



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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March 2008

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MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens 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.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

You have heard about it on the news. You have read about it in the papers. Maybe you have even seen the blockbuster movie. Join us at a Unit meeting in March to discuss one of the hottest topics around *Global Climate Change* (a.k.a. Global Warming).



Cartoon by Don Rhoad

This month's program insert provides a vital roadmap through this critical issue. We start with an introduction to the science behind climate change. What it is, what has happened, and what is predicted to happen as our earth warms up.

Then we take a look at possible solutions, the societal and political response, and what we can do individually and as a community. This is a discussion you don't want to miss.

MARCH DINNER FOCUSES ON EDUCATION

Barbara Diamond, Senior Advisor of KnowledgeWorks Foundation, will speak at the "Dinner with the League" event on Monday, March 24, 2008. The dinner meeting, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, begins with registration at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 at The Vernon Manor Hotel.

Ms. Diamond will discuss "The 2006-2016 Map of Future Forces Affecting Education" and how it could impact the Greater Cincinnati area. In presenting the Map of Future Forces, she will forecast what the coming years could hold for education. The Map identifies key "drivers", impact areas, "hotspots", dilemmas, and trends in education.

This is the fifth in a series of "Dinner with the League" monthly events designed to attract and inform both League members and prospective new members. We encourage members to invite friends to accompany them to this enjoyable and informative evening. Reservations for "Dinner with the League" may be made by calling the League office at (513) 281-8683.

President's Letter: By Rina Saperstein

This month has been busy but fascinating- lots to do, lots to learn in our region. Wonderful civic events I've attended included: A State of the County Address by County Commissioner Todd Portune; State of the City Address by Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory; a Clermont County Candidates Forum sponsored by the LWV-Clermont County; one of many Agenda 360 focus groups sponsored by Citizens for Civic Renewal to look at goals for our region; a forum on public health approach to prevention of family and community violence; and then League sponsored events: our wonderful Speakers Workshop, in which NKU professor Vicky Ragsdale provided tips and practice in organizing information intelligently; our Dinner with the League with Playhouse Director Ed Stern talking about the importance of art to democracy; and our *Susan B. Anthony Luncheon*, with County Commissioner David Pepper reviewing county's role in the justice system and in supporting and preventing crime.



Sheila Lynch, County Commissioner David Pepper and **Rina Saperstein** at *Susan B. Anthony Luncheon* (Photo by Jeff Davis)

Board Notes:

Strategic Planning: The board reviewed Christen Browne's Organizational Analysis. We brainstormed ways to reward, to hold ourselves accountable, and to pass on the torch.

Membership: Membership on February 5 was 385. That is down from our 420 goal. Membership committee will be meeting on Feb 22 to look at new recruitment initiatives. Units continue to meet for great discussions, but attendance is down. We need to look at that and at our discussion leader training format to see if improvements can be made.

Public Relations and Outreach: Our video by Media Bridges should be completed in early March - we'll schedule some kind of viewing party. We'll have a table at the Neighborhood Summit and we have a new volunteer for naturalization ceremonies. We will share our buff pages on climate change with partner agencies. We'll cosponsor an Impact Town Meeting with UC Students again this spring. We'll sponsor a voter engagement website with the Mayor's Young Professionals group. And we're working on an email list to facilitate quick contact with partner organizations about our events and action requests.

Office/ Administration: We've begun planning office volunteer training to make sure our folks are comfortable with new office technology as we move into a busy election season. We're also hoping to hire a second part time staff person to assist Sue in running the office. There was a mugging in the parking lot of the church where we meet. No one was hurt, but it's a concern. The organizations who share the building are meeting with police and church administrators to look at ways we can enhance safety, such as adding more lights. For now, just be sure to take precautions such as not entering or leaving the building alone.

Fund Development: **Sherrie Heyse**, our grantwriter has submitted two grants. Power Pledge begins in March to raise money for LWV Ohio which we depend on for statewide issue advocacy; we receive a small rebate from that fundraiser. Our *Susan B. Anthony Luncheon*, a fundraiser for League's 501(c)4 nondeductible budget, had 4 corporate sponsors and over 120 attendees along with a wonderful silent auction. Thank you **Sheila Lynch** and **Lora Jollis** for that event! Our *Visions Luncheon*, a fundraiser for the charitable Education Fund, will be April 23 at the Queen City Club. Budget committee is struggling with a projected deficit and will call for at least one other fundraising campaign of some kind next year to make our budget, especially given loss in investment income.

Voter Service: 40,000 "They Represent Us" guides will be distributed for Hamilton County, and approximately 5000 for Warren County. At the same time, we're working on voter guides for the Primary election, with a simple print listing (enclosed) and with complex information on 80 candidates and 2 ballot issues on line at www.smartvoter.com. Our speakers bureau also stays busy with requests for political information during the election season.

Program: There was no consensus on National Program Planning, but we will forward comments and suggestions to national league about our priorities for action. We are still distributing "Know Hamilton County." The new Health Care committee is reviewing the healthcare proposals of major Presidential Candidates; Housing has renewed membership in Affordable Housing Advocates and is planning our April 6 forum. Natural Resources is working on the City's Climate Action Plan. We received a letter of thanks from the Regional Planning Partnership for our support during the County budget debate, and one of our two letters to the editor was published.

If you have comments, suggestions or questions on this article or board activity, email President@lwvcincinnati.org.

BOARD OF ELECTION NOTES

By Nancy Forbriger, LWV BOE Liaison

Preparations for the largest primary turn out in Hamilton County history are under way. At its meeting on February 7, Board of Elections Director John Williams outlined a new voted ballot intake procedure to avoid the traffic congestion that contributed to a delay in the vote count which occurred in November 2007. He also plans more intensive training for new poll workers, and better education of the media on the process to overcome the expectation of early results.

A primary is more complex than a general election because it requires 3 separate groups of ballots - Democrat, Republican and Issues Only. Also counting of the expected 30,000 plus absentee ballots will slow reporting of the preliminary results on election night. 2,700 different formats for ballots are necessary for our 808 precincts.

Boards of Elections in Ohio are required to wait 20 days after a Primary, instead of the usual 10, days to produce certified election results. In close races naming winners may take a while.

In other business, the Board heard from a citizen advocate in Sycamore Township about names of registered voters on the poll list that he felt should be challenged because of non-residency. He also noted illegally placed candidate signs, handicapped parking violations and wires to the DRE equipment that were impediments to handicapped voters at his precinct.

Every citizen can take similar responsibility to report conditions at a polling place that need attention. This can be done by letter or phone to the Board of Elections, 824 Broadway, 45202 or by phone, 632-7000. The League will also pass along violations that are reported to us.

VOTER ALERT!

Some candidates who have withdrawn from the Primary Election will still be listed on the ballot. Votes for these candidates will not be counted. Notices of candidates who have withdrawn will be posted at the polls.

WHICH PARTY'S BALLOT?

If you are a new voter, you may request the primary ballot of any political party. The party affiliation of all voters is established by the party ballot they request. After declaring, you may not vote in the primary of another party unless you change your affiliation. If you request a different party ballot you may be challenged and asked to sign a declaration of affiliation.

POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Year Three Evaluation Report

Source: Schell, Ridgeway, Dixon, Turner, and Riley, Rand Corporation, 2007

The Collaborative Agreement between the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD), the Fraternal Order of Police, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was reached in 2002. In 2007 parties agreed to a transition period of one year. Its goal was to enact reforms and initiatives to improve police-community relations in the city. Evaluation as a stipulated component of the agreement. The year 3 report, prepared by the RAND Corporation, is now available to the public. Attached below is just a small part of the conclusions from the report. The full report can be downloaded at: http://www.cincinnati.oh.gov/police/downloads/police_pdf17955.pdf

Data Issues

Both data availability and quality have improved over the three years of the evaluation. Generally, remaining data issues, such as the quality of video and audio tapes, are largely a function of equipment limits or relatively infrequent human errors.

Progress Toward the Goals of the Collaborative Agreement

Blacks continue to bear a disproportionate share of the impact of policing services by virtue of the clustering of crime, calls for service, and policing in predominantly black neighborhoods. While there is no evidence that the police systematically or deliberately treat blacks differently, blacks nevertheless experience a different kind of policing from that experienced by whites. In particular, blacks experience more policing and particularly more of the proactive policing exemplified by Vortex. While it may not be possible to field a proactive enforcement strategy that is racially neutral, much of CPD's interaction with the citizenry comes through vehicle stops. The quality, tenor, and tone of such stops are largely under police control. The department should thus pay special attention to training to ensure that these interactions are conducted in a consistent, courteous, and professional manner. Without a concerted effort to ameliorate the disparate impact of these policies, it seems likely that black Cincinnati residents will remain less satisfied with policing services than will their white counterparts.

HOLT BILL: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

Adapted from letters from LWVUS President, Mary Wilson, 1/24/08 and 1/31/08, and a posting on the LWVUS leaders listserv

The “Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008” (H.R. 5036) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 17, 2008, by Representative Rush Holt. The legislation would provide funds to switch to systems that produce a paper ballot verified by the voter, or a paper ballot printout verifiable by the voter, at the time of casting the vote. Funds would go to jurisdictions that have conducted their elections in the past using electronic machines. This bill would also provide funds for conducting audits of the 2008 election results in jurisdictions that choose to do so as well as for hand counting ballots.

Rep. Holt’s bill would provide emergency funding to the “high risk” states to upgrade their voting machines before November 4th. Only a handful of states have adequate systems in place, audits and paper records, to handle voting machine failures so that the will of the voters is preserved. Ohio is considered a “medium risk” state by Common Cause. States in this category are not at the highest risk because the voting systems in these states produce paper records or paper ballots. But they are not low risk because mandatory, routine audits of these machines do not occur. See: www.commoncause.org/votingatrisk2008

LWVUS met with Sen. Holt regarding the audits required in Section 3. The bill pays for audits but they remain optional, leaving many jurisdictions unaudited. LWVUS determined that because the bill, if enacted, may have the effect of giving voters in audited jurisdictions some additional level of confidence in the final results of the election, supporting Section 3 of the bill would be consistent with the position adopted at LWVUS Convention 2006. Likewise, even though the bill’s provisions do not themselves require the application of uniform auditing practices, the audits which would be funded under the bill could yield useful information that could lead to the development and use of uniform standards.

For updates on the status of H.R. 5036 visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>

SUNSHINE WEEK

March 16-22 2008

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public’s right to know. “Sunshine” or transparency in government access impacts us all: we have the right to know what our government is doing through access to public records and government meetings

Whether we need to track potential environmental hazards or to attend a meeting where decisions about land use are being made, “sunshine laws” afford us access and create government transparency.

Finding information about how the government is serving the public has always been somewhat difficult, and in the post-9/11 age, these challenges are even greater. As the LWV US works in Washington to bring about greater transparency through ethics, lobbying, and other reforms, we need to see the same from our leaders in Cincinnati and all the local communities within Hamilton, Butler and Warren counties. As members of the League of Women Voters, we are always working to keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant, and that starts with having an open government.

Resources: www.sunshineweek.org <http://www.openthegovernment.org/>



THE EVEREST REPORT

by Peg Rosenfield, LWV Ohio (Very abridged by Rina Saperstein- go to LWVOhio.org for full article)

The EVEREST Report stands for **Evaluation and Validation of Election-Related Equipment, Standards and Testing Report**, “a risk assessment of Ohio’s current voting system.” Three academic teams and two commercial laboratories performed tests on the three types of voting machines used in Ohio to assess the voting systems’ security, performance, configuration and operations, and internal controls management. The resultant EVEREST Report, paid for with \$1.9 million in federal funding, was released December 14, 2007. Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and a bipartisan team of 12 election board directors and deputy directors made ten recommendations in The EVEREST Report. These ten recommendations can be grouped into four general topics.

1. Replace Direct Recording Electronic (DREs) touch-screen voting machines with optical scan ballots and require central tabulation and voter verification of ballots.

Like the Secretary of State, the League of Women Voters of Ohio proposes use of optical-scan ballots so there is a dependable paper ballot that can be hand-counted to verify the accuracy of any machine count. LWVO believes that precinct-based counting of ballots and posting of results are crucial to ensuring transparency in election administration and to protecting citizens’ vote. A later central tabulation of the ballots can verify the earlier precinct count.

2. Multiple polling precinct places. Two EVEREST recommendations deal with vote centers, consisting of 5 to 10 precincts located together at a library, community center, senior center, shopping center or other accessible public buildings with adequate parking. Some voting sites would open 15 days before Election Day.

While we argue some details, the League generally supports these recommendations.

3. All-mail ballot elections for issues and special elections; each county must hold an election on whether voters want to have all-mail elections.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio 10-Point Proposal for Election Administration Reform does not address conducting elections completely by mail. Some advocates, including LWVO have voiced concerns that mail elections may disenfranchise voters with disabilities, the elderly and housebound, and less educated voters.

4. Use of AutoMark for voters with disabilities to allow a private secret ballot. The AutoMark uses a touch screen to mark an optical-scan ballot, which can then be scanned like a ballot that has been marked by hand.

The League strongly supports the requirement that voting be fully accessible to all voters with disabilities. No voting system to date fully addresses this need. When it works correctly, AutoMark enables voters with disabilities to vote a secret ballot in private; the problem arises when the machine does not respond accurately or when the directions do not work. It is troubling to have only this single type of equipment approved.

Responding to advocates and election officials, Secretary of State Brunner stated that she will allow precinct-count of optical scan ballots with a central count to verify the count. She will permit but not mandate that all counties use multiple-precinct polling places. She insists that DREs be phased out before the November, 2008 election. They may still be used for the March primary election, but voters must be provided with paper ballots upon request. The Secretary of State has not yet finalized the rules and procedures for the March primary election and the November general election.

Emergency legislation was introduced in the Ohio Senate (SB286 - Cates) addressing centralized ballot counting in counties using DRE machines, and over-voting. LWVO will monitor the legislation and may request grassroots advocacy concerning it.

Resources:

Everest Report: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/info/everest.aspx>

League of Women Voters of Ohio “10-Point Proposal for Election Administration Reform:”
<http://lwvohio.org/2007/Advocacy/ElecReformAg2-1-07.pdf>

Complete text of SB286 (Cates): http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=123_SB_286



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OHIO

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT POWER PLEDGE

Q. Why is the Power Pledge structured differently?

- Local Leagues do not have to make phone calls! (unless they want to). LWVCA will be making our phone calls in April.
- The Power Pledge allows donors to budget their contributions over the course of a year by making a pledge.
- Their donations will be transferred directly from their checking/debit card or credit card account to the LWVO or LWVOEF bank account.
- Donors can also split their monthly donation between LWVO and LWVOEF.
- **Donors still have the option of making a one-time donation by check or credit card.**

Q. Why the change?

There are four reasons:

- The Power Pledge will actually make your pledge worth more by saving staff time and expenses, cutting down on materials that are mailed to the local Leagues. And you, the donor, will save time writing checks and you will save the expense of mailing your pledge.
- It also lets donors budget how much will be automatically transferred each month.
- The more donors who sign up for the Power Pledge, the more local Leagues will receive back in their rebates. **Each local League will receive 15% of all donations raised by the Power Pledge.**
- In previous years, rebates were based on donations collected *as of June 1*. There will be 2 rebates sent to local Leagues with the Power Pledge. The first one will be based on donations collected (collected, not pledged) through the Power Pledge or one-time donations, by June 30. The second one, based on donations collected from July 1 through December 31; thus INCREASING THE AMOUNT REBATED TO LOCAL LEAGUES.

Q. What is Power Pledge money used for?

- Membership dues do not cover the basics needed to operate LWVO as both a state League and resource for all Ohio local Leagues. Those basics include maintaining the office for three staff members – one full-time and 2 part-time. Services the staff provide include (among other things) fielding questions from the public and the media about voting rights issues; preparing testimony and supporting our volunteer lobby corps; publishing The Voter; coordinating Statehouse Day/Council/Convention and leadership training materials; coordinating campaign debates or other special programs; assisting local League presidents and membership chairs; and maintaining/improving the LWVO website.
- Power Pledge donations also help pay for the bimonthly legislative service, CapWiz, which streamlines our alert process and gives members the ability to contact their legislators by simply clicking a button.
- In the past two years, LWVO/EF has given local Leagues free brochures such as “There Oughta Be A Law, Township Government, and For the New and Not So New Board Member.”

Q. Is a Power Pledge contribution tax-deductible?

- Contributions to the League’s *Education Fund* (LWVOEF) are tax deductible *if you itemize* – the funds are used only for citizen education.
- Contributions to LWVO support advocacy, and so they are not tax deductible. They do, however, provide vital “hard money” to sustain League activities. Members who do not itemize are encouraged to contribute to LWVO.

Q. What if I want to contribute to both LWVO Education Fund and LWVO?

- *Wonderful!* Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Simply mark the section on the return form designating your donation is to be split between LWVO and LWVOEF.

JUVENILE JUSTICE UPDATE

By Marilyn Sesler, LWVO Specialist on Juvenile Justice Issues (abridged)

For over 30 years the LWVO has been active in the juvenile justice area. In recent years, the League has worked in a coalition with other organizations focused on Ohio's juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Justice Coalition (JJC) is made up of individuals and organizations such as the Children's Defense Fund, Ohio Public Defender, Ohio Assn. of Child Caring Agencies, National Youth Advocate Program, and others. The Coalition monitors the state system and advocates for change and improvement.

Background of the Department of Youth Services (DYS)

The mission of DYS is "To enhance public safety by holding youthful offenders accountable and providing opportunities for rehabilitation."

The Coalition has a philosophic difference with this mission. Over-emphasis on the public safety function has resulted in funds being used for fences and barbed wire instead of strong educational, physical and mental health treatment programs that will enable youth returning to the community (and they all do return) prepared to function in today's society.

DYS also operates 12 Community Correctional Facilities in various parts of the state. Based on 2006 data provided by DYS, the institutional population is about 1,800. In addition to housing offenders, DYS is responsible for supervising 2,000 (in 2005) youth released on parole. DYS manages RECLAIM Ohio, which supports 600 community based programs. The Department budget is \$293 million (including federal sources) with \$150 million allocated for institutions.

Institutional Visits

JJC members have visited each of the institutions. It is a sobering experience. One sees so many youth, who at such an early age, face huge challenges to become a productive adult. The preponderance of black youth from cities, many of whom have no positive experiences with the school system, the mental health system or drug treatment programs is very depressing. Many have substance abuse issues and most have experienced some type of domestic abuse. A large percentage of youth come from troubled families.

Successful rehabilitation requires family participation with the youth. There are many families who never visit because almost all of the institutions are located in rural settings where transportation is unavailable. A trip from Cleveland to Chillicothe or Portsmouth requires an overnight stay; this helps explain the lack of family visits.

In general, institutions are overcrowded, with youth sometimes double bunking in small cell-like rooms. There is too much down time, especially for youth who have completed their GED or other programs and who could benefit from additional education. The institutions, while well maintained, are old and not conducive to state-of-the-art treatment. Their location does not allow for diversity in the staff, a very important issue.

Ohio is a state where local judges have a great deal of authority and power not only over the offender, but over the kind of local programs that are developed. That is where local Leagues can be of great help in improving the system which warehouses too many of our children and takes away their chances to become successful. If you have an interest in joining JJC, contact me at 1-877-598-6446 (LWVO toll-free number) or email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org— and visit the JJC website at www.juvenilecoalition.org.

To view the entire report, contact Marilyn Sesler at the LWVO.

NOTE THIS DATE!

2008 LWVO Statehouse Day/Council, Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Workshops on Health Care; Paid Sick Leave Proposal; Election Administration Reform; Elections/Voting Reform; Education Funding; Lake Erie. Registration for the event is \$35 per person and includes all Council and Statehouse Day materials and meals.





Photo by Gail Wick

THE ARTS IN CINCINNATI

At the February Dinner with the League Ed Stern commented on the arts in Cincinnati. He called the arts “the Crown Jewels of the Queen City.” “American history is infused with arts and culture... The gift of democracy is the freedom to pursue the arts.” “Playhouse in the Park has won two Tonys and has one of the highest subscription bases in the nation. ... So come, bring someone young, and help them to fall in love with the arts.”

Also attending the dinner was Tim Jeffries who provided the photography and design for the cover of “Know Hamilton county.”

Both Stern and Jeffries were given memberships to the LWVCA.

HALF-PRICE DUES FOR NEW MEMBERS SPOUSES ENCOURAGED TO JOIN ...

Are you a *VOTER* reader who hasn't joined the League yet? Do you have a friend, colleague, or family member who would enjoy the benefits of League membership? From now through May 31, the LWVCA is offering half-price dues to all new members. It's a perfect opportunity to help strengthen democracy in this important election year.

Individual memberships are \$27.50, family memberships are \$37.50, and student memberships are \$12.50. The half-price offer is available only to *new* members; lapsed or late-renewing current members are not eligible. Memberships are good through December 2008; renewal notices are mailed in late August for the following year.

Upgrading from an individual to a family membership costs only \$10 during the promotion period. This is an easy way to introduce a spouse, parent, child, or grandchild to the League.

The League is committed to increasing the diversity of our membership. Membership is open to all U.S. residents 18 and older. Racial and ethnic minorities, young people, and men are particularly encouraged to join. Men are welcome as LWVCA members — and many are active participants on our boards and committees. For persons for whom dues are a financial burden, subsidies are available.

Opportunities abound in the League to learn new skills and meet interesting and involved volunteers. Join the League today, and help make democracy work!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

We have new phones and wireless internet access in our office. Our website design committee is underway. But we still need a computer with internet access for the volunteer office. If you have one to donate, please contact the League Office.

EAST EUROPEAN VISITORS?

LWVCA has an opportunity to host a delegation from Russia, Ukraine and possibly Tajikistan or Kazakhstan this summer/early fall. A delegation of 5 would spend 8 days in the Queen City to learn about civic involvement in government through the Open World Program. The visit would include home stays and daily activities. It would be a lot of fun, but a LOT of work. Would you be interested in pursuing this? We won't apply until we know whether our League members are interested. Let us know by emailing president@lwvcincinnati.org or calling in to the League Office.



Bringing the Eurasian leaders of tomorrow to the United States today

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Distribution Chair: *TRU, Who and What, Know Hamilton County*. We put out great publications, and we need a Leaguer to specialize in getting these out to the public. Requires some daytime and in-office hours. There are a lot of volunteers to support this role.

Moderators Chair: Help coordinate moderators for community candidate forums and debates. We have several moderators, but the Chair will make sure to match the moderator with the event and will also assure that each event meets our exacting standards before our League name or personnel are used. Requires phone and some email, can be days or evening. Moderator Chair will back up our Speakers Chair in assigning speakers for events as well.

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR RECOGNITION?

“[League] has a gap in the area of rewards. It is difficult to avoid burnout...The current system of rewarding acceptable performance with a higher level of work is not viewed as an actual reward.” (Christen Browne, LWVCA Organizational Analysis.)

What are the rewards of League membership— what gives you a warm and fuzzy and what else could we do? Send your comments and suggestions in to info@lwvcincinnati.org

Our condolences ...

It is with great regret that we acknowledge the death of long time League members **Sue B. Straus**, **Eva Jane Coombe** and **Judge Robert L. Black, Jr.** Our condolences to their families; Judge Black's wife, **Helen** is also a League member.

LWVCA SPEAKERS BUREAU TRAINING

NKU Communications Professor Vicky Abney Ragsdale and group discuss organizing information for an effective speech.



A panel of experienced speakers answer questions:
Helen Rhoad, Carolyn Honkomp, Sherrie Heyse, Alice Schneider



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

Photos by Jeff Davis

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHERRIE HEYSE!



Sherrie Heyse received the Martha Taft Award at the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon from Rina Saperstein. Sherrie's family was at her side. (Photo by Gail Wick)

The Martha Taft Service Award is the highest honor the League can bestow. It honors a longterm member and all-round contributor to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area who is also a leader in the general community.

This year's Martha Taft Exceptional Leaguer is Ms. **Sherrie Heyse**. She is married to League Member **Fred Heyse**, and is a "great mom and grandma" to three daughters, one son, and four grandchildren. She enjoys genealogy, travel, euchre, some knitting and sewing, and is deeply interested in international issues, having lived in Hong Kong for 5 years. Sherrie is retired from a nursing career that included Emergency Room, Obstetrics and Public Health specialties.

Sherrie's recent leadership outside the League includes Work for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, leading Archdiocesan efforts in the Catholic Collaborative to End Genocide in Darfur; Catholic Social Action, especially advocacy work to improve laws to better assist the poor; Interfaith Hospitality Network, helping unemployed and homeless in Cincinnati; Tin Roof Foundation helping Children in Nicaragua; Bread for the World on international hunger Issues; Comboni Missions and Girl Scouting.

Within the League there is almost no activity that hasn't felt Sherrie's warm touch. She's a two time League President and member of the Gavel Club (Presidents Emeritus) She's always willing to take on projects: her work includes being a regular office volunteer, Speakers Bureau and School outreach; Anderson Unit; Anderson Candidate Nights; Strategic Planning; Fundraising Committee; Chair of the Visions Luncheon; Grant Writing; Community Shares; planning fundraisers like the Kroger Card, Cookbook and suncatcher campaigns; Web/Technology Committee and equipment purchaser; Impact Town Hall; Education Committee; Judicial Independence Committee; International Trade; planning assistance for LWV-Ohio; voter registration and much more.

Thank you Sherrie for your wonderful leadership in our League and Community.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Sheila Lynch** for a spectacular *Susan B. Anthony* Event at the Kenwood Country Club, with music, student entertainers and a great speech by County Commissioner David Pepper. Thanks to all the donors and volunteers who helped out including **Sue Gorman** and **Marj Davies** at reception; **Darleen Adkins** for the raffle; **Dee Shaffer** finances, cash management and flowers; and a special thanks to **Lora Jollis** who presented an impressive Silent Auction.



Susan B. Anthony attendees looking over the array of items in the Silent Auction. (photo by Jeff Davis)

MARCH UNIT MEETINGS

TOPIC: GLOBAL WARMING

ANDERSON

Tuesday, March 11, 7:15 p.m.
Anderson Hills United Methodist
Anderson Twp., Cor. Beechmont & Forest
Discussion Leader: **Sherrie Heyse**

CENTRAL EVENING

Wednesday, March 12, 7:15 p.m.
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
103 Wm. Howard Taft Rd.
League Conference Room
Discussion Leader: **Chris Moran**

COLLEGE HILL

Tuesday, March 11, 11:30 a.m. Brown Bag
Location: **Lucia Hudson's** home
1097 Wionna Ave. College Hill
Discussion Leader: **Mary Kay Gardner**

HILLTOP

Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.
Location: **Elizabeth Jamison's** home
3421 Woodside Dr., Fairfield
Discussion Leader: **John Hunter**

METRO DAY

Wednesday, March 19, 12 noon, Brown Bag
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
103 Wm. Howard Taft Rd.
League Conference Room
Discussion Leader: **Rose Kearney**

NORTH CENTRAL

Tuesday, March 11, 12 noon, Brown Bag
Friendship United Methodist
Cor. Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd.
Discussion Leader: **Hanna Carp**

NORTHEAST EVENING

Monday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
Madeira Municipal Bldg.
Cor. Euclid & Miami Ave.
Community Room
Discussion Leader: **Corinne Gutjahr**

WARREN COUNTY

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
Mason United Methodist
773 Mason-Montgomery Rd.
Discussion Leader: **Judy Shaffer**

E-UNIT

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

SAVE THESE DATES

LWVCA VISIONS FOR GREATER CINCINNATI

- Wednesday April 23, 11:30-1:30 pm
- Lunch served promptly at noon
- Queen City Club, Free Parking,
- 331 East Fourth St., Cincinnati OH 45202

Guest speakers will be Nancy Zimpher, President of University of Cincinnati, and Jeff Edmundson, Executive Director of STRIVE. STRIVE is a group of community leaders committed to providing a world-class education to every child in the urban core of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. For more information go to www.strivetogether.org. Jonathan Hawgood, WLWT anchor, will Emcee. The Ransohoff Award for Civic Engagement will be awarded.

The Visions luncheon is a major fundraiser for the LWVCA Education Fund and supports our Voter Service programs. Without this valuable fundraiser, the League would not be able to offer non-partisan voter guides, website voter information, the "They Represent Us" directory, and other critical services. Mark your calendar and watch for your invitation later in March.

14TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN LUNCHEON

- Wed., March 5, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Duke Energy Center, 525 Elm St.
- Cost: \$50 Student: \$20. Admission by ticket only.

Leading Women of Cincinnati honors women who, through their leadership and community service, have become role models and mentors in the Greater Cincinnati area. Leading Women also awards three educational scholarships to junior high school girls. Many Leaguers may remember **Rose Tomlinson**, a long time member. The Womens City Club and Leading Women is giving a **Rose Tomlinson** scholarship at the luncheon to a woman who, like Rose, seeks to change or further her career in mid-life.

Send your payment made out to University of Cincinnati to University Conferencing, University of Cincinnati, PO Box 210031, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0031.

For more information visit www.leadingwomencincinnati.org or email univconf@uc.edu.

LWVUS CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters of the US 48th annual National Convention will be held in Portland, Oregon, June 13-17, 2008. The theme is *Reaching New Heights Together*. LWVCA will have voting delegates — additional members are always welcome to attend as observers. If you are considering attending the convention, you can reserve directly with the LWVUS, but please also notify LWVCA that you are considering going so that we can coordinate our delegation.

Note: The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Annual Meeting will be May 14, 2008 at the Vernon Manor.



League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area
 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45219
 513-281-8683 Fax: 513-281-8714
 info@lwvcincinnati www.lwvcincinnati.org

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LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

MARCH CALENDAR

- Monday, March 3, 7:00 p.m., Natural Resources*
- TUESDAY, MARCH 4, PRIMARY ELECTION**
 Polls open 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting*
- Wednesday, March 5, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Leading Women of
 Cincinnati Lunch, Duke Energy Center, 525 Elm St.
- Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m., Woman's City Club National
 Speakers Forum, Speaker: Ellen Goodman,
 Plum Street Temple
- Monday, March 17, 5:30 p.m., County Government*
- Tuesday, March 18, 12 noon. Office Volunteers Training.
 Lunch provided. New Volunteers Welcome!
- Wednesday, March 19, Reservation Deadline for March *Dinner
 With the League*
- Monday, March 24, 6 p.m., *Dinner With the League*, Vernon
 Manor Hotel, 400 Oak Ave.; Speakers: Barbara Diamond,
 KnowledgeWorks.
- Monday, March 24, 6:30 p.m., Diversity, Location TBA
- Tuesday, March 25, LWV Clermont County discussion on
 immigration, 6 p.m. Receptions East
- Wednesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m., PDC*
- Thursday, March 27, 6 p.m., Unit Chairs Meeting, Lenhardt's
 Restaurant, 151 W. McMillan, Clifton
- Monday, March 31, Reports due for Annual Meeting Workbook I
- Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting*

*League Conference Room

“A Voice For Citizens; A Force For Change”

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 NOW AT A SPECIAL LOW PRICE
 1/2 PRICE MEMBERSHIP SALE
 (for new members only)**

We are now offering a half-year membership, until
 May 31, 2008, for new people who would like to
 “give the League a try.”

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____
 Day Evening

Email _____

**These dues include membership to LWVCA, LWV Ohio
 and LWV United States*

Just clip and mail to: LWVCA
 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd.
 Cincinnati, OH 45219