources through December 31 is \$46,693 for the Education Fund and \$22,879 for the LWVCA. These figures include unrealized (paper) gains from investments of almost \$16,000. Proceeds from the Susan B Anthony 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on February 27 (see cover story) will benefit the LWVCA.

Thanks to our many generous donors, progress in the **Annual Campaign** through December 31 is \$27,739 for the Education Fund and \$5,510 for the LWVCA, versus goals of \$30,000 and \$15,000. The Campaign continues through mid-March and concludes with our local Phonathon. If you haven't yet made your full fiscal year (July 1-June 30) contribution to the League, please consider supporting us with a gift payable to "LWVCA" (for advocacy – not tax deductible) or the "LWVCA Education Fund" (tax deductible, nonpartisan voter education). We can accept credit card payments online at [lwvcincinnati.org](http://lwvcincinnati.org); click on "donate." Help us continue to provide the crucial services our community depends on!

**Martha Taft Society:** By letting us know you have included the League in your estate plans, you may join the Martha B. Taft Society and enjoy special benefits, including an invitation to the annual Martha B. Taft Society Luncheon.



## LWV MODERATORS

By Dottie Cowan

Persuading League Members to accept the challenge of serving as Moderator provided me the pleasure of contacting generous women and men who graciously listened to my plea. I applaud those who responded positively in spite of busy schedules. **Ann Gilton** has long provided leadership for educating members who would serve as moderators. This year, **Gail Wick** recruited Ann weeks ahead. In the months before this past fall's election, **Dona Neiheisel** asked me to fill requests for Moderators for several forums and debates.

League Members moderating included: Anderson Township Trustees – **Ann Gilton**; Forest Hills School Board – **Glenda Bernstein**; Green Hills School Board – **Sherrie Heyse**; Indian Hills School Board and Village of Glendale Council – **Burt Roehr**; LWV Issues Forum- **Carolyn Miller**. Other moderators have included **Bette Evanshine**, **Alice Schneider**, and **Elizabeth Brown**.

Voters Service Committee aims to educate the community through Speakers, Moderators, and Event Coordinators. Thanks to all who served in the 2009 election process!

◆ **Volunteer Need:** LWV is widely respected for providing nonpartisan forum facilitators and moderators for community events. We need to broaden the pool of trained moderators. It's a skill that can help you in many ways, and we'll provide training: a workshop is scheduled for fall. Call the office to sign up!

## SPOTLIGHT: NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Natural Resources Committee follows and takes action on environmental issues, consistent with the LWVUS position to "Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest." We have been active in the past year on recycling, global climate change, and the League's call for a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants.

MEETING TIMES: 7:00 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month or every other month (see online calendar or call the League office for current schedule), League office.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** Join our committee to learn more and to help plan events and action. Please call Jeff Davis or the League office for more information and for meeting times.

CONTACT PERSON: **Jeff Davis**,  
[nrc@lwvcincinnati.org](mailto:nrc@lwvcincinnati.org)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MARCIA TOGNERI



*Marcia is active on the Education Fund and Investment Committee.*

*Q: Tell us a little about you, personally and professionally.*

A: My husband, Bob, and I are native Bostonians. We are grandparents to Alex Togneri-Jones, 9 years old who lives in D.C. with daughter Wendy and Dave, her husband. My son, Paul, and his wife, Stephanie, live in Florence, KY. (newlyweds 3 years). Professionally, I began my career in Peoria, IL and transferred here in 1985. My mission and my passion as a Wealth Management Advisor for the past 29 years (all with Merrill Lynch) is to provide my clients with CONFIDENCE that they can retire COMFORTABLY, fund college expenses and leave legacies for their heirs.

*Q: How did you become a League member?*

A: When I was in the process of moving from Buffalo, NY to Peoria, IL in 1977, I called the LWV in Peoria to find out if they had a recent study of the schools. Through this inquiry, I met the Chair of the committee and she invited me to a League meeting. Needless to say, I was very impressed with the depth of knowledge on a number of subjects that the members had.

*Q: What units/committees are you currently involved with? What do you enjoy about League membership?*

A: I am a general member and have served as a Director of the Education Fund for many years. I enjoy the respect that members have for each other's knowledge and the efforts that are put forth to keep the LWV an important community organization.

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

A: I live in Sycamore Township. Growing up in a big city, I appreciate the convenience to my office, the accessibility to all the fine arts that our region possesses and the ease of driving west to Illinois and east to D.C. and Massachusetts.

*Q: What do you do for fun?*

A: Summer fun is vacationing on Cape Cod and the Berkshire Mountains of MA (the summer home of the Boston Symphony with many other cultural opportunities). In Cincinnati, we thoroughly enjoy attending performances at Playhouse in the Park, CCM and CSO. We enjoy the Cincinnati Art Museum as well as the Taft Museum and our great Zoo.

## BOOK REVIEW: "When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present," by Gail Collins

*Review by Ann Gilton*

*"Billie Jean King was the winner of three Wimbledon titles in a single year and was supporting her household with the money she made from tennis. But she could not get a credit card unless it was in the name of her husband, a law student with no income."*

*Gail Collins*

I recommend "When Everything Changed" by Gail Collins about the changes in women's roles since 1960. I found the book very well done, extremely interesting, and of value in the great research (and umpteen interviews). Since I am near 80, it was like reading a review of what I lived through! My, but there have been so many changes in that period of my life! Now I know why young women have no appreciation of the benefits they have, and what a struggle there was to get to this place!

This book is very readable, too. While it

relates to those of us who are "senior" it is a good history lesson for younger women. My husband read "The Feminine Mystique" and said I should read it! Wasn't he forward-looking!

Although the league is not mentioned in this book, I know that that was the organization which was so valuable to me; as an educated woman, the two-meetings-a-month when intelligent women talked about other than diapers and recipes kept me sane! I am grateful to the league for those years. Next year I shall be a 50 year member!

*The Voter* is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area. *The Voter* Editor: **Rina Saperstein**. Office Staff: **Susan Gorman**. Proofer: **Alice Schneider**. Layout and design: **Kit Berger**.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

*New members since Nov 1*

**Peg Allen**

**Joyce Johnson**

**Dr Molly Katz**

**Adrienne Krueger**

**Kimberley Silver**

**Grace Staples**

**Africa Wallace**

**Priscilla Wood**

**Carol Drees**

**Christopher Knoop**

**Marie Lager**

**Lynne McEneny**

**Jeanne Nightingale**

## ART AND LUNCH: NEW MEMBER EVENT

**“How the League can be a voice for change in 2010”**

February 10th. Meet at the Taft Museum on Pike Street at 4th at 11:00 am for a self guided tour of the Museum. Lunch and Discussion 12:00 to 1:30 at 550 E. Fourth Street, Apt. U. RSVP to the League Office.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Carolyn Meyers-Hughes*

### From 7 Keys to Grow Your League Membership

Each month of the program year we will try to focus on one of the 7 *Keys* to help League membership grow.

#### #6 Offer flexibility to your potential members

Provide a variety of opportunities – bite-size and guilt-free, for people to become involved in LWV. People are busy and have many options in terms of how they spend their time. Creating flexible times, places and responsibilities are integral to potential and current member involvement.

**Your assignment for February is to ask someone to join the League.** Bring them to a Member Reception or the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Your Unit will get points for asking, having a prospective member attend and for finally joining. The prize is special refreshments for your April unit meeting. *Unit leaders: please send me the current points earned by your unit over the first 4 months.*

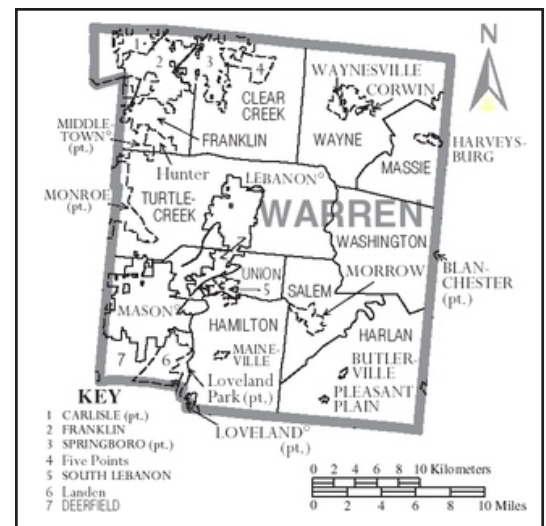
Your successful effort last month included holiday unit gatherings where several member invitations resulted in new members. **Keep up the good work!** *Questions? Call/email Carolyn Meyers-Hughes.*

## SPOTLIGHT: WARREN COUNTY UNIT

The Warren County unit was originally a separate League which merged with the LWVCA in the 1980s. The unit meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Mason United Methodist Church, and welcomes Leaguers from Warren and Butler Counties and northern Hamilton County. Regular members include **Burt Roehr, Ann Gilton** (Unit Membership Chair), **Linda Lehman, Peg Allen, Lee Burkett** and **Judy Shaffer** (Unit Chair). The unit discusses the same Voter topics as other LWVCA units.

Special events have included a Christmas Dinner at Bravo in Mason and an interview with a suburban press reporter. Chair Judy Shaffer says that the unit has lively discussions with varying points of view; perhaps one of the most notable last year was the discussion of League positions. Judy says “The best thing for me personally, is that I had had no involvement with anything political and now I’m in this unit with people who have been politically involved for over 40 years. It’s a great education with people with insight, history, and differing opinions.”

*ABOUT WARREN COUNTY: In 2008, Warren County had a population of 207,250, and was growing at a 30% rate, compared to 1.2% growth in Ohio as a whole. It had a low poverty rate (5%) and a high median per capita income (\$71,178 in 2007 compared to \$46, 645 for Ohio that year). It is 400Sq. miles in size. County Commissioners are C. Michael Kilburn, Pat South and David G. Young. Dave Gully is County Administrator. Lebanon and Mason are the largest cities; Middletown, Monroe and Loveland are cities partially in Warren County. The county has seventeen distinct school districts!*





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**CALENDAR**

**NOTE: There are no unit meetings in February.**

- Mon Feb 1 7 pm Transportation Committee\*
- Fri Feb 5 Newsletter Submissions Deadline
- Mon Feb 8 Deadline RSVPs for Membership Reception
- Wed Feb 10 11 am Membership Involvement Reception-  
TAFT MUSEUM
- Wed Feb 10 7 pm Membership Involvement Reception-  
First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton  
Guest Speaker Roxanne Qualls
- Thurs Feb 11 7 pm Natural Resources Committee\*
- Mon Feb 15 6:30 pm County Government Committee\*
- Tues Feb 16 6 pm Investment Committee\*
- Tues Feb 16 7 pm LWVCA Education Fund\*
- Thurs Feb 18 9:30 am Voter Collating, Anderson Unit in Charge\*
- Fri Feb 19 Deadline RSVPs Susan B/Anniversary Gala
- Tues Feb 23 5:30 pm Health Care Committee\*
- Tues Feb 23 5:30 pm Clermont County League 90th Anniversary Celebration,  
Union Township Civic Center, Queen City Rm. A
- Wed Feb 24 5:30 pm Program Development Committee (PDC)\*
- Wed Feb 25 7 pm Discussion Leaders Briefing for March Units  
(Homelessness)\*
- Sat Feb 27 1 pm Discussion Leaders Briefing for March Units  
(Homelessness)\*
- Sat Feb 27 6:30 pm 90th Anniversary Celebration,  
Westin Grand Ballroom, 21 E 5th St

\* Meetings are held at the League Office, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church,  
 Address above

As always, see our website ([www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org)) for more information on  
 upcoming events.

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF  
 WOMEN VOTERS**

*...where hands on work to safeguard  
 democracy leads to civic improvement.*  
 Any citizen of voting age, male or female,  
 can become a League member. Dues  
 include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National  
 membership, including newsletters from  
 each, covering remainder of 2009 and all  
 of 2010.

Individual Membership (\$55) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Household Membership (\$75) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Membership (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dues pose a hardship: I can pay this  
 amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Optional nondeductible contribution to  
 LWVCA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (h): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail to: LWVCA at the address above.