



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

# THE VOTER

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November 2008

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### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

### LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

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

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

### Who & What of Elections MAILING CREW HARD AT WORK



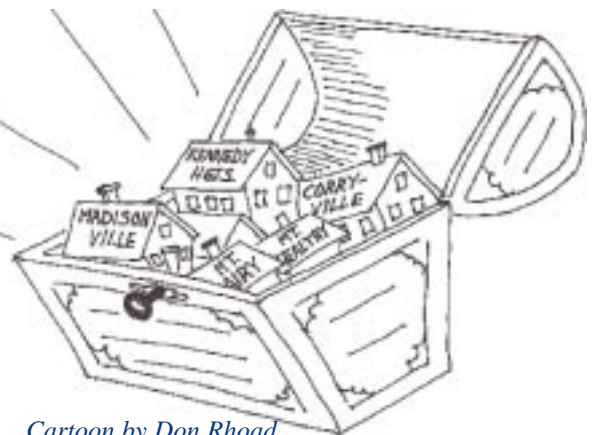
Clockwise from left: Emily Hodges, Bridgett Pincus, Joan Honeck, Susan Lehman, Pinky Kocoshis, Corinne Gutjahr, Nancy Forbriger, and Cindy Mairose. Photo by Marjorie Davies.

### Building Stable Integrated Communities in Hamilton County: A Look at Our Hidden Treasures

Check out our chest of hidden treasures as you read and hear about our area's stable integrated communities. In LWVCA's November Unit meetings, our members will discuss how the diversity of these neighborhoods developed and how the region benefitted.

Those members who attended the October "Dinner With the League" were treated to a presentation on the results of the Cincinnati study "Cincinnati's Hidden Treasures." This information is also available for members by accessing the on-line references at the end of the Voter insert.

This unit promises to be an informative and stimulating meeting format. If you have never attended a unit meeting, please see page 11 or call the office at 281-8683 for information on which one would be the most convenient for you.



Cartoon by Don Rhoad

By Marjorie Davies

If you haven't voted already, see one of the League's comprehensive nonpartisan voter guides, the *Who & What of Elections* (W&W) print guide or our fabulous [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org). The W&W is available at your local public library branch, or pick up a bundle of W&Ws at our offices for your church, club, or workplace.

The October *Voter* buff pages contain information on all state and local issues appearing on Hamilton County ballots. Our LWVCA board voted to take no position on Cincinnati Issue 7 (red light cameras) and Issue 8 (proportional representation). Special thanks to **Carolyn Miller**, chair of our City Government Committee, and members who researched and prepared materials on these two issues.

Did you know you can view [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) on your mobile device to get information on-the-go? You can verify your polling place location, compare the pros and cons on ballot issues, and view candidate answers to League questions – there's a wealth of resources on *SmartVoter*. This year the LWVCA Education Fund printed 100,000 copies of W&W filled bulk orders to over 125 organizations, and we expect over 150,000 hits on [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org). Thank you to Vice President **Melissa Currence** and her crew for preparing these guides!

This is the busiest time of year for our Speakers' Bureau. **Doña Neiheisel, Dottie Cowan, and Sylvia Mersfelder** have coordinated requests for League volunteers to register voters and explain voting and ballot issues to churches, clubs, retirement communities, and business organizations, and to speak on radio and television. **Rubye Glenn** has recruited volunteers to staff extra hours on our phone hotline, 281-VOTE (8683). Thank you to all our speakers and office volunteers!

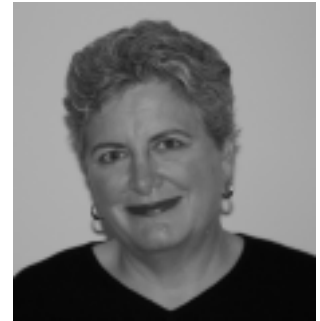
The League was co-sponsor with the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and WCPO Channel 9 for debates of First and Second Congressional District candidates. **Ellen Campbell** and **Marj Davies** served as timekeepers; if you missed the live shows, they are archived on [www.wcpo.com](http://www.wcpo.com) for download and viewing on your computer. Our Anderson unit organized, hosted, and moderated a debate of Ohio House District 34 candidates that was televised on Anderson Cable. Thank you to the Anderson unit and **Bette Evanshine**, moderator.

Do League members retire after Election Day? No, our work is really just beginning. With candidates chosen and ballot issues decided, this is the time to become involved in one or more LWVCA action committees, to study and advocate to implement the positions the League supports. Join our Natural Resources, Health Care, Housing, Education, County Government, City Government, or Diversity Committees, and make a difference in our community and world. Meeting times are on the calendar at our newly-redesigned website, [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org).

Other opportunities to volunteer with the LWVCA:

- **Dinner with the League**, our monthly program with speaker on a topic of local interest,
- **Susan B. Anthony Luncheon**, our annual member celebration and silent auction in February,
- Membership Committee, to expand, diversify, and train our membership,
- Voter Services, to produce our 2009 Directory of Public Officials, *They Represent Us*,
- Discussion leader or unit membership chair, to inform and involve members in our neighborhood unit groups,
- **Visions for Greater Cincinnati**, our annual Education Fund Luncheon with distinguished keynote speaker, supported by corporate sponsors, in April,
- Speakers' Bureau, to provide voting information throughout the year (training provided),
- Office volunteer, mailing crew, supply delivery, technology guru, or carpool driver.

As you plan your League activities, be mindful of resources ... and *carpool*. If you can offer even an occasional ride, join our list of carpool providers. And if you need a ride to a League activity, call the office to see who wants to help. You can make a new friend and save our environment!



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ENDORSEMENTS FOR BALLOT INITIATIVES:

### *OHIO ISSUES (LWVO):*

**Issue 1: Earlier Filing Deadlines for Statewide Ballot Issues**, Constitutional Amendment - SUPPORT

**Issue 2: Bond Issue for the Clean Ohio Program**, Constitutional Amendment – SUPPORT

**Issue 3: Protect Private Property Water Rights**, Constitutional Amendment - OPPOSE

**Issue 4:** Withdrawn

**Issue 5: Payday Lending Legislation**, Referendum - NEUTRAL

**Issue 6: Casino in Clinton County**, Constitutional Amendment - OPPOSE

### *HAMILTON COUNTY ISSUE (LWVCA):*

**Issue 48: Proposed Tax Levy — Great Oaks Institute of Technology**

### *CINCINNATI CITY ISSUES:*

**Issue 7: Red Light Cameras**, Charter Amendment - NEUTRAL

**Issue 8: Proportional Representation**, Charter Amendment- NEUTRAL

### RATIONALE:

**Issue 1** generated extensive discussion by the LWV Ohio Board, which recognized the benefits of earlier, uniform deadlines and an expedited review process as means to support voters' informed participation (LWVUS's position on Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation). The board agreed that Issue 1 belonged in the constitution because only Ohio voters can define responsibilities for the Ohio Secretary of State and the Ohio Supreme Court. (LWVO's position on the Ohio Constitution). The LWVO board thought that the benefits of Issue 1 outweighed the disadvantages, including the possibility that the tighter filing and review timeframes might disadvantage lesser-funded organizations seeking to get issues on the ballot in the face of potentially costly legal challenges.

LWVO unanimously agreed to support the sale of additional bonds for the Clean Ohio Program (**Issue 2**) based on the LWVO positions on the Ohio Constitution and Land Use. The proposed amendment provides funds for environmental conservation and revitalization and is identical to one supported by LWVO -- and passed by the voters -- in 2000. Like its predecessor, Issue 2 must be approved by the voters as a constitutional amendment because the Ohio constitution does not permit an appropriation being made for a period longer than two years by the General Assembly. LWVCA is also actively supporting this issue.

Based on our position on the Ohio Constitution, LWVO unanimously agreed to oppose **Issue 3** regarding private property water rights. Discussion centered on the amendment's intent, which is to maintain the status quo regarding private property water rights. In that case, Issue 3 is unnecessary; in addition, it might result in unanticipated changes in land use rights. In either case, it does not belong in the constitution.

LWVO's decision to remain neutral on **Issue 5**, the referendum on payday lending legislation, was also unanimous -- and unavoidable. Although the board was sympathetic to the legislature's effort to reform payday-lending practices, the League has no state or national position under which to take action.

(Continued on page 4)



*(Cont'd from page 3)*

The LWVO board unanimously agreed to oppose **Issue 6**, the proposed constitutional amendment authorizing a casino in Clinton County, based on the LWVO positions on the Ohio Constitution and State Finance. The designation of a specific 94-acre parcel of land for a casino is too narrow a concept to be in the constitution. Furthermore, in contrast to LWVO's position on State Finance that states taxes should be fair and equitable, this amendment directs a disproportionate share of tax revenue to Clinton County.

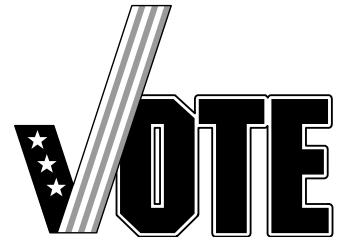
LWVCA City government committee members, Program Development Committee and Board discussed the two Cincinnati issues, both proposed charter amendments. **Issue 7** would restrict City Council consideration of red light cameras as a law enforcement device, and **Issue 8** would reinstate proportional representation as a method of voting for Cincinnati City Council in the 2009 election. The Board remains neutral on both issues. We had no position or study to use in consideration of the red light camera issue. And while League does have a longstanding position in support of proportional representation elections, we did not have widespread member understanding on this particular proposal.

## STATE ISSUE 2 ENDORSED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*By Debbie Clark, Natural Resources Committee*

**State Issue 2 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE TO ISSUE BONDS TO CONTINUE THE CLEAN OHIO PROGRAM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVITALIZATION AND CONSERVATION.**

The Clean Ohio Fund is a program that uses the sale of general bonds to help pay for environmental projects in the state, which include cleaning up Ohio's waters, conserving and preserving natural areas, green spaces, and farms, as well as cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields.



According to the Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission, "to date, Hamilton County has received a total of \$22.9 million in Clean Ohio grant assistance for brownfield projects. The associated private investment promised for the projects totaled more than \$284 million, with an expectation of creating an additional 4,000 jobs."

Issue 2 has bi-partisan support, and is endorsed by LWVO as well as numerous environmental and civic organizations. It is actively supported by the LWVCA. Voting YES means that you want Issue 2 to become law. Without approval, the Clean Ohio Fund will expire.

For further information, check [www.cleanohio.org](http://www.cleanohio.org).

*The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

## VOTER PURGES AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT

By Sue Gorman

State and local officials regularly “purge” citizens from voter rolls. Purges, when done properly, are an important way to ensure that voter rolls are dependable, accurate, and up-to-date. Precise and carefully conducted purges can remove duplicate names and people who have moved, died, or are otherwise ineligible. However, a new study from the Brennan Center for Justice, *Voter Purges*, discovered a process that is shrouded in secrecy, prone to error, and vulnerable to manipulation.

The secret and inconsistent manner in which purges are conducted make it difficult, if not impossible, to know exactly how many voters are stricken from voting lists erroneously. When purges are made public, they often reveal serious problems. Here are a few examples:

- In Mississippi, a local election official discovered that another official had wrongly purged 10,000 voters from her home computer just a week before the presidential primary.
- In Muscogee, Georgia, a county official purged 700 people from the voter lists, supposedly because they were ineligible to vote due to criminal convictions. The list included people who had never even received a parking ticket.
- In Louisiana, including areas hit hard by hurricanes, officials purged approximately 21,000 voters, ostensibly for registering to vote in another state. The purge did not follow existing legal protections that require officials to notify affected voters and give them the opportunity to contest or correct the records.

In a study focusing on twelve states, *Voter Purges* identified three problematic practices across the country. **Many states do not provide a notice to the voter of an impending purge.** For example, it is rare for states to provide notice when a registrant is believed to be deceased. Without proper notice, an erroneously purged voter will likely not be able to correct the error before Election Day. **Bad “matching” criteria leaves voters vulnerable to manipulated purges.** State statutes often rely on the discretion of local election officials to identify registrants for removal. Frequently, election officials believe they have “matched” two voters, when they are actually looking at the records of two distinct individuals with similar identifying information. **Purges rely on error-ridden lists.** The lists that states use as the basis for purging are often riddled with errors. For example, some states purge their voter lists based on the Social Security Administration’s Death Master File, a database that even the Social Security Administration admits includes people who are still alive.

**Reliance on Social Security lists is also a problem for new voter registrations.** In a New York Times article, “*States’ Actions to Block Voters Appear Illegal*” published October 9, 2008, Ian Urbina reports that “Tens of thousands of eligible voters in at least six swing states have been removed from the rolls or have been blocked from registering in ways that appear to violate federal law.” The article states that “...Indiana, Nevada, North Carolina and Ohio seem to be improperly using Social Security data to verify registration applications for new voters.”

The *Help America Vote Act* requires that states have statewide electronic voter registration lists. These lists are to standardize and centralize voter records that have been kept on the local level in the past. To prevent ineligible voters from casting a ballot, states are required to clear the electronic lists of duplicates, people who have died or moved out of state, or who have become ineligible for other reasons. According to federal law, the Social Security database should be used as a last resort, when no record of the applicant can be found on state databases, like those for driver’s licenses or identification cards. The reason for this requirement is that the Social Security database is less reliable than state lists and more likely to incorrectly flag applications as invalid. Unfortunately, many state officials seem to be using the Social Security lists first.

\* Sources: [www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter\\_purges/](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter_purges/); [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); New York Times, 10/09/08.

## ACTION SUCCESS

### Great Lakes Water Compact Passes Final Hurdle in Congress

Source: LWVO

In late September, the U. S. House of Representatives approved the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The action of the U.S. Congress completes the seven-year legislative process where the eight Great Lake states sought to prevent diversion of water from the Great Lakes.

President Bush has repeatedly expressed support for the Compact and is expected to sign the resolution passed by Congress.

The LWVO Lobby Corps and member volunteers who studied and advocated this important issue are to be commended for their perseverance. Hard work and commitment has paid off in a great dividend to protect our Great Lakes. This is a great example of the League, in partnership with other groups, making a significant impact.

## HOW ARE OHIO CHARTER SCHOOLS HELD ACCOUNTABLE?

By Joan Platz, LWVO Education Lobby Corps. (abstracted from Joan's Monthly Education Update)

A lawsuit filed by former Attorney General Marc Dann on September 12, 2007 against the New Choices Community School (Englewood) was dismissed on September 29, 2008 by Judge Michael Tucker of the Court of Common Pleas, Montgomery County. The lawsuit was filed under the charitable trust law, and alleged that the community school failed to meet its responsibilities as a "charitable trust" to educate students under Ohio law, and therefore should forfeit its state funds to operate. Judge Tucker ruled, however, that the school was not a charitable trust, but a political subdivision of the state, and the Attorney General had no authority to file the lawsuit. Current Attorney General Nancy Rogers has until October 27, 2008 to appeal this decision. Motions to dismiss two similar lawsuits filed against Harmony Community School (Hamilton County) and Moraine Community School (Montgomery County) are pending. A lawsuit was also filed against the Colin Powell Leadership Academy, but that school closed. Recently, State Auditor Mary Taylor issued a finding for the Harmony Community School to repay over \$2 million in funds due to lack of documentation, attendance irregularities, and improper use of federal funds.

The 126th Ohio General Assembly approved, through HB 79, a mechanism to close low performing charter schools starting in July 1, 2008. This method is based on valued-added data, performance measures, and state designations (ratings). It does not apply to certain dropout recovery charter schools that have obtained a waiver from the ODE. Charter schools that are in academic emergency for three years (or four depending on the grade levels in the school), and have not shown progress (determined by the SBE) in math and reading in two out of three years, are required to close at the end of the school year. Currently, two community schools, the Toledo Academy of Learning and the Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners of Youngstown, are candidates for closure in 2009.

(cont'd from page 7)

energy costs. Revenues should also be returned to workers and communities most affected by the clean-energy transition to help train a workforce that can participate in the new energy economy. Legislation should protect against global trade disadvantages to U.S. industry incurred when other countries do not adequately participate in reducing emissions.

#### 4. Aid communities and ecosystems vulnerable to harm from global warming.

A portion of auction revenues should be provided to states, localities and tribes to respond to damage from global warming and to adapt infrastructure to its effects, such as more severe wildfires, intensified droughts, increases water scarcity, sea level rise, floods, hurricanes, melting permafrost, and agricultural and public health impacts. Developing countries should be assisted to respond and adapt to the effects of global warming.

The LWVUS Web site ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), "Global Climate Change," "Take Action") has background information and a sample letter (as well as an easy way to e-mail your Representative), or you can contact the LWVCA office for the information and sample letter. More information on Global Climate Change is contained in *The Voter* insert for March 2008.

## ANDERSON UNIT HOSTS 34<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT DEBATE

LWV's goal is to bring election information to the voters so they can make informed choices. On October 9, the Anderson Unit of the LWVCA accomplished this mission by hosting a debate between the two candidates running for the 34<sup>th</sup> Ohio State House of Representatives seat.

The two candidates, Jeff Sinnard (D) and Peter Stautberg (R), are fairly new to the voters; this made the debate even more important. Anderson members worked with the Anderson Township Center and Anderson Cable TV to hold the debate in a central location and film it for rebroadcast on AC-TV during the last weeks before the election. League member **Bette Evanshine** was the moderator.



(L) Jeff Sinnard; (R) Peter Stautbert. Photo by Ruth Hardy

In addition to four questions from the League, the audience asked many pertinent questions covering education, health care, immigration, small business concerns, and economic problems including new energy technology. Feedback from the audience showed their appreciation of the effort and their respect for the League's presentation. The event was covered by the Community Press and will be printed in the local weekly coverage. Says Gail Wick: *"The debate was the best we have ever had, since the two candidates came so well prepared. ... I wish I could vote for both of them!"*

Thanks to committee members including **Sherrie Heyse, Sara Johnson, Ellen Campbell, Gail Wick, Joan Honeck and Ruth Hardy.**

## ACTION ALERT –

### Ask Your US Representative to support *"Principles for Global Warming Legislation"*

By Jeff Davis, Chair, Natural Resources Committee

The League of Women Voters has issued an Action Alert requesting members to write their US Representatives urging support for the "Principles for Global Warming Legislation" as guidelines for comprehensive legislative action to address climate change.

The "Principles for Global Warming Legislation" were developed by Congressional representatives Henry Waxman, Edward Markey, and Jay Inslee to "support strong, fair, science-based legislation to fight global warming while creating jobs and building a clean energy economy." The four goals of global warming legislation as outlined by these representatives are:

#### 1. *Reduce emissions to avoid dangerous global warming.*

These principles call for capping and cutting global warming emissions to science-based levels with both short- and long-term targets. Emissions targets must be certain and enforceable. Because the effects of climate change are happening faster than scientists predicted a few years ago, periodic scientific review is needed, with the possibility of adjusting emission reduction targets. The United States should engage with other nations through commitments and incentives, to include establishing binding emissions reduction goals, and helping developing nations to reduce emissions by avoiding deforestation and adopting clean energy technologies.

#### 2. *Transition America to a clean energy economy.*

The U.S. should invest in the best clean energy and efficiency technologies to create new jobs while reducing emissions. A significant portion of revenues from auctioning emissions allowances should be invested in clean energy and efficiency measures.

#### 3. *Recognize and minimize any economic impacts from global warming legislation.*

To minimize economic impacts, emissions allowances should be auctioned off, with the revenues being used to benefit the public. Some revenues should be returned to low- and moderate-income households to help offset higher

*(Continued on page 6)*

## OBSERVER CORPS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

### Notes on Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Meeting On September 16, 2008

By Nancy Forbriger, LWVCA Observer

Commission members David Pepper and Wendy Niehaus, Director of Pretrial services recently attended a joint meeting of the National Institute of Correction Officers (NICO) and the International City and County Administrators Association. The group was very excited about the Hamilton county pretrial and community services project; the collection of data on offenders, risk assessment and programs during jail time, and reentry process. CJC wants to produce a White Paper to respond to information requests at the national level using Hamilton county as a model.

"*Taking Gideon's Pulse, An Assessment of the Right to Counsel in Hamilton County*," July 2008, a review done by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NDLA) was brought to the CJC by Barbara Tombs of the Vera Institute. The study was commissioned by the Board of County Commissioners because of the impact the work of public defenders has on the administration of justice. The report states, "there is little doubt that poor people [in Hamilton county] charged with crimes facing a potential loss of liberty are not afforded the constitutional protections demanded by the United States Constitution." The report, described as 'scathing,' states the major responsibility of this condition falls on the State of Ohio, because they fail to adequately fund the system. The Ohio Public Defenders Commission and the local Public Defender's office fail to promulgate standards consistent with the American Bar Association Ten Principles. The lack of funding also results in an inadequate facility for the Hamilton County Public Defender division and lack of adequate staff for training and oversight. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Judge Robert Gorman and including key representatives of all sections of the criminal justice system will be assembled to generate pressure on the state legislature to get action on the recommendations of the report.

A second major discussion centered on outstanding warrants and *capias* (bench warrants). Barbara Tombs of the Vera Institute collected data on 44,000 warrants issued from 1972-1998. The majority involved no driver's license, bad checks, probation violation, DUI and speed control. Some individuals had 5 - 7 warrants. Snohomish County, WA; Santa Clara County, CA; and Durham, NC's old warrant handling systems were examined as to frequency of review, reissuing, purges, sweeps, amnesty, safe surrender offerings and sunset policies. Information collected will be used to recommend policies for local law enforcement agencies.

All subcommittees will report in December. Reports are to include dollars/time saved and jail bed reduction potential for each recommendation. Public meetings have been promised. Next meeting Dec. 16, 2008.

## POLITICAL PARTICIPATION INFLUENCED BY GENETICS?

By Gretchen Langdon

*HealthDay* (7/1, Reinberg) reported that researchers at the University of California-San Diego suggest that "as much as 50 percent of whether you vote or not may be genetically determined." According to *HealthDay*, "two genes that influence the brain's serotonin system, called MAOA and 5HTT, were also associated with a person's inclination to cast a ballot. The serotonin system helps regulate trust and social interaction. ... people with more efficient versions of those genes were about 10 percent more likely to vote." According to a paper appearing in the July issue of *The Journal of Politics*, the researchers "drew on voter-turnout data in Los Angeles," and "matched that data to a registry of identical and non-identical twins."

Moreover, "[g]enes also play a significant role in political participation, including giving money to a campaign, contacting a government official, running for office, and attending political rallies."

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

## SHOW ME THE MONEY! QUESTIONS ON LEAGUE FINANCES

by Marjorie Davies

As requested at our annual meeting, here are some questions and answers to help you better understand League finances.

*Q: What's the difference between a 501(c)(3) and a 501(c)(4) organization?*

A: The Cincinnati League is actually two separate non-profit corporations, the 501(c)(4) League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, and the 501(c)(3) LWVCA Education Fund. (The designations refer to Internal Revenue Code sections.) Contributions to the Education Fund are tax deductible to individual donors; contributions to the LWVCA are not. In exchange for favorable tax treatment, 501(c)(3) organizations must strictly limit their lobbying activities.

*Q: Why does the League have to fundraise – why don't dues cover all our expenses?*

A: Although we are mostly staffed by volunteers, we incur costs such as rent, printing, postage, utilities, equipment, telephone, and supplies. Total expenses are about \$30,000 a year for the LWVCA and \$50,000 for the Education Fund. Membership dues bring in a revenue of about \$19,000 a year to the LWVCA. Since your dues include membership in the state and national Leagues, we must remit per-member payments (PMP) of about \$7,000 to LWVO and \$8,000 to LWVUS. This leaves a net of only about \$4,000 to pay local expenses. So we have to fundraise the rest.

*Q: If I send money to the League and don't designate where it should go, what does the League do with it?*

A: Any donation, including a memorial or community drive donation, that isn't specifically designated for the LWVCA or Steiner Fund (a special-projects fund within the LWVCA) goes to the Education Fund. We assume you want the tax deduction. If you prefer your contribution to be available for action projects, please let us know – as you can imagine, it is more difficult to fundraise for the 501(c)(4).

*Q: Why do we share the expenses of rent and utilities between the LWVCA and the Education Fund?*

A: Membership, advocacy and education activities all use the office and its equipment, phones, etc. Since LWVCA resources are scarcer, we use the Education Fund to the extent permitted by law to pay a pro-rata portion of administrative expenses.

*Q: Why can't I write the donation for both organizations on the same check?*

A: To protect our valuable 501(c)(3) status, we carefully segregate funds for the two organizations into separate bank accounts.

*Q: If I bequeath a gift to the League, should it go only to the 501(c)(3)? Will my heirs have to pay taxes if I leave it to the 501(c)(4)?*

A: If your estate will be of sufficient size to be subject to estate taxes and you want a tax deduction, please consult a tax professional. Gifts to 501(c)(4) organizations are not tax deductible.

*Q: How is the current financial crisis impacting the League?*

A: We expect fundraising will be more difficult this year. We do have some commitments already for the 2009 Visions Luncheon, and there are opportunities of grants from local foundations. We will now have to plan for some losses from our investments this year rather than income. *(more on this next issue).*

In the spirit of full transparency, the board is committed to answer any other questions you may have. This article is the first in a series; more questions and answers will be coming in the December Voter.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ANN GILTON

By Rina Saperstein

*Having parliamentarian and Leaguer Ann Gilton sit next to you when running a meeting is immensely reassuring. You know that she knows what she is doing and that she will help you get the work done. So I asked Ann to tell us about herself and about being a parliamentarian. Here's what she wrote:*

A parliamentarian advises organizations about processes for efficient and effective meetings, helping them to realize the goals of the group.

I observed the value of the parliamentary process in League conventions/meetings and when a local workshop was offered in 1976 I took advantage of it and began my study, becoming a Professional Registered Parliamentarian in 1978 and a Certified Registered Parliamentarian in 1988 in the two national organizations. I "lobbied" LWV president Dot Ridings to serve the national convention and have served six

different presidents. When 800 delegates see a well-run meeting, they take back to their communities what they have observed about the democratic process.

I have been a League member in three states since 1960, looking forward to that 50 year membership! League is a great educational organization as well as political. As one who is comfortable presiding, I like to moderate candidate debates.

In moving to Cincinnati, I quickly joined the local League; I particularly enjoy the local "area" league since the entire metropolitan area is our "community." Now residing in Warren County, I am in the Butler/Warren unit. I have been involved with the local United Way, a local literacy agency, and have served on my township zoning commission.

My "exercise of choice" is lap swimming at the Lebanon Y. Currently I am reading *Team of Rivals* (about Lincoln), *The Coldest Winter* (Korean War) and re-reading *The Feminine Mystique* which I read in 1965 and want to review my reaction to these ideas.

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## PLANT A TREE

By Nancy Dawley

*"A UN survey shows that deforestation is responsible for emitting almost 20 percent of greenhouse gasses – REUTERS"* Can we do anything about this personally?

It is possible to plant trees in your yard, though there has been some discussion about the real value of this. I have done it anyway because it feels good. If a tree grows for an average 70 year lifespan, it will trap about 1.3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (from Dell Plant a tree today website). That is roughly the emissions that would result from a road trip from Main to California. It more than offsets the carbon emitted from the production of electricity used to power a computer during its average lifespan of 3 years.

If you want experts to plant your trees, you can do it by purchasing trees through a Dell program for its US consumers and business customers, set up help people offset their computer configuration (or whatever you wish). The money goes to The Conservation Fund and The Carbon Fund which plant only native trees across the country in sustainably managed forests, including national wildlife refuges. The Conservation Fund also focuses on reforestation efforts in the Lower Mississippi River valley area.

Interested in more information? Go to [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org), or [www.carbonfund.org](http://www.carbonfund.org).

### Our Condolences

LWVCA mourns the death of **Sue Craig**, a longtime league volunteer. Sue was an former President of LWV Clermont County and often provided training and education on voter education and membership recruitment to LWV Ohio and LWVCA. Our sympathies to her family and to the LWV Clermont County.

## NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS – Topic: Stable Integrated Communities

### ANDERSON

Wed, Nov 12, 7 pm, Anderson Center Conference Room  
7850 Five Mile Road

Discussion Leader: **Pinky Kocoshis**

### CENTRAL EVENING

Wed, Nov 12, 7:15 pm, Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church  
103 Wm Howard Taft Rd

Discussion Leader: **Bette Evanshine**

### COLLEGE HILL

Tues, Nov 11, 11:30 am, Brown Bag  
5679 Meryton Place

Discussion Leader: **Doña Neiheisel**

### EASTERN DAY *(note new time and day)*

Thur, Nov 13, 12 noon, Marjorie P. Lee Retirement  
Center Library  
3550 Shaw Ave

### HAMILTON-FAIRFIELD

Date/Location TBA. Please see online calendar or call the  
office

### HILLTOP

Mon, Nov 10, 7 pm  
7773 View Place

### METRO DAY

Wed, Nov 19, 12 noon, Brown Bag  
Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church  
103 Wm Howard Taft Rd

Discussion Leader: **Mary Kay Gardner**

### NORTH CENTRAL

Tues, Nov 11, 12 noon, Brown Bag  
Friendship United Methodist Church  
Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd

Discussion Leader: **Jan Evans**

### NORTHEAST EVENING *(note new time and location)*

Mon, Nov 10, 7 pm, Madeira Public Library  
Euclid & Miami

Discussion Leader: **Helen Rhoad**

### WARREN COUNTY

Tues, Nov 11, 7:30 pm Mason United Methodist  
773 Mason-Montgomery Rd

## Membership! We're on a roll - Seize the opportunity...

*By Carolyn Meyers-Hughes, Director of Membership*

As of October 1, LWVCA membership is up to 411. Unit hospitality and outreach from members, especially Board members, has been outstanding. With League visibility at a maximum because of the Presidential election this month, **please continue to invite** friends and co-workers to explore becoming a member of the League of Women Voters. Prospects are sent packets of information from the LWVCA office followed by a phone call, inviting them to a Unit Discussion group. New members will also receive a phone call to welcome them, answer any questions and invite them to participate in a variety of ways.

**Current members, please be sure to send in your dues.** Units: Get your attendance sheet to the office. It will find its way to my mailbox. Keep up the good work!

(Editor's note: it is now possible to join online. Go to [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org) - and click on JOIN)

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## VOLUNTEER NEEDED! COMMUNITY SHARES LIAISON

Volunteer needed to be the liaison for Community Shares! Community Shares is a federated workplace giving campaign which generates funds for the League Ed Fund among other worthy causes. This task involves four daytime meetings a year and a willingness to be a contact for activities involving the League. A once a year application process is done in early December. This critical job does not require a lot of work and help is always available. For more information call **Sherrie Heyse**.

### E-UNIT

Online at [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvca\\_internet](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvca_internet)

*All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend! Check [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org) for updated dates and locations.*

