



**THE LEAGUE**

**OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA**

# THE VOTER

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*January 2010*

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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.



## JANUARY 2010: THE VOLUNTEER ISSUE

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. —*Marjorie Moore*

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the women and men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea. -*Antoine de Saint-Exupery, The Wisdom of the Sands*

The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good. -*Ivan Scheier (from Building Staff/Volunteer Relations)*

Let ... individuals make the most of what God has given them, have their neighbors do the same, and then do all they can to serve each other. There is no use in one man, or one nation, to try to do or be everything. It is a good thing to be dependent on each other for something, it makes us civil and peaceable.

—*Sojourner Truth, as quoted in History of Woman Suffrage by Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. This January, we're focusing on the hands-on part of the story. Throughout this *Voter* you'll find many opportunities to get involved. In each case there is a description of the overall goal, the specific work needed and the contact person. Because the *Voter* goes out publicly online and in libraries, we do not publish individual's phone numbers or emails. Instead, we urge you to use your League member directory or call the office for contact information.

So, pick a **Volunteer Need** that interests you and make the call to find out more! If you've been an uninvolved member, this is your chance to give hands-on work a try. If you've been working on behalf of the League for a long time, perhaps this is the chance to change to something new. And a special thanks to all those who volunteer for League to make our greater Cincinnati community a better place.



Cartoon by Don Rhoad

## What organization .....

- Do citizens call when they need information about voting or their elected officials?
- Has such a good reputation that people frequently call upon its members to moderate debates and forums?
- Do people call when they want a knowledgeable speaker and balanced information about election issues?
- Is so respected that citizens frequently request its sponsorship?
- Has a respected publication that thousands of people request for information about upcoming elections in Hamilton County?
- Is the citizen voice to elected officials?

Of course, if you answered the League of Women Voters, you would be correct! Members of the League believe that a well-functioning democracy requires a citizenry that is informed about government, participates in the political process, and expects government to act for the public interest. These ideals drive the work of the League in providing services and publications to the citizens of our area. Most of our volunteers are ordinary people who are uncommonly interested in wanting to better our public life. If you are a person who is interested in making a difference, then consider our involvement opportunities.

In this issue of the *Voter* and the next one we are presenting these opportunities to the membership. You can look them over and see if there is something that interests you.

Volunteering in the League offers many benefits. First, you have the opportunity to learn something: about city or county government, natural resources, health, housing, election issues, education and transportation to name a few. Secondly, you provide a valuable service to other citizens in the community. Third, you enjoy the camaraderie of working together with other similar minded people on a common goal.

I urge you to evaluate your skills or the skills you would like to improve and consider volunteering in one of the areas presented in this issue. You can devote as little or as much time as you would like. If you are not able to volunteer at this time, remember your membership is still the best commitment you can make.

Sincerely,

*Alice B. Schneider*

Alice B. Schneider



## LWVCA 2009-10

### Board of Directors:

President: *Alice Schneider*

President Elect: *OPEN*

Treasurer: *Kim Thompson*

Secretary: *Glenda Bernstein*

Vice President, Program: *Don Rhoad*

Vice President, Fund Development:

*Marjorie Davies*

Vice President, Administration:

*Pinky Kokoshis*

Vice President, Voter Service:

*Melissa Currence*

Director, Action: *Gretchen Langdon*

Director, Membership:

*Carolyn Meyers-Hughes*

Director, Unit Coordinator: *Susan Lehman*

Director, Planned Giving: *Dee Shaffer*

## BOARD BRIEFS

- Starting in January, the board meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month.
- President **Alice Schneider** sent a letter to the mayor and City Council members in support of the city's weekly recycling program and certain specified enhancements to that program.
- **Carolyn Meyers Hughes** reports that our current membership is 382
- **Melissa Currence**, VP of Voter Service, reports that in the November election - out of 447 Hamilton County candidates, 183 participated through Smartvoter, approximately 40%. This is remarkable for an off-year election. We responded to 63 e-mails from the public and 22 e-mails were from generally throughout the state of Ohio.

Several members are making wonderful plans for the 90th anniversary celebration gala on February 27. (See p. 9)

## LWVUS ARMS CONTROL TASK FORCE

The bilateral Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, one of the cornerstone treaties intended to reduce and control the use of nuclear weapons, expired on December 5, 2009. The Treaty entered into force in 1994 after being negotiated for much of the 1980s. The Signatories — the United States and Russia — have pledged to renew the treaty and will soon finalize negotiations with new reduction targets set by Presidents Obama and Medvedev.

With this backdrop the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) decided it was appropriate to form a task force to review its 1983 Position on Arms Control for *relevance, usefulness, and practical application*. Despite all that has happened in the last 26 years, the Task Force finds the principles and language of the Position to be broadly applicable today. However, it anticipates suggesting some revisions once its deliberations are complete.

While the Task Force has been working to identify and review specific issues, it has also been writing informational papers. The first ones, “*Arms Control: Geopolitical Factors Pertinent to the LWV Position*” by Task Force member Ellen Z. Berg (LWVWA) and “*Arms Control: The Backstory and the LWV Position*” by Task Force members Ellen Z. Berg and Ralph Kuiper (LWV of Los Altos, CA), are now posted on the Arms Control Task Force webpage: <http://lists.lwv.org/t/961144/5000512/1068/0>.

## 2010 LWVUS ADVOCACY PRIORITIES: Time to Submit Your Suggestions

The LWVUS Board will be determining Advocacy Priorities for 2010 at the Board Meeting in late January. If you would like to submit suggestions, please send an email to [jduffy@lwv.com](mailto:jduffy@lwv.com) by January 15. Please indicate whether your suggestion is submitted as an individual or the result of a committee or League meeting. All suggested advocacy priority topics will be compiled into a report to the Board for consideration.

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 89 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.*

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## BILL OF RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 15

League of Women Voters of the US marked the 218th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights with a call for civic vigilance and participation. For almost 90 years, the League of Women Voters has defended civil liberties and promoted citizen engagement in democracy, and we continue this work today. It is particularly important for Americans, even in between ‘big’ elections, to recognize the critical importance of protecting and honoring our most cherished constitutional rights.

Throughout the year, League members work in our community to protect our liberties and make the most of them by encouraging voting, discussing important issues, and holding elected officials accountable for their actions. The protection of the individual liberties laid out in the Bill of Rights has been central to the League’s work throughout its history. During World War II, the League worked to balance the preservation of civil liberties with the importance of national security. During the Communist “witch hunt” period of the early 1950s, the League conducted a community education program known as the Freedom Agenda, providing Americans with the opportunity to discuss and learn about the Bill of Rights. More recently, the League has promoted a diverse and independent judiciary, advocated against warrantless domestic surveillance and other harmful elements of the Patriot Act, and sponsored numerous education projects aimed at informing citizens of their rights.

The Bill of Rights is not only an important part of our nation’s history; it is a living document that will guide us into the future. Join us in making democracy work!

## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN OHIO

By Nancy Forbriger

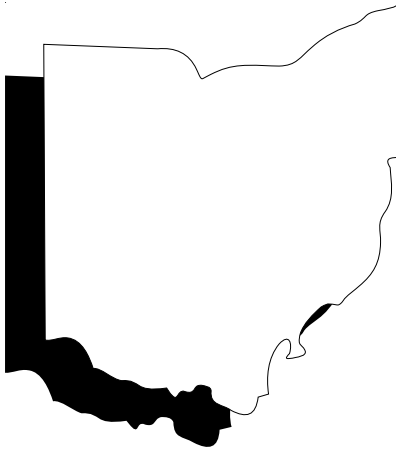
The lead article of the fall LWV Ohio Voter announced that the law suit regarding Ohio's election procedures filed by the LWVO and others was settled in an historic agreement with the State of Ohio. The agreement mandated some common sense practices that had been implemented in 2008, and some new reforms such as:

- Pre-election resource, security, communication and contingency planning;
- Post-election assessment at the county level;
- Post-election effectiveness assessment at the precinct level in counties with large urban populations;
- Accurate processing of provisional and absentee ballots;
- Enhanced poll worker recruitment and training;
- Better access for disabled voters; and
- Improved voting technology and security.

The Federal District Court in Toledo will have continuing jurisdiction to enforce the settlement order through Jan 11, 2015. One component of the agreement was for the LWV of Ohio to monitor compliance with many of the provisions of this settlement.

As a League in one of Ohio's largest counties, LWVCA will interview the Board of Elections director and deputy director to document processes and experiences in the November 2009 election. The information collected will show points of excellent compliance as well as areas that need more attention. The pool of information gathered from all over the state will help the secretary of state fine tune its work and that of local boards in the Nov. 2010 election.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** We need local members who have a special interest in well-conducted elections to help with this interview process and to follow the work of our Board of Elections (BOE) in the coming year. Please call **Alice Schneider** or **Melissa Currence** so we can get started as soon as possible.



## OHIO JUDICIAL SELECTION CONFERENCE

Source: LWV Ohio

A November conference: "A Forum on Judicial Selection: A Time for Action," convened by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund, the Ohio State Bar Association and Ohio Supreme Court Justice Thomas Moyer, gathered input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, experts and interested parties and concluded that change is needed and that there is support for some form of an appointive-retention system.

The next steps are to propose a specific plan to the partner organizations for formal consideration. The conveners said that while the specifics of the plan will take time to develop, based on what they heard at the forum any plan will have the following characteristics:

- The appointment process will be open and transparent.
- Any nominating commission will be representative of the diversity of Ohio's population and will include multiple appointing authorities.
- Some form of a public education component will be included.
- Retention elections will ensure that voters still have a voice.

The conference gained significant coverage in Ohio newspapers in the days leading up to and immediately following the conference.

*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**.

## CITY GOVERNANCE 101

**Date: January 11, 2010, 7- 9 pm Geier Room, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church**

Presenters: **Jane Anderson and Carolyn Miller.**

Sponsored by Woman's City Club, with LWVCA as one of several cosponsors, this is a workshop to strengthen the impact of civic sector voices and leadership in the city.

Learn about how city government functions, how we can monitor and assess issues of interest to the club, and how you can participate in the Woman's City Club's *Council Watch Project*. The Council Watch Project is a new effort intended to reassert Woman's City Club's (WCC's) historic role of monitoring Cincinnati council and committee meetings and to enhance the WCC's impact on the decision-making process in our city.

City Governance 101 will be followed by a session where we will discuss issues for rating: health and human services, neighborhood and community development, environment, public safety and violence prevention, and economic justice. A rating system for evaluating performance on these issues will be shared.

R.S.V.P. to Sue Wilke or Jeanne Nightingale, Co-Chairs, WCC Governance Committee.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE WORKSHOP For Elected/Appointed Local Government Officials and the Community

*Sponsored by the Center for Local Government*

Parliamentary Procedure can make a long, difficult meeting into a short, painless one. It assures that voices are heard and that decisions are made, understood and supported by the membership of an organization. Learn how you can help make meetings efficient and effective.

**Date:** Saturday, January 23, 2010

**Location:** Forest Park Senior Center 11555 Winton Rd

**Presenter:** Ann Gilton, PRP, CPP-T, League Member.

**Time:** Registration 8-8:45. Workshop 9-12.

**Topics:** Benefits of using parliamentary procedure; Meeting demonstration; Handling a motion, ranking motions; Duties of the Chair; Responsibilities & rights of members; Do's and Don'ts.

**Fee:** \$25

**To sign up:** Contact the League Office at 281-8683.

## HAMILTON COUNTY YARD WASTE DROPOFF

Saturday January 2, and January 9, 2010  
from 12-3 p.m. 3 sites: Bzak Landscaping,  
3295 Turpin Lane  
in Anderson

Township; Kuliga  
Park, 6717

Bridgetown Rd,

Green Township;

Rumpke Sanitary

Landfill, 3800

Struble Road,

Colerain Township.

For more

information call

946-7755 or

[www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org).



## SAVE THE DATE: NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT 2010

**February 26th & 27th**

*build community . influence change . guide  
our future . plan cincinnati*

What do you want Cincinnati to look like in another 10 or 20 years? Do you have big ideas for the City that you want to share? Each of us has a stake in the future, and this is your chance influence how our City grows and changes.

PLAN CINCINNATI will be the focus of the 8th Annual NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT on February 26 & 27, 2010, at the Cintas, Center, Xavier University. Mark your calendar for the 2010 Annual Neighborhood Summit on February 26-27. Now more than ever, Cincinnati needs to develop a guide for its future. Be part of the Comprehensive Plan!

**PLAN CINCINNATI**  
a comprehensive plan for the future



Join Us for  
***DINNER WITH THE LEAGUE***

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

**Monday, January 25, 2010**

**Speaker: Myrita Craig**

Executive Director – Agenda 360

Topic: “Greater Cincinnati’s Future:  
*Where Do We Go From Here?*”

5:30 Social Time; 6:00 Dinner

6:45 Speaker



**At the Kingsgate Marriott Conference Center at UC**

**151 Goodman Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45219**

(Complimentary Garage Parking or Valet Parking Available)

Directions to Kingsgate: West on Wm. H. Taft to slight rt. on Jefferson; slight left on Vine St. to rt. on Goodman Dr. Signs direct you to Conference Center and valet parking or parking garage.

**For additional information, call 513-281-8683**

*Make your reservation by Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> by sending the following form and check or registering and paying online at [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org).*

Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) for *Dinner with the League* at The Kingsgate Marriott Conference Center on Monday, Jan. 25, 2010 at 5:30 PM.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I will be coming only for the presentation following the dinner at no cost.

Dinner preference is (Check one for each person attending. *You will be responsible for the \$25 charge.*):

- Chicken Picatta with Lemon Caper Sauce  
 Pesto Crusted Cape Capensis (mild fish with a sweet flavor)  
 Vegetarian Lasagna

All above entrees include salad, vegetable, rolls, coffee or tea, and dessert.

\_\_\_ Amount enclosed (\$25.00 per meal, gratuities included)

Send reservation, meal choice, and check for \$25.00 per person (payable to “LWVCA”) by Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> deadline to: LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219.

## Spotlight: Education Committee

By *Burt Roehr*

Our LWVCA Education Committee invites participation by interested League members!!! While we are not currently involved in a study that will yield new positions, we have many opportunities to examine trends, changes, and developments affecting public schools and to share our findings with League members.

The LWVCA has a local position on Cincinnati Public Schools. The most frequent use of that position centers on the financial part which states: “*The LWVCA supports tax levies and bond issues to implement policies for operations and improvements in the system.*” League members developed a list of questions to consider in determining what action the League would take on proposed levies and bond issues. It is the task of the Education Committee to get that information together through interviews, meetings with CPS administrators, and discussion of published background material. We then determine what our recommendation to the Board will be.

Several years ago the Committee visited local charter schools, attended their board meetings, and interviewed their administrators. We’re still interested in these schools and continue to monitor their progress or lack of same. There have been many changes since we first began our investigation, and we may revisit these schools in the near future.

This year has found committee members looking at career technical education in the region. We’ve met with administrators from Great Oaks, Cincinnati Public, and the Warren County Career Center; on January 11, we’ll meet with representatives from Butler County Career Technical Center. Our goal on this project is to put together our findings for member unit discussions in April.

Our next meeting will be **January 11, 2010, 1:30 p.m.**, in the LWVCA Conference Room.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** [New committee members would be welcomed and appreciated!!! Help review data, interview education officials and develop written materials to educate league members and the public. Contact \*\*Burt Roehr\*\* to get involved.](#)

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## What are Program Committees

By *Don Rhoad*

LWVCA Program activities are planned and executed by the eight Program committees – City Government, County Government, Diversity, Education, Health Care, Housing, Natural Resources, and Transportation. Each committee focuses on its defined subject, studying existing conditions, current issues, and opportunities for improvement, always guided by the League’s local, state, and national positions. The work of these committees is a major reason why the League is so respected in the community.

Committee work often involves monitoring the meetings and activities of key government individuals or organizations. At times a committee may interact directly with these people, corresponding with them or meeting with them. Other committee work may involve study of recent reports, actions, or public statements.

Members are always welcome to join one or more Program committees. Sometimes a member may prefer to sit in on a committee meeting a few times before deciding to join it. Sometimes a member may join for a specific project over a few months rather than as a long-term commitment.

◆ **Volunteer Need: Join a Program Committee!** [For additional information, contact the committee chairs, whose names are available from the LWVCA office.](#)

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## Cornerstone of Communications: AKA Bulk Mail

By *Pinky Kocoshis and Bridgett Pincus*

Bulk mail is our main way of communications with our members, friends and others. That is especially true around election time when our Voter Service information is available. On average, we coordinate two mailings a month; some months we may have additional mailings. The VOTER mailing is staffed by volunteers from the assigned Unit of LWVCA. While not rocket science, this is an important volunteer service to the League. It also can be fun, as conversations are lively; and it provides an opportunity to meet League members in another setting and hear what is going on around the other Units.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** [If you can fold, staple, tape, collate, etc, this is a great opportunity to get involved with the League. The time commitment for our mailings is usually two hours. Call the office and get on our list and thanks so very much.](#)

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## Nominations are OPEN!

League leadership is fun, rewarding, a great learning experience, and a necessity! A variety of positions will be open in the 2010-11 year. The League's nominating committee began meeting in December. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or if you'd like to nominate a leader, contact **Kathy Helmbock**, Nominating Committee chair.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** Members willing to go the next step and take leadership of the League. Among other positions, we need nominations for President Elect, three Vice Presidents, Treasurer and two Directors, as well as nominating committee, Steiner Fund and Education Fund Trustees. For job descriptions, see the League office. To nominate someone, contact **Kathy Helmbock**.

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## Voter Service Volunteers

The voter services activities of the LWVCA continue to build upon the League's tradition of providing excellent nonpartisan information for elections and governmental organizations. With election 2009 completed, the Voter Services committee is looking ahead to production of *They Represent Us (TRU)*, a public officials guide for Hamilton County. We plan a print run of 30,000 for 2010 with updated information on Cincinnati City Council and more.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** We need volunteers for a committee up to 5 hours during January and February to update the next *TRU*. Voter Service is also in search of volunteers to put together candidate information for the May 2010 primary. Those interested can contact **Melissa Currence**, Vice President of Voter Service.

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## Transportation Committee

The Transportation committee is looking for a few good ideas. The committee is currently investigating the many alternatives to auto-centric transportation. What is the 3C + D passenger rail service about and where will the local station be located? How would a complete streets policy affect mobility? Should the area become more bicycle friendly? How would a Cincinnati streetcar route affect area transportation and community development? How will Metro's increased fares and decreased service affect access to housing and jobs? What do you think about these or other issues related to transportation? What type(s) of transportation would be helpful for this region? Let the Transportation Committee know where to focus attention and how to prioritize the investigation.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** Your ideas and/or active participation would be welcomed. Contact **Chris Moran** for more information.

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## Community Shares Subcommittee

This committee works to facilitate our membership in Community Shares, a partnership of 27 local nonprofit organizations building social and economic equity and a healthy environment. Community Shares raises awareness and support for its member organizations through workplace giving campaigns.

◆ **Volunteer Needs:** Attend Community Shares Meetings; serve on a Community Shares Committee; assist with the annual fundraiser *Guys, Griddles, and Grub*; paperwork at the Community Shares office; help complete the annual application in December. Contact **Sherrie Heyse** if you can help.

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## Voter Newsletter

The Voter newsletter is our monthly communication with members and the general public. Work on the newsletter includes: soliciting articles from the membership; compiling and editing materials, seeking photos and graphics and putting together a balanced, interesting document, proofing, layout of the publication, copying, collating and mailing, and converting and emailing the digital version. Currently, **Rina Saperstein** is editor, **Kit Berger** does layout and also a final polish proof; **Sue Gorman** copies and the bulk mailing committee collates. **Marty Harrington** moves much of our information onto the website and updates new information there throughout the month.

◆ **Volunteer Need: Voter Editor:** monthly work, mostly on the last and first week of the month; working to a tight timeline to compile, edit, proof, gather graphics and put together the text of the newsletter. Requires use of a computer and email, good writing skills. You can see your end result and get great satisfaction from producing a widely respected quality product. Contact **Rina Saperstein** if you can take on this rewarding task.

## Dinner with the League

Dinner with the League (DWTL) is a series of dinner meetings featuring community leaders as speakers. It is designed to offer LWVCA members, their guests, and others in the community an opportunity to enjoy dinner together with an stimulating speaker. Programs address issues of current significance, such as downtown development, media influences, challenges to public education, regional transportation, and the arts. DWTL usually takes place on the fourth Monday of any month in which there is no other League-wide event. It currently is held at the Kingsgate Marriott near UC. Next DWTL is January 25, 2010, regarding transportation. See page 6 for information. Contact the League office for tickets.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** DWTL planners **Helen and Don Rhoad** would welcome volunteer assistance in areas such as reservations, publicity, and liaison with the Kingsgate.

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## Fund Raising Update

By *Marjorie Davies, VP Finance*

**Annual Campaign** progress through November 30 is \$25,743 for the Education Fund and \$5,455 for the LWVCA, versus goals of \$30,000 and \$15,000. 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. Or join the **Martha Taft Society** by including the League in your estate plans. Help us continue to provide the crucial services our community depends on!

**Fundraising Committee:** This committee is responsible for all fund raising for LWVCA and Education Fund: event/project planning, execution, follow-up. Activities include: 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner/Susan B Anthony (August-February), Phonathon (February-March), Visions for Greater Cincinnati Luncheon (August-April), Annual Campaign (August-March), and the following year-round: Grant writing, Planned Giving, Community Shares liaison, Kroger cards.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** Your creative ideas, general leadership/administration, PR, solicitation of contributions (by phone, letter, in person), event planning, invitation design, liaison with hotel/speakers, decorations, greet guests, hand-write thank-yous, help with bulk mailings. Contact **Marjorie Davies**.

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## Kroger Card Subcommittee

The LWVCA Education Fund participates in the Kroger Community Card program. When League members use a special gift card for their purchases at Kroger, the LWVCA Ed Fund receives 4%. Cards are available from the office (281-8683) and can be reloaded repeatedly. Please call and we will send you a Kroger Community Card to use.

◆ **Volunteer Needs:** Chair needed to organize and report on the Kroger Community Cards. Write articles for the Voter and publicize the cards to the membership to increase usage, keep the log of cards given out and donations that come in. Make an annual report to the board and the annual report.

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## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Susan B Anthony Dinner

Next year marks ninety years of women's suffrage and the founding of our local League. Our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee members, led by **Mary Kay Gardner** and **Helen Rhoad**, have planned a fitting celebration for Saturday evening, February 27: dinner followed by a multi-partisan roast of Greater Cincinnati's brightest political lights coordinated by Jene and Jerry Galvin. Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be former Cincinnati mayor and news anchor, Jerry Springer. The social hour/Silent Auction (chaired by **Lora Jollis**) begins at 6:30 pm and features as musical entertainment local teen piano prodigies Hunter and Austin Wade, who recently made their Carnegie Hall debut. **Gail Wick** and **Sherrie Heyse** are coordinating the raffle (see p.12 for details). Dinner in the Westin Grand Ballroom begins at 7:30 pm, and we expect a full house. The price for this unforgettable evening is \$50 for members, \$75 for nonmembers, and \$750 for a table of ten.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** HOSTS: The Invitations Committee, chaired by Nike Mendenhall, will be including the names of member hosts/hostesses in the event invitations, to be mailed to 2,000 community leaders. Responsibilities: attend the event, permit your name to be printed in the invitation, and (optionally) send hand-addressed invitations to your interested friends. If you can be a host/hostess, please notify **Marjorie Davies** at fundraising@lwvcincinnati.org by January 10 with the preferred spelling of your (and your significant other's) name(s).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

### Marie “Pinky” Kocoshis

*Pinky is our LWVCA Board Vice President: Organization, and our Bulk Mail Coordinator and she is active in Anderson Unit and our Natural Resources Committee. Her husband, Sam, is also a League member. We asked Pinky how she came to join the league, what she likes about it, and what she does for fun.*

Upon moving here from Pittsburgh in Aug. of 2001 just before election, I was confronted by the many levies on the ballot. These were somewhat unknown to me, so I figured out the best place to get objective information was the LWVCA. Of course, I was right. The Anderson Unit is very active in all LWVCA activities and also proactive in our Anderson neighborhood. The election forums we have held are greatly appreciated by the community at large and give us a real presence in the community.

For about 5+ years I have been co chair of the bulk mail committee. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know all the members who volunteer to help with this. The conversation is always lively as we stuff, stamp, fold and mutilate. It’s an important function for League and very rewarding personally. It helps that I have had 2 great co-chairs, **Jan Evans** and now **Bridgett Pincus**.

My passion for the environment has taken me to leadership roles in Sierra Club, Environmental Community Organization (ECO), the Blue Green Alliance and the Environmental Advisory Council to City of Cincinnati. While many challenges exist, recycling has been front and center in Cincinnati as a pawn in budget discussions each year.

My other passion, quilting, has resulted in some fundraising activities for the League. In last month’s *Voter* was a picture of the 42x42 Log Cabin quilt in the SBA raffle. In addition to reading for 2 book discussion groups, I am currently reading *OTHER POWERS; The Age of Suffrage, Spiritualism, and the Scandalous Victoria Woodhull*. This was recommended to me by a friend, who visited Seneca Falls, NY on her way from New Hampshire to New Orleans. I guess next on my list should be Al Gore’s new book, right???



## IN MEMORIAM:

LWVCA remembers with appreciation our long time League member **Jean F. Judd**, who died at age 96 on December 1. We send sincere condolences to her husband, **Charles M. Judd**, also a league member. Charles and Jean have been strong community activists, supporters and contributors for many years.

## LEAGUERS CELEBRATE

Eastern Day unit enjoyed a festive holiday luncheon in the private dining room at the Marjorie P Lee on December 8. In the absence of unit chair **Dottie Cowan** (recovering from recent surgery), co-chair **Corning Benton** provided a champagne toast and tribute to Susan B. Anthony’s 190<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s suffrage. Clockwise L-R: **Estelle Wooley**, **Corning Benton**, **Genevieve Pennington**, **Jean Salem**, membership chair **Jane Tucker McHugh**, **Virginia Lose**, and **Janet Kreider**. Not pictured: **Irene Ehrmann**. Photo by **Marjorie Davies**.



## JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

*TOPIC: National Program Planning*

### Monday, January 11

HILLTOP. 7:00 pm  
Home of Suzanne Joiner

NORTHEAST EVENING. 7:00 pm  
Madeira Public Library, Euclid & Miami Ave.

### Tuesday, January 12

COLLEGE HILL 11:30 am  
Home of Loraine Schultz

NORTH CENTRAL 12:00 noon  
Friendship United Methodist, Cor. Springfield  
Pike & Fleming Rd.

WARREN COUNTY 7:30 pm  
Mason United Methodist, 773 Mason-  
Montgomery Rd.

### Wednesday, January 13

ANDERSON 7:00 pm  
Anderson Center, Conference Room, 7850  
Five Mile Rd.

CENTRAL EVENING 7:15 pm  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 Wm.  
Howard Taft Rd.

### Thursday, January 14

EASTERN DAY 12 noon  
Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Center Library,  
3550 Shaw Ave.

### Wednesday, January 20

METRO DAY 12 noon, Brown Bag  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 Wm.  
Howard Taft Rd.

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

## SAYING GOODBYE TO LINDA

Regular League Volunteer (and Woman's City Club staffer) **Linda Wihl** has been helping us in the office weekly for several years. Linda is leaving for a full time position with the Matthew Kelly Foundation. We are grateful for Linda's work and wish her good luck!

## JANUARY PROGRAM TOPIC: National Program Planning

Every two years, League members from all over the country identify issues for study and advocacy by our National LWVUS. We suggest new studies, reviews or concurrence with studies from state and local leagues and assess issues in need of study. Out of this process have come reviews of national and international issues like climate change, arms control, trade, immigration and more. Get involved! Attend your January unit meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT RECEPTIONS

### Wednesday, February 10, 2010

LWVCA is hosting two events to promote member involvement. Find out more about opportunities for involvement and current League activities. Does the League seem complicated to you? How can we make the citizen voice stronger? We will answer your questions. New members will receive invitations, but **ALL LWVCA members are welcome.**

Mid day: Taft Museum/Lunch optional. Time TBA

PM: 7 PM at First Unitarian Church, Clifton with Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls who will speak about "How can we make the citizen voice stronger?"

*RSVP to LWVCA office 281-8683 by February 8, 2010.*

## 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. **#5 Choose activities which allow members to learn/develop new skills!** We can give members opportunities to learn/develop new skills that will be useful in other arenas, such as becoming community leaders or advancing their careers. It is also important to pick some activities that are mainly meant to build relationships and have fun. Building trust between members can greatly enhance the League's capabilities as an agent for change.

**Your assignment for January is to ask someone to join the League.** 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. Successful efforts last month including Dinner with the League and several member invitations resulted in new members. **Keep up the good work!**

*Questions? Call/email Carolyn Meyers-Hughes.*



**League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area**  
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**JANUARY CALENDAR**

- Tues Jan 5 6:30 pm League Board Meeting\*
  - Wed Jan 6 7:00 pm Evening Discussion Leaders  
Briefing FOR JANUARY UNITS\*
  - Fri/Sat Jan 8-9 LWVO Board Meeting, Columbus
  - Fri Jan 8 Newsletter Submissions Deadline
  - Sat Jan 9 1:00 pm Day Discussion Leaders Briefing\* for  
JANUARY UNITS
  - Mon Jan 11 1:30 pm Education Committee\*
  - Mon Jan 11 7:00 pm City Government 101.  
Mt. Auburn Church, Geier Room
  - Mon Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED
  - Mon Jan 18 6:30 pm County Government Comm.\*
  - Tues Jan 19 7:00 pm Housing Committee\*
  - Thurs Jan 21 10 am Voter Collating Warren County Unit\*
  - Sat Jan 23 9:00 am Parliamentary Procedures  
Workshop. Forest Park Senior Center.
  - Mon Jan 25 5:30 pm Dinner with the League, Kingsgate  
Marriott
  - Tues Jan 26 5:30 pm Health Care Committee
  - Tues Jan 26 6:00 pm Clermont County LWV Meeting:  
Issues Study. Social 5:30, Meeting 6 pm,  
Union Township Civic Center, Queen City Rm A.
  - Wed Jan 27 6:00 pm Program Development Committee\*
- \* League meeting room

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

**90th Anniversary Raffle**  
**Raffle tickets now available!**

- 1st Grand Prize: Log Cabin quilt
- 2nd Prize: 19" Flat Screen HDTV
- 3rd Prize: Case of Wine
- Tickets: \$5 each or 6 for \$25

*Drawing February 27, 2010. You do not need to be present to win.*

*Proceeds benefit LWVCA  
 Education Fund.*

Raffle Tickets for sale will be distributed at unit meetings. If you would like to have tickets mailed to you for sale, please call the office at 281-8683. If you would like to purchase individual tickets, you can mail a check to the office marked for the Raffle and we will fill out the ticket for you and place it the box for the drawing. The drawing will be held at the 90th Anniversary Dinner on Feb. 27, 2010. The winner will be notified by phone or mail.

◆ **Volunteer Need:** Please try to sell some raffle tickets to support the LWVCA Education Fund. If you sell tickets, make checks payable to the LWVCA Education Fund and return money and tickets to the LWVCA office by February 15. There will be a ticket box in the office.