



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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May/June 2011

Note: The next issue of the *Voter* will be published at the end of June for July/August.

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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.

SEE YOU AT THE LWVCA ANNUAL MEETING!

May 18, 2011: Social time 5:15; Dinner 6:00; Speaker 6:30; Business Meeting 7:00, Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center
Guest Speaker: Carolyn K. Washburn, Editor and VP, Cincinnati Enquirer.



Cartoon by Don Rhoad

About the Meeting: The Annual Meeting is our opportunity, as a League, to practice what we preach in grassroots democracy. We will set our leadership, direction, resources and priorities for the year. We will also celebrate our achievements and the contributions of our members and volunteers. The Martha Taft Award will be presented to an individual who excels in League and community service.

Please register now. If you prefer to opt out of the meal (which will be delicious and worth the \$27 cost) you can pay just \$5 (meeting space & miscellaneous expenses) to join in on the conversation and decision making. Scholarships are available.

About our Speaker: Carolyn K. Washburn will be our guest speaker at the LWVCA 2011 Annual Meeting. As the new editor and vice president of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, her responsibilities include *Cincinnati & Kentucky Enquirer*, *Cincinnati.com*, mobile website, *Hometown Weekly* newspapers and *26 Community Press* weekly newspapers.

Ms. Washburn grew up on the west side of Cincinnati and graduated from Indiana University. In 1984 she joined Gannett Co, which owns the *Enquirer* and returned to Cincinnati in January 2011 after stops at newspapers in MI, NY, ID and most recently Des Moines.



Ms. Washburn's community involvement are also of interest to LWVCA members: she moderated two national presidential debates in 2007; she also served as president of the City Club of Boise, a non-partisan group that organized monthly forums aimed at civil dialogue on critical community issues. It will be interesting to hear what her plans are for the future of the *Enquirer* and how that will affect the future of Cincinnati.

LET'S GO TO THE ZOO! League Summer Tour – Zoo's "GO GREEN" Initiative

June 25, 2011 9:30 a.m.-noon

The Cincinnati Zoo's Sustainability Initiative is leading the way to both environmental and cost benefits for Cincinnati residents and other zoos.

- Sun and wind energy supply 20 % of power needs that have already been reduced by "green building" and energy efficiency projects.
- Storm water retention of 500,000 gallons under pervious pavement, storm water ponds, green roofs, and rain gardens have taken the zoo close to their goal of zero runoff,

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Melissa Currence, LWVCA President

As the summer approaches, the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area has completed another successful League year. My first year as president included lots of learning curve. Thanks to many of you who gave me guidance throughout the year. It was much needed, and I still need it—so keep it coming! The next year is exciting as we move into the 2011 City Council races and the 2012 presidential primaries.

I hope you join me in thanking **Linda Wihl** for the excellent work she did as interim Executive Director. Linda's experience, passion and organizational skills were much in play during the winter. Because of Linda, we now have an executive director orientation in place and strategic plan goals identified. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to the League, Linda!

Linda's work made it easier for the search committee to focus on the hiring of our executive director. I am very proud that **Jean Masthay** has decided to join our organization. Her extensive experience in the nonprofit field will be invaluable to us as we go forward as an organization. I would like to thank the search committee of **Dee Shaffer, Fred Heyse** and **Don Rhoad** for all the work they did in selecting our new executive director.

Have a great summer!

In League,

Melissa Currence



INTRODUCING JEAN MASTHAY



Jean is a University of Colorado alumna with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. She has served as an Executive Director for the American Red Cross and later for the YMCA in Murray, Kentucky. She moved to the Cincinnati area in 2005 returning to work with the American Red Cross as a quality assurance consultant for their Great Lakes Service Area. Most recently Jean has been serving as Executive Director for the TriState affiliate of Habitat for Humanity.

Jean and her family live in Lebanon. Her husband is a professor at the University of Dayton and they are proud parents of five sons, one daughter and two daughters-in-law and one two year old grandson! Her special interests include reading, writing and attending her children's many sporting events.

Jean begins her role as Executive Director on May 2; she will work with the Board, volunteers and members on fundraising and strategic plan implementation.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to serve with the dedicated volunteers of the League of Women Voters. The League has such a rich heritage and important mission. I look forward to working together as we encourage and provide resources for citizens to be well informed and active in government."

LWVCA 2010-11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: **Melissa Currence**

President Elect: OPEN

Treasurer: **Kim Thompson**

Secretary: **Glenda Bernstein**

Vice President, Program: **Nancy Dawley**

Vice President, Fund Development: **Marjorie Davies**

Vice President, Administration: **Pinky Kokoshis**

Vice President, Voter Service: **Susan Banoun**

Director, Public Relations: **Alice Schneider**

Director, Membership: **Mary Van Ausdall**

Director, Unit Coordinator: **Susan Lehman**

Director, Planned Giving: **Dee Shaffer**

Executive Director: **Jean Masthay**

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 7, 2010

- Linda Wihl**, Interim Executive Director - recapped the outcomes and follow up action plan from the board Strategic Planning meeting held on February 19.
- Dee Shaffer**, Director, Planned Giving - reported that the Susan B. Anthony luncheon has netted \$5974 to date.
- Alice Schneider**, Director, Community Relations - reported that the Greater Cincinnati Health Foundation social media contact provided free consultant services to review and provide suggestions regarding some LWVCA printed materials.
- Pinky Kocoshis**, VP Organization/Member Services - discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting on May 18. The Martha B. Taft award will be presented during the event.
- Susan Banoun**, VP Voters Service - provided an update on the TRU updating/revision process and on attending naturalization ceremony for new U.S. citizens.
- Nancy Dawley**, VP Program - reported that the annual summer event this year will be held at the Cincinnati Zoo on the topic of environmental sustainability at the zoo; the board voted to approve LWVCA participation in a forum on Housing Options for People with Mental Disabilities on May 3 at the Sycamore Senior Center.
- Melissa Currence**, President – discussed the benefits of having the LWVCA board oversee activities of the entire organization, including Education Fund and Steiner Fund, with the Investment Committee responsible for managing investments. Changes along these lines will improve efficiency; work will continue on developing the best way to integrate functions. The search for an Executive Director continues and interviews are underway.
-

APRIL 4, 2011

- Glenda Bernstein** - presented report from the Nominating Committee of the slate of nominees to be voted on by members at the May 18 Annual Meeting.
- Melissa Currence** - Executive Director search update: reported that a strong candidate has been identified; the board approved a motion to extend an offer to the candidate recommended by the search committee.
- Kim Thompson and Dee Shaffer** - presented the proposed 2011-2012 Consolidated LWVCA budget for review and discussion. The budget was approved by the board with some amendments requested. The budget will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- Marj Davies** - moved that the Steiner Fund board be dissolved as a separate entity and its management transferred to the League board with guidance from the Investment Committee. The board voted to approve the consolidation.
- Nancy Dawley** - PDC feels there may be a lack of knowledge among members about League positions; is more education needed? Position information is available on the web site, and the board noted that regular attendees at unit meetings have an understanding of positions. The board will review new member packets to see if enough information is made available to new members. *Dinner with the League* attendance is lagging and requests to attend for “Speaker only, no dinner” are regularly received. The Marriott provides a nice meeting room, full service meal and parking for \$25. If attendance does not improve, the event is in jeopardy. The board voted to end the “speaker-only” option at Dinner with the League. County Government Committee members held a meeting with Commissioner Greg Hartmann.
- Alice Schneider** - LWVCA will co-sponsor a city council candidate forum at the Greenwich Tavern; date has been set for Saturday, Oct. 8.
- Marj Davies** - reported that fund raising for the League and Education Fund is going well as a result of investment gains and donations.
- Susan Banoun** - the TRU update is complete and TRU has been released. 30,000 copies were printed; updated information is also included on the LWVCA web site. A naturalization ceremony will be held in Cincinnati on April 15; if interested in attending, see Susan.
- Melissa Currence**- reminder of Statehouse Day on April 7 in Columbus. LWVO convention May 13-15; Melissa is attending and will present a workshop on the League and social media. Community Shares is celebrating its 15th anniversary on May 19 with an event at the Know Theater. Bylaws Committee report: in preparation for the Annual Meeting on May 18, the committee submitted its report and recommends no changes for this year.

WATER—LET'S USE THIS PRECIOUS RESOURCE WISELY!

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

*NOTE: The LWVCA will present unit discussions on water resource issues in fall 2011.

Many parts of the United States already face serious water shortages and even drought. Population growth and the changing climate are putting additional stresses on water supplies. Even in areas where water seems to be abundant, careful water management is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply for future generations.

Using water efficiently also saves energy. For most municipalities, the biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used.

Water conservation is clearly an important component of sustainability. How can individual consumers help?

Saving Water Indoors

Indoor water usage in a typical single family home in the United States is about 70 gallons per person per day. Fixing leaks, installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures, and changing some everyday habits can reduce water usage significantly to around 45 gallons/person/day.

- **Fix those Leaks:** Leaks account for about 13 percent of the water used in a typical home. A slowly dripping faucet or a toilet that keeps “running” can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. To check for leaks, read the water meter before and after a two-hour period in which no water is being used. After the test period, if the meter has a higher reading, there is probably a leak.
- **Buy Water-Saving Fixtures, Appliances:** Toilets are typically the greatest water user in the house, accounting for more than one-quarter of the total used in a home each day. Replacing an older 3.5-gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilet with a 1.6-gpf, low-flush model will save at least 10 gallons of water/per person/day. New lower-flow dual-flush toilets will cut usage even further. By reducing water bills, newer toilets pay for themselves in just a few years. Replacing older showerheads with low-flow fixtures and installing low-flow aerators in existing faucets are low-cost ways to save water and energy. Water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washers also help save water—and energy.
- **Turn Off the Tap:** A few small changes in everyday habits can result in significant water savings. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and save well over 1000 gallons/person/year. Take a five-minute shower (12.5 gallons of water with a new showerhead) instead of a bath and save 20-30 gallons each time.



Conserving Water Outside

Roads, rooftops and parking lots prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing groundwater. Rainwater runoff flows instead into the storm sewer system, picking up pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants as it makes its way to local rivers, lakes and bays.

An additional problem confronts older municipalities with combined sewer systems (such as Cincinnati). In these systems, stormwater and sanitary wastes are collected in the same pipe and then treated together before being discharged. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, the volume of water can exceed the capacity of the system, and the excess wastewater is discharged directly into nearby waterways.

Green Infrastructure

A new approach to stormwater management uses natural systems to absorb and filter rainwater and make use of it where it falls. It treats rainwater as an asset rather than a waste product. Permeable paving in driveways and parking areas allows rainwater to seep into the ground, thus recharging groundwater and reducing stormwater runoff. Rainwater can be “harvested”—collected as it runs off the roof and stored in rain barrels or a cistern for future landscape irrigation.

Replacing lawn areas with natural landscaping will save water and energy as well as benefit the natural environment. Lawn maintenance is water intensive—some 30 percent of our water is used to irrigate lawns—and lawnmowers cause five percent of the nation’s air pollution. Native plants, on the other hand, help reduce runoff and minimize the need for watering. They do not need fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. And they provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Online Resources for Additional Information:

www.epa.gov/watersense

www.h2ouse.org/index.cfm

cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298

greenvalues.cnt.org/

www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/water-solutions/3-big-ideas-to-make-water-last>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AFFORDABLE CARE ACT!

By Elisabeth MacNamara, President LWVUS

Congratulations Affordable Health Care Act. You turned one in April, and what a year it has been! Since last year:

- Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions
- Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage
- Young adults can stay on their parents' health plans until age 26

Together, we've made a lot of progress to ensure that more Americans have access to better, more affordable health care.

But if some members of Congress have their way, our progress will be lost: No more coverage for children with pre-existing conditions. No more unlimited coverage. No more insurance for young adults getting on their feet.

The cost of repeal will be vast. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the national deficit over the next ten years and leave about 54 million Americans without insurance.

That's why we must spring into action once again. In the coming year, we have a lot to look forward to: new innovations to bring down health care costs, increased access to home and community care for the disabled and expanded access to high-quality care for more American residents.

We have too much to lose to go back to where we started. We will not back down now. We will continue our work with local Leagues and volunteers to ensure true health care reform and coverage for all. The Health Care Act has come a long way, and it still has much to achieve. We're here to make sure that happens.

2011 LWVO CONVENTION:

Sustaining Democracy through Sustainable Communities
May 13-15, 2011, Maumee Bay State Park

The 59th LWVO Convention will be held at the Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio and will be hosted by LWV Bowling Green, LWV Perrysburg Area, LWV Tiffin Area and LWV Toledo/Lucas County. The four northwest Ohio Leagues are proud to invite you to their communities and welcome League members and guests.

The theme of the Convention is sustainability, which encompasses the environment, the economy and the society in which we live. Many people think of sustainability only in the context of the environment, but it is much more. It is the essence of what the League is passionate about.

The Convention Committee is working hard to be environmentally green, economically sensitive and socially relevant. Maumee Bay State Park is a "green" facility. The convention bags are reusable and are made from recycled materials.

Convention Agenda

- During the **Plenary** the delegates will discuss and vote on the 2011-2012 Budget, 2011-2013 LWVO Board, Proposed Changes to the Bylaws, the 2011-2013 Program and Action Resolutions.
- **Workshops** addressing the administrative and leadership aspects of a local League include: Membership; Streamlining the League; Leadership Development; Technology and Marketing; Financial Management. Advocacy workshops and caucus topics include: Human Trafficking; Fracking; Redistricting; Government Accountability; The League: Nonpartisanship & Elections in a New Era
- **Saturday Lunch Speaker** is Tom Henry, Toledo Blade environmental writer-columnist. **Saturday Banquet Keynote Speaker** is Lynn Henning, a Michigan family farmer and environmental activist.

Please visit www.lwvohio.org for registration forms and all other Convention documents and forms.

LWVO STATEHOUSE DAY

By Nancy Forbriger

On April 7, seven local League members made the early morning trip to Columbus ready to have an informative and pleasant day... and we did. Twenty-five Leagues were represented that day. League events are always fun and energizing.

To open the day Fred Anderle of the Ohio State University Humanities Institute spoke on "Civil Discourse" and gave some tips on how to handle aggressive negative speakers in conversations or debates based on his experience as a radio talk show host. He suggests not trying to change a mind, but to make sure the person knows you are attentively listening and that he has been heard. Keep a respect for truth beyond what the person says, and never imply that someone is a liar — you can say he is uninformed or wrong, but not a liar. Recourse against incivility can be through writing to the sponsor of a show, and by speaking out when you recognize it in any media.

The panel on the Governor's Budget was especially good. Timothy Keene, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, discussed the rationale behind the Ohio budget cuts to cover the \$7.7 B deficit. Forty-four out of 50 Ohio agencies will be affected, some because temporary funds were expiring. The Governor believes that local governments have been too highly subsidized, and believes that restrictions in collective bargaining, employment benefits, and healthcare as well as legislative reforms promoting shared services will help local governments stay solvent. Cincinnati's Margaret Hulbert, representing Advocates for

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Statehouse Day *(Continued from page 5)*

Ohio's Future, praised the emphasis on in-home care for the aged, prevention elements in funding for child care and attention to juveniles, but expressed concern about maintaining quality of life for lower income Ohioans. Amy McGee, of the Health Policy Institute explained Medicaid issues in the budget.

Secretary of State Jon Husted spoke at the luncheon, explaining his ideas for election system reform, including electronic polling books. He suggested full Social Security number be used as identification as a compromise instead of requiring photo ID for absentee or provisional ballots. Mr. Husted proposes a timeline with mail-in or absentee voting 21 days before the election, and early in-person voting beginning 16 days before the election. He believes it is the personal responsibility of the voter to be at the right precinct and polling place.

I attended the Redistricting Workshop expertly conducted by Ann Henkener, League Legislative Director. In a slide presentation, she showed how in Ohio's process lines can be drawn to create a safe district for a party or incumbent. The League plans to hold another contest for citizens to draw up fair, representative, contiguous and competitive districts which can be compared to districts drawn by the present partisan process.

In a workshop on Ohio's sentencing and incarceration laws, Shakyra Diaz, Policy Director of the American Civil Liberty Union of Ohio, spoke of the negative economic impacts of the costs of incarceration, and the loss to the workforce of 10,000 released felons per year who are barred from obtaining employment. The average incarceration period is 9 months, mostly for low level violations. The Governor favors sentencing reforms. The Department of Corrections is facing a 10% budget cut.

At the final reception, Joan Lawrence, a staunch Leaguer and legislator and Peg Rosenfield, our League expert on elections and reform were honored with flowers and tributes for their years of League work.

Check the lwvohio.org and ohioimpact.org sites for the latest information on the legislation the League is following. Materials we brought back are on the shelf in the volunteer office for all to review or copy. If you have an interest in some particular legislation, these papers have bill titles and numbers. Our league office volunteer can help you by copying or faxing info to you.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Government Committee Members Met with Commissioner Hartmann

By *Don Rhoad*, County Government Committee Chair

On March 14, Nancy Forbriger, Chris Moran, and Don Rhoad met with Greg Hartmann, who recently became President of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). These three members of the County Government Committee discussed with Hartmann several of his publicly-announced priorities in which LWVCA has a particular interest:

- **Shared services among communities.** We agreed that improved efficiencies could come with government policy changes that promote sharing of certain services with other municipalities. We also gave Hartmann a copy of an LWVCA white paper dealing with shared services.
- **Criteria for an effective property tax levy process.** We concurred that there are opportunities to improve our property tax levy process and gave the Commissioner a copy of our white paper identifying criteria for an effective tax levy process.
- **Modernization of our county government.** We expressed approval with Hartmann's plans to review the recommendations of the Government Reform Task Force. We asked to be advised of the schedule and plan for this review process.

This meeting was positive and constructive, enabling us to cite League positions which are quite relevant to a number of Hartmann's major objectives. We expect it to lead to further discussions with Hartmann and the other Commissioners.

The County Government Committee includes **Nancy Forbriger, Corinne Gutjahr, Shirley Jason, Cecilia Kloecker, Carolyn Miller, Chris Moran, Don Rhoad, and Melissa Rumpf**. The Committee invites anyone to join who would like to know more about how our county government operates and how it can be improved. Contact any Committee member.



Greg Hartmann

PUBLIC TRANSIT: What do Leaguers think?

By *Chris Moran*, Transportation Committee Chair

Sixty three League members participated in March 2011 unit discussions about public transportation. Most found the discussion material informative and helpful. While Metro provides a low cost transportation option and reduces congestion, members view funding and increasing costs as challenges. Members encourage our local governments to explore Bus Rapid Transit and Ohio intercity high speed passenger rail.

Leaguers view economic development and connecting two large employment areas as benefits of the proposed Cincinnati streetcar, but we are concerned about high operational and maintenance costs and duplicating services by rubber tired vehicles.

League members want transit service that is convenient, accessible, well connected, and cost effective. Current transit service is outside of the experience of most members and perhaps not convenient. Many participants thought improvements to public transportation are of high importance.

DOES FACEBOOK REALLY MATTER?

By *Juliet Zavan, Social Media Committee*

I didn't see the point of Facebook, but I was open to learning more so I joined the Social Media Committee and took a day-long course on social media for non-profit organizations. What I learned changed my perspective. Email cannot duplicate Facebook's power to communicate with a much larger group of people, easily, regularly, and continually. Facebook makes it easy to reach out. People don't have to be motivated enough to join a committee or ask to be put on a list. This is how it works:

Individuals "Friend" the League on Facebook. "Friending" means that you have established a connection with League's Facebook page so that postings to League's page automatically show up on your Facebook page where you can see them whenever you check your own Facebook page. A posting might be an announcement about a meeting or a link to a study or our webpage, etc. For example, I have posted several items related to the Housing Committee. Since League currently has 91 friends, 91 people automatically got the posting about the Housing Committee.

The League's Facebook page can "friend" organizations. There's more power in Facebook than simply reaching out to people who have friended League. Facebook multiplies the number of people receiving our postings many-fold. Habitat for Humanity, for instance, has around 800 friends on Facebook. If we friend Habitat for Humanity, we can post announcements on their Facebook page. Our posting will then be visible to their 800 friends on Facebook. And, if that organization, in turn, friends League, then when we post something to our Facebook page it automatically goes to the other organization's Facebook page and is to their 800 friends. Many more people—people who knew nothing about League—see the message. An email distribution list is static by comparison.

Facebook allows us to reach people beyond our immediate circle. Recent events in the Middle East are ample proof of Facebook's usefulness in communicating very widely with people, of communicating vital information quickly, efficiently, and more thoroughly than would be possible with email.

League cannot afford not to use Facebook: Facebook is where the people are—ask anyone under the age of 40 if they use Facebook actively. If we don't become more active on Facebook, we limit League's ability to reach out to people, to get new members and to engage in the community in civic discussions. Please help us by friending League on Facebook, posting information and comments about your League experiences, and helping the Social Media committee reach out.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

By *Mary Van Ausdall, Membership Director*

Membership numbers are important to our chapter for several reasons — one includes our budget. If 20 people join our League at the special rate of \$30 during the spring months, we will meet our income goal for our budget. How about inviting a colleague, friend or family member to join this week? The office has materials that can be sent to prospective members - or use the form on page 11 of this *Voter*.

It's easy to stay informed of civic life through Facebook posts and links. There are two ways to friend the page: 1) go to the LWVCA website; click the Facebook icon; click "Like": beneath the Facebook icon or 2) while logged onto Facebook type League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area in the search bar – when our chapter's Facebook page pops up, click "Like" beneath the Facebook icon.

Some very informative links are posted on the page to help you stay informed of the topics that interest you. We hope you'll share that news with your Facebook friends. This is the way our chapter will continue to serve our community well - by making important and interesting information readily available to members and yet-to-be members.

DINNER WITH THE LEAGUE SERVES A VARIED MENU OF SPEAKERS

By *Don Rhoad*

Dinner with the League (DWTL) closed out its fourth season on March 28 with dinner at the Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center followed by an informative presentation by Mark Godsey, Director and Co-founder of the Ohio Innocence Project. During his talk, Godsey described how the Innocence Project team investigates cases of wrongfully incarcerated individuals and how they seek to prove their clients' innocence through DNA testing. He was assisted at the Kingsgate podium by a recent client who had been exonerated after 18 years in prison.

DWTL is a series of dinner meetings featuring community leaders as speakers. Initiated in September of 2007, DWTL is designed to offer LWVCA members, their guests, and others in the community an opportunity to enjoy dinner together and be intellectually stimulated by the speaker. The events usually take place on the fourth Monday of each month in which there is no other League-wide event.

Programs are offered that address issues of current significance, such as downtown development, media influences, challenges to public education, regional transportation, and the arts. The guest speakers have included retired councilmember and Vice Mayor Jim Tarbell, Professors Gene Beaupre and George Vredevelde, CSO President Trey Devey, Governor Strickland's Cincinnati liaison Brewster Rhoads, and Enquirer writer and columnist Krista Ramsey.

DWTL planners **Helen and Don Rhoad** are making plans now for another year of DWTL dinner meetings beginning next September and would welcome volunteer assistance in planning and implementing the events.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Gretchen Langdon



Gretchen Langdon chairs our Health Care Committee, which wrote materials for last month's discussion meetings on public health. Gretchen has served the LWVCA Board as Action Chair and Program Chair. Gretchen was also very active with the League's Diversity Committee, and writes "Although we no longer have an active Diversity Committee, there are a core group of us who try to keep our eyes open for diversity issues and possibilities for action."

Q: Tell me a bit about you, your job and family as introduction:

A: I work in the Global Child Health department at Children's Hospital making my small contribution to developing strategies to improve health around the world, primarily through the use of vaccines. I have a grown son and daughter.

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

A: I joined the League in the early 90's when my children were old enough for mom to be out several evenings a week. I was looking for a broad based political organization that could respond to issues as they arose as opposed to a single issue or candidate group.

Q: What do you enjoy about League membership?

A: I enjoy the research into and discussions about issues. The work of our program committees as well as state and national study committees is of the highest quality and pretty much not available anywhere else. Unit meeting discussions of these materials are the heart and soul of the League and

the reason we have the reputation of being informed citizens.

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

I have lived in Oakley for over 35 years and seen it change from working class to "affordable" to "desirable". Frankly I liked it best when it was "affordable" and there was more diversity.

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

A: Although I spend all day dealing with international health issues, I am also concerned about the health disparities in our county and am reading "Seeing Patients" by Augustus White and "Medical Apartheid" by Harriet Washington to see what, besides access, contributes to substandard health outcomes for African-Americans. I also enjoyed all the novels by Stieg Larsson.

LWVCA MYTH-BUSTERS

By *Linda Wohl*, Interim Executive Director

There are common misconceptions about any organization. Sometimes these get in the way of progress and here are a few we would like to dispel.

- ✘ **MYTH: Membership fees are a great source of income for the local League.**
- ✓ **FACT:** Your membership fees are critical but the majority of the money goes to the National and Ohio Leagues. A great source of our strength is being part of a national and statewide network, but there is a cost involved. The result is that only \$3 of each membership remains at the local level. So your support in other ways, volunteering and financial, is vital to the well-being of our local League!
- ✘ **MYTH: Publications such as TRU (They Represent Us) and Who & What are paid for through government support.**
- ✓ **FACT:** Not so! We receive no government funding. The local League does the research primarily through the work of volunteers. Fundraising events, corporate, philanthropic and individual donation campaigns are used to raise the money to print, distribute and publicize all our publications.
- ✘ **MYTH: We have full-time staff to do the work.**
- ✓ **FACT:** The office is staffed by volunteers who serve as receptionists and field calls and visitors to the office. **Sue Gorman**, the League secretary, is part-time; but she also volunteers doing a great deal of work from home. The new Executive Director position is also part-time. The bulk of the work in this organization is done by volunteers. Sharing your time and talent keeps the cost down, the services available and the spirit strong!
- ✘ **MYTH: The Annual Meeting is not important for general membership.**
- FACT:** The Annual Meeting is an essential gathering for the well-being of the local League. At this meeting we will choose a board, vote on next year's budget, review the year's accomplishments and plan our future. Your involvement as a member is necessary! Please join us!

ZOO TOUR

(continued from page 1)

helping MSD control raw sewage overflows during wet weather.

- Water consumption has been reduced.
- One million pounds of zoo animal wastes (Zoo Poo) per year are being composted by Marvin's Organic Gardens for recycle rather than landfill and saving \$5,000 to \$10,000 in waste disposal.

LWVCA's Summer Tour on the morning of June 25 will visit the Zoo to hear about the "Go Green" program from Director Thane Maynard and Facilities Manager, Mark Fisher. We will tour the Solar Roof over the new parking lot, storm water retention areas, "green buildings" and land stewardship projects such as creation of a savannah on the site of the old parking lot. We might even see the newly arrived baby giraffe. Plans include a parallel program in the Education Building for those choosing not to take the walking tour.



Participants will gather on the morning of Saturday, June 25 at the parking lot of the League Office (Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 Wm. H. Taft). At 9:30am we'll depart by car and van pool for the Zoo Education Building parking lot. At 10:00 a.m. we will be welcomed by Thane and Mark who will describe the "Go Green" program. This will be followed by an one hour small group walking tour of the project sites led by zoo volunteers who are prepared to answer our questions. A wrap up session at 11:30 in the auditorium will answer further questions. At 11:45 a.m. the car and van pools will return to the League Office parking lot.

Make your reservation before June 15 by sending the Registration Form (included in this *Voter*) and a check for \$5 to the League office. Or, register and pay online at www.lwvcincinnati.org. (\$6 per person for PayPal registration). The \$5 fee entitles you to stay at the zoo for the remainder of the day but parking in the regular parking lot is required unless you make other arrangements to be picked up.

All League members, their guests and friends of the League are invited. Numbers are limited, so please register before the deadline.

FORUM ON HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

May 3, 2011, 7 p.m. Sycamore Senior Center

Families with members who have mental disabilities face many questions, and this is true whether the disability occurred at birth or later in life. For example:



- Where will an adult with a mental disability live when his parents die?
- What group homes exist; are spaces available; are new ones being developed; and how are the sites for them chosen?
- Are there enough supportive services to help people with mental illness for them to live independently in the community?
- Is enough accessible housing available?
- What effect will new budget cuts from the state have on services that are currently available?

The LWVCA Housing Committee chose the housing options for people with mental disabilities as its focus for the 2010-2011 year. After hearing local agency directors speak about the problems associated with finding suitable housing for persons with mental disabilities, the committee decided to host an informational forum on May 3.

Forum panelists include: Diana McIntosh from Hamilton County Board of Mental Health, John Romer and Robert Shuemaker from Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, and Kat Lyons from the Center for Independent Living Options. **Elizabeth Brown**, League member and Executive Director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) moderates.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Housing Committee should call either the League office or **Helen Rhoad**. New members are always welcomed and encouraged to join.

Book Review: Global Soccer Mom: Changing the World is Easier Than You Think, by Shayne Moore

Review by Nancy Dawley, Program VP

Shayne Moore began her journey from a suburban full-time mother of three to a global advocate for the poor when she attended a Bono concert raising awareness of AIDS in Africa. What she learned about AIDS/HIV and the extreme poverty of infected families affected her profoundly.

In her own words, "...in the conservative faith tradition I grew up in, "social justice" and "activism" are scary terms used to describe liberals. However, when I consider that 16,000 children die every day from malnutrition and extreme poverty, or that more than 1 billion people live on less than \$2 a day, social justice no

longer sounds like a secular or church issue, conservative or liberal issue. ... It seems to me to be a compassion issue."

Shayne shares her awakening with the reader as she travels the world to meet impoverished people, to attend G8 conferences, and to raise awareness with Hollywood notables. She shares successes and difficulties as she talks with neighbors in her hometown. There are many facts about AIDS/HIV and poverty for the reader to ponder.

She is especially writing to mobilize young women like herself, showing them that they can make a difference, regardless of where they live, what their talents are, and how much or little time they have for advocacy at any given point in their lives. The book identifies lots of resources to help a beginner get started.

IMMIGRATION: Naturalization Ceremonies

By *Helen Rhoad*

Have you ever witnessed a ceremony in which residents are sworn in as naturalized citizens of the United States? Twice a month, our District Court welcomes approximately seventy new citizens who have come to the US from many different countries. Some of the ceremonies are held at Federal Building downtown; others are held at schools or other facilities throughout the region.

It is impressive and moving to learn the process the new citizens complete before receiving their citizenship papers and to see the pride on their faces and those of their families and friends. Everyone should experience this event. It is something that one will never forget and a reminder of how important our democratic process is to us.

League members who wish to attend a naturalization ceremony should call the League office and ask to be notified of the next scheduled event. Those attending will bring supplies of the League's government directory *They Represent Us (TRU)*; *Tips for New Voters*, and *Who and What of Elections* (if the timing is appropriate).

To learn about the test that one must take before becoming an American citizen, check the internet for practice tests that you can download. Several sites have sample questions—one example: www.usgovinfo.about.com.



Dorothy Reed hands a TRU to newest citizen

NATURAL RESOURCES:



“Gasland” Documentary movie **May 12, 2011 7:00 p.m. LWVCA Office**

The LWVCA Natural Resources Committee is hosting a “Gasland” house party at its May 12, 7 pm meeting in the League Conference room. In the Academy Award-nominated documentary *“Gasland,”* filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling and embarks on a cross-country odyssey as he learns what this form of gas extraction (fracking) is doing to the environment. Natural gas is advertised as a clean alternative to oil. Eastern Ohio is one of the regions with lots of gas in the shale.

Come and join the conversation about whether Ohio should or should not move forward with fracking. RSVP at 513-281-8683.

REDEFINING PROSPERITY: Community Resilience on a Finite Planet

Sunday, May 15, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street
Cincinnati, 45219

Unending growth cannot take place on a finite planet; yet political and business leaders tell us it is needed in order to create jobs. This can only lead to environmental catastrophe. Fortunately, there is a better way. Very soon petroleum prices will start to rise rapidly as production will not be able to keep up with worldwide demand. How will we and our automobile-based economy cope? How can we prepare for it?

Speakers: **Dr. Heather Reynolds:** Assoc. Prof, of Biology, Indiana University, speaker the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy; **Dave Rollo:** Bloomington Indiana City Councilmember brings sustainability policies into local government.

Sponsors: Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, Imago for Earth, Hillside Trust, First Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee

“There are two ancient laws that underlie all modern environmental laws: One is the nuisance doctrine that essentially says you can use your property any way you want, but if you pollute and it escapes your property and goes onto somebody else's property, you're violating the law.

The other is the public trust doctrine, which says you can't do anything that is going to diminish the commons, which includes any property that is not susceptible to private property ownership, like air, water, the fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, underground rivers, etc. Everybody has the right to use the commons, but nobody can use them in a way that diminishes their use and enjoyment by others.”

—Robert Kennedy Jr., From *“Citizens, Defend Your Local River”*
Yes! Summer 2010

There are no Unit Meetings in May, June, July, and August. We'll start again in September! But there are many events of interest to Leaguers.

**The Citizen's Budget:
Neighborhood Safety & Policing**

Community Dialogues:

May 5, 6:00-7:30pm at Corryville Recreation Center OR

May 7, 10:00am-Noon at College Hill Recreation Center

What is the right level of safety/police spending? What does a safe community look like? How should citizens contribute to public safety? Sponsored by Citizens for Civic Renewal (CCR). For more information, visit www.citizenscivicrenewal.org, or email ccrcinn@gmail.com.

Woman's City Club Annual Seasongood Luncheon: "Crossroads of Education"

Friday, May 6, 11:45am-1:00pm

Millennium Hotel, Grand Ballroom B, 105 5th Street, Downtown Cincinnati

Speaker: Mary Ronan, Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools

Luncheon fee: \$35 WCC members; \$40 non-members.

For more information, call The Woman's City Club at 513-751-0100.

**Muse's 28th Annual Spring Concert:
"Stand Together Make It Better"**

Saturday, May 14, 2011 7:30 pm

**Corbett Theater at School for Creative and Performing Arts,
108 W. Central Parkway**

MUSE sings out against bullying and reaches out to promote open-mindedness, unity, kindness and inclusion. For this one-time performance, MUSE has invited special guests Dreams of Hope from Pittsburgh to join in for a portion of the concert. Dreams of Hope is an exciting and multifaceted performance group of lesbian, gay, bisexual transgendered and straight allied youth ranging in age from 13-21.

Tickets: online, MUSE box office at www.musechoir.org; phone 513-221-1118. Sliding Scale: \$8-\$50; Suggested Price: \$15. Students \$5; Sponsor a student \$10.

Community Shares: Sharing the Legacy

**May 19, 2011 5:30- 7:30 pm, Know Theatre,
1120 Jackson Street**

Anniversary party celebrating 15 years of building social and economic equity and a healthy environment. Free public celebration, cash bar, after party at Below Zero.

RSVP to www.cintishares.org 475-0475

Join the League of Women Voters

...where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement. Dues include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National membership, including newsletters from each.

Individual - \$30.00*

Household - \$40.00*

Student - \$12.50*

Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____

Optional deductible contribution to LWVCA: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to LWVCA, 103 Wm Howard Taft, 45219

* Half price dues now til September 2011

Juneteenth Festival

June 18-19, 2011, Eden Park

www.juneteenthcincinnati.org

Juneteenth celebrates one of the most important events in American history—the end of slavery. When President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, he proclaimed freedom only of enslaved people held in the Confederacy, which did not recognize Lincoln's authority. Over two years later, after the war was over, General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, proclaimed Texas to be under U.S. authority and re-issued the Emancipation Proclamation on **June 19, 1865**. Celebration of June 19 as "**Juneteenth**" or "**Emancipation Day**" has spread ever since. In Cincinnati, the Juneteenth Festival returns to Eden Park on June 18, 2011, with attractions including children's crafts, historical reenactments and exhibits, craft demonstrations, live music, drumline, flag procession, vendors and food. The League of Women Voters staffs the information booth, helping with voter registration and administering a history quiz that tests visitors' knowledge of the history of slavery and freedom.



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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Meetings for May and June

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, address above, unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend!

- Monday May 2 6:30 pm Board Meeting
- Tuesday May 3 Primary Election, Hamilton County (includes partisan primary for councils and mayors of Hamilton County villages, townships and municipalities).
- Tuesday May 3 7pm Housing Forum: Options for People with Mental Disabilities. Sycamore Senior Center, 4455 Carver Woods Dr. Blue Ash.
- Tuesday May 10 12pm Steiner Fund Meeting
- Tuesday May 10 7pm Housing Committee
- Thursday May 12 12pm Office Volunteers Potluck Luncheon
- Thursday May 12 7pm Natural Resources Committee
- Thursday May 12 LWVO State Board Meeting, Columbus
- Thursday May 12 7pm Natural Resources Committee: "Gasland" movie viewing party and discussion
- Friday May 13 Registration Deadline for LWVCA Annual Meeting
- Fri-Sun May 13-15 LWVO Convention 2011, Maumee Bay State Park
- Sunday May 15 7pm Forum: Redefining Prosperity: Community Resilience on a Finite Planet, First Unitarian Church 536 Linton Street.
- Monday May 16 7pm County Government Committee
- Monday May 16 7pm Health Care Committee
- Wednesday May 18 5:15pm LWVCA Annual Meeting, Kingsgate Marriott
- Wednesday May 25 5:30pm Program Development Committee (PDC)
- Monday May 30 Memorial Day, Office Closed
- Monday June 6 6:30pm Board Meeting
- Thursday June 9 7pm Natural Resources Committee
- Friday June 10 Voter copy for July/August due to Editor
- Wednesday June 15 Deadline for Zoo Tour reservations
- Monday June 20 7pm County Government Committee
- Monday June 20 7pm Health Care Committee
- Wednesday June 22 5:30pm Program Development Committee (PDC)
- Thursday June 23 10am Voter Collating, General Membership in Charge
- Saturday June 25 9:30am Cincinnati Zoo's Green Initiative Tour

See our website www.lwvcincinnati.org for more information on upcoming events.



Join Us for A Summer Tour

The Cincinnati Zoo's Go Green

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

Saturday, June 25, 2011, 9:30 - noon

9:30 meet at League Office to Carpool to Zoo Education Building

Speakers: Thane Maynard, Zoo Director

Mark Fisher, Senior Director of Facilities and Planning

Followed by 1 hour walking tour



Sloth in the indoor tropical forest at the Zoo's energy efficient Educational Building, part of the Zoo's Sustainability Initiative of clean energy, waste recycling, storm water retention, and water conservation.

Please reserve ____ seat(s) for the LWVCA Summer Tour of Sustainability Initiatives at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 9:30 AM.

Fee is \$5/person for Zoo entry.

Name(s) _____ Telephone # _____

Guest(s) _____

____ of these people will not take the walking tour, but will remain at the Educational Building for an indoors program.

I am able to drive ____ persons in my car as a carpool driver from the League to the Zoo.

Send reservation and check for \$5.00 per person (payable to "LWVCA Education Fund") by June 15th deadline to: LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219.

Or register and pay online at www.lwvcincinnati.org.

For additional information, call 513-281-8683



Redefining Prosperity: Community Resilience on a Finite Planet Running out of Oil

Sunday, May 15, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Church 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati, 45219

Unending growth cannot take place on a finite planet, yet political and business leaders tell us it is needed in order to create jobs. This can only lead to environmental catastrophe. Fortunately, there is a better way. Very soon petroleum prices will start to rise rapidly as production will not be able to keep up with worldwide demand. How will we and our automobile-based economy cope? How can we prepare for it?

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Heather Reynolds: Assoc. Prof, of Biology, Indiana University, Ph.D.in integrative biology from the University of California, Berkeley and a M.S. in plant ecology from the University of Connecticut. Heather is a member of the speaker's bureau for the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy. Dr. Reynolds will explain the failures of our current economic system and described the changes we must make to it in order to achieve environmental sustainability and provide jobs to all who want to work.

Dave Rollo: As a member of the Bloomington Indiana City Council where he sought to bring sustainability policies into local government. His policy initiatives include the creation of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, the city's Green Building Ordinance and Authorship of the Council Resolution Supporting the Kyoto Protocol and the creation of the Bloomington Peak Oil Taskforce. His work on energy policy and community adaptation to energy decline has been featured in numerous publications.

CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, Imago for Earth, League of Women Voters Natural Resources Committee, Hillside Trust, Sierra Club Miami Branch, First Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee.

For more information, contact Peter Seidel pseidel@fuse.net 513-751-6699
or Jeanne Nightingale jnightingale@fuse.net 513-6622