



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

THE VOTER

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November 2009

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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.



PROGRAM COMMITTEES INFORM ABOUT ELECTION ISSUES

*By Don Rhoad,
Program Vice President*

LWVCA's City Government, Transportation and County Government Committees worked together to research issues, and prepare write-ups for the Cincinnati and Hamilton County issues appearing on the November ballot. This information used in *Who & What, SmartVoter*, the October Voter, and League speakers doing community Voter Service presentations. Key persons in these efforts were **Chris Moran** and **Carolyn Miller**, with assistance from **Nancy Forbriger** and **Corinne Gutjahr**. Thank you all!

Our Election Issues Discussion Briefing was on Wednesday, Sept 23 in the Mt. Auburn Church sanctuary. In addition to League members, we welcomed members of organizations who form the Rookwood Five collaboration. Our program featured guest speakers plus LWVCA explanations to present the numerous issues. At least 40 people attended this program, and we received numerous compliments about how it was presented from both speakers and audience. Special thanks go to **Chris Moran** and **Carolyn Miller** for developing and conducting this event. Video of the event is available on the website.



League Moderator Carolyn Miller with speakers for (Commissioner Todd Portune) and against (Ohio Rep. Tyrone Yates) the Casino ballot issue (Issue 3).



Alice Schneider speaks to an attentive audience at the issues briefing meeting on Sept. 23.

Go to page 3 for the LWVCA and LWVO endorsements and positions on local and state issues.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I feel satisfied. We painted our house this past summer and it looks good right now. However, just as we get one project completed on the house I look around and something else demands attention. Just as I feel a sense of satisfaction that the house looks well kept, I notice another area that looks shabby and I need to call painter or repairman or go shopping. Improvements are ongoing. *Reevaluation and renewal.*

The same holds true for an organization. The Cincinnati League keeps improving itself. Through the diligent efforts of our board and members, several things have been done in recent years: we launched a new website, making it easier to navigate through the pages and find information. We instituted a comprehensive fundraising plan this year to concentrate on soliciting not only our members, but corporations and non-members who receive our publications. We instituted the online SmartVoter to give voters up to date information about candidates and issues via the internet. We have been making improvements each year in the way we deliver information and education to voters. That is our mission. This is the way we are going to stay viable. *Reevaluation and renewal.*

Improvement needs to be ongoing. The other day a newspaper article caught my eye. It related how the Kroger Company reinvented itself by remaking its stores and putting the customer first. According to the article, "Its evolution came from two lessons learned through the years: the importance of honesty and accepting feedback. You can't grow, change, improve if you don't recognize the need for that." Good lessons.

An organization, or person, needs to look at themselves and ask: are we growing? Can we improve? If so, how? Each year the Cincinnati League board has a retreat in which it looks at the strengths and weaknesses of the League, and then formulates a strategic plan for the year. This year's plan was in the September issue of the *Voter*. The emphasis of this year's plan is to build our membership and volunteer base.

To deliver quality services to voters and ourselves, we need to *reevaluate and renew* our efforts. Most of all, we need **you, the members** to help us grow and be the best League we can be.

Respectfully,

Alice B. Schneider



FROM THE LWVCA BOARD.....

By Alice Schneider, President

Marj Davies, VP of Finance, reminded us that our League dues are \$55, but the local League only keeps about \$2 from that. The rest goes to the State and National League. With 400 members that comes to \$800. Costs for the "Who and What" publishing and printing and the "Smart Voter" are nearly \$15,000, in addition to our regular operating costs. Please send in your annual campaign envelope and also ask your friends to help us.

The League was busy during this election cycle. We co-sponsored a Cincinnati City Council candidates' forum at Greenwich Tavern, a mayoral debate on Channel 9, a Cincinnati Public School candidates' forum at Woodward Technical Center, an Anderson Township Trustees Forum, and assisted the League of United Latin American Citizens candidates' night at Su Casa.

Through the competent coordination of **Dottie Cowan**, we sent moderators to several events including Greenhills, Forest Hills, and Indian Hills. We also sent speakers to ten community events, and our office volunteers fielded many calls from voters needing information.

LWVCA 2009-10 Board of Directors:

President: *Alice Schneider*

President Elect: *OPEN*

Treasurer: *Kim Thompson*

Secretary: *Glenda Bernstein*

VP, Program: *Don Rhoad*

VP, Fund Development: *Marjorie Davies*

VP, Administration: *Pinky Kokoshis*

VP, Voter Service: *Melissa Currence*

Director, Action: *Gretchen Langdon*

Director, Membership: *Carolyn Meyers-Hughes*

Director, Unit Coordinator: *Susan Lehman*

Director, Planned Giving: *Dee Shaffer*

LWV ENDORSEMENTS

Local Issues...

NO on Issue 9

By Chris Moran and Carolyn Miller,
Transportation Committee

The final push to defeat Issue 9, the anti-rail, anti-progress proposal, is on track. The Cincinnati Area League has joined with many other organizations in the community to oppose the proposed Charter Amendment. The proposal would prevent the City from spending “any monies for right-of-way acquisition or construction of improvements for passenger rail transportation” without first obtaining voter approval. The proposal would limit the development of transportation options and is not an appropriate addition to the Charter.

To help with the campaign to defeat Issue 9, go to - www.CincinnatiansforProgress.com. Volunteer for literature drops, phone bank, &/or make a donation to get out the message. The League is a supporter of the coalition *Citizens to Protect the Charter*, also opposing Issue 9. Go to their website www.protectthecharter.com and print out flyers to share with neighbors and other voters.

YES on Issue 52

LWVCA has endorsed the renewal of an existing 9.11 mill levy for the Cincinnati Public School District for a period of five years. The \$65.2 million raised by the levy comprises 14 % of the district’s total budget of \$467 million. These funds will continue to pay for general operating expenses including classroom teachers, staff, books, transportation and supplies for the district’s 34,000 students.

State Issues...

Issue 1: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Authorize the State to Issue Bonds to Provide Compensation to Veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts -

NEUTRAL

Issue 2: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board - **OPPOSE**

Issue 3: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Authorize a Casino in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio - **OPPOSE**

In analyzing proposed constitutional amendments, the League of Women Voters of Ohio begins with consideration of whether the proposals belong in the Ohio Constitution or more properly should be legislated by the General Assembly. LWV-Ohio does not believe the Constitution should be littered with side notes. Rather, LWV-Ohio’s position on the Constitution, adopted in 1968, is that “a constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles. It should provide for the flexible operation of government and be logically organized and internally consistent.”

Passage of Issue 1 would amend the Ohio Constitution to provide additional compensation to veterans. Bonding authority that lasts longer than 2 years as in the proposed amendment must be set forth in the Constitution. However, the LWV-Ohio has no position under which to take action on the issue. Therefore, the Board voted to take a NEUTRAL stance.

Passage of Issue 2 would amend the Ohio Constitution to create the Ohio Livestock Standards Board and set forth its composition and duties. The LWV-Ohio board voted to OPPOSE passage of this issue because the amendment contains too much specificity to be in the Ohio Constitution.

Passage of Issue 3 would authorize a casino in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo. Again, the LWV-Ohio board voted to OPPOSE passage of Issue 3 because the proposed amendment contains too much specificity to be included in the Ohio Constitution. In addition, Issue 3 violates the state League’s position that the legislature should have flexibility in financing state programs, because the amendment directs how the tax revenues will be allocated.

PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

By LWVUS President, Mary G. Wilson, Sept 30, 2009

The League of Women Voters is disappointed by the Senate Finance Committee votes defeating amendments to include a public option in health care reform legislation. The public option is the key to consumer choice and to lowering health care costs. Both are essential elements of health care reform. The Finance Committee's failure will hurt consumers and result in higher costs. How could they be so short-sighted?

The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security. Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform and the public option is vital. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option. We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs and providing real choice to consumers.

The public option is critical to health care reform. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward, not backward, with true health care reform.

LWVUS ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The League and coalition partners sent letters to Senators this month urging opposition to Senator Murkowski's original and revised amendments that would delay action on clean energy regulation, and block the EPA from curbing carbon dioxide pollution. League President Mary Wilson participated in a three-state tour of the Midwest this month, stopping in North Dakota, Indiana and Michigan to meet with community leaders, media, and staff from five out of the six Senators' offices. After discussing in detail the role each would have in the climate change and health care debates moving forward, President Wilson was able to lobby for the League's positions on behalf of the League's 150,000 members and supporters.

GLOBAL DEMOCRACY: LEAGUE HOSTS ARMENIAN NGO REPRESENTATIVES

The LWVUS welcomed five members of the Clean Community Coalition from Southern Armenia this week as part of its program of coaching NGOs on Coalition Building for Effective Advocacy. Representatives met with League Leaders, Members of Congress and DC Government officials to learn how trash collection, landfills and other waste management issues are handled in the United States.

Since 2008, LWV has been working with the Armenian Assembly of America and the NGO Center of Armenia to provide, and expand on existing, skill sets of NGO professionals for effective cross sector coalition building. The workshops culminated in the formation of a Clean Community Coalition, which is focused on improving trash collection and waste management in four cities in southern Armenia. Members of the Clean Community Coalition have been invited by several mayors to be part of the Armenian government's efforts in cleaning rivers and trash collection. This year, these activists were invited to the US to continue coalition building education.

2010 CENSUS CAUTIONS

Source: Better Business Bureau

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way; Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations. With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

PROTECT YOURSELF - FOLLOW THESE RULES!

1. How do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? If U.S. Census workers knock on your door, they will have:
 1. a badge,
 2. a hand held device,
 3. a Census Bureau canvas bag, and
 4. a confidentiality notice.

Make sure to ask to see their badge and identification before talking to them! Do not invite anyone you don't know into your home.
2. Census workers will NOT ask for Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, or any specific account information. *Do not give your social security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the census.*
3. Census workers will NOT solicit for donations – *do not give anyone any money.*
4. Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, they will NOT contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. - *do not respond to anyone claiming to be with the US Census by email! Do not click on any links or open attachments in an email purporting to be from the US Census.*

LWVO OHIO STATEHOUSE UPDATE: Ohio Supreme Court Rulings Affect Ohio Budget

By LWVO Lobbyist Joan Platz

Commercial Activity Tax: The Ohio Supreme Court issued a 6-1 decision on September 17, 2009 in the case *Ohio Grocers Association, et. al v. Levin*. The Court ruled that the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) was a tax on the privilege of doing business in Ohio and not a sales tax on food, and therefore does not violate Ohio law or Article XII Section 3(C) or 13 of the Ohio Constitution.

The CAT is an annual privilege tax measured by gross receipts on business activities in Ohio, and applies to all types of businesses. Annual CAT taxpayers (taxpayers with taxable gross receipts of more than \$150,000 but less than \$1 million) must pay an annual minimum tax of \$150 per year. A rate of 0.26 percent is applied to taxable gross receipts in excess of \$1 million. Revenue from the CAT currently reimburses school districts and local governments for the loss of revenue due to the phase-out of the tangible personal property tax.

The Ohio Grocers Association filed the lawsuit after the Commercial Activity Tax was enacted in 2005, alleging that the tax was an excise tax on food and was prohibited by the constitution. The CAT cost grocers approximately \$188 million a year. If the plaintiffs had won, the state would have had to refund an additional \$350 million.

Referendum on Video Lottery Terminals: The Ohio Supreme Court issued on September 21, 2009 a 6 to 1 ruling in the case *State ex rel. LetOhioVote.org v. Brunner*. The Court agreed with the plaintiff that a provision included in Am. Sub. HB 1, the FY10-11 budget bill, regarding the installation of video lottery terminals (VLTs) at Ohio horse racing tracks, is subject to referendum. The intervening respondents had argued that the VLT provision was an appropriation and as such was not subject to the referendum process. LetOhioVote.org expects to collect the estimated 250,000 signatures needed to place the issue on the November 2010 ballot.

The ruling jeopardizes approximately \$933 million in the FY10-11 state budget. Governor Strickland and lawmakers included the provision for VLTs in the state budget bill to raise revenue to fund Ohio's schools. Assuming that the referendum may prevail, Governor Strickland has proposed that the gap be closed by delaying the implementation of the final 4.2% installment of the five-year income tax reduction which began in 2005. It is anticipated that this action would raise \$844 million, enough to offset most of the lost VLT revenue. LWVO has called upon members to advocate with Ohio Senators to support this income tax proposal.

HIDDEN TREASURES: A Human Relations Summit

Saturday, November 21, 2009

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Forest Park Senior Center, 11555 Winton Rd.

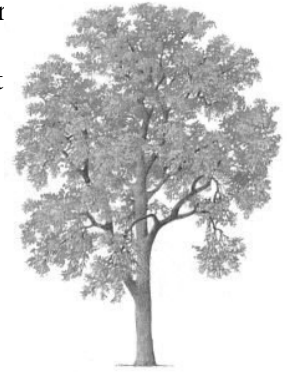
Purposes

- √ Celebrate the progress of integrated communities in Hamilton County.
- √ Learn ways to help stabilize existing and create new integrated communities.

Agenda: Myth-Busting Panel; History of segregation in Hamilton County and research on stable, integrated communities; Community statistics on Section 8, crime, foreclosures, housing values; Movie: *The New Neighbors: How one community created a vibrant integrated suburb*; trend-setting panel on building cohesive communities; lunch honoring platinum communities. Sponsored by Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, Housing Opportunities Made Equal and the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area.

ASH TREES MADE INTO SCHOOL FURNITURE

Do you have an ash tree in your yard that might soon come down due to the ash borer problem? Urban Forestry of Cincinnati has a program to turn ash trees into school furniture. The trunk should be straight and at least 10 feet tall; 14 - 28 inches diameter; and good for lumber (not hollow). If the tree is on private property, you remove it at your expense and request your contractor take the trunk to a location designated by Urban Forestry Department of the City of Cincinnati. You will receive a receipt and the donation may qualify as a tax deduction. Urban Forestry will remove ash trees on Cincinnati public property. If interested in more details, contact Dave Gamstetter, Urban Forestry, 861-9070.



GREENWICH TAVERN SCENE OF CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

By Rina Saperstein

On October 10, the League participated in a different kind of voter education event: a candidate forum at a jazz club! The Greenwich Tavern in Walnut Hills has been sponsoring successful City Candidates Forums for several years. This time, owner Mark Yates invited the League to join in. The event was a relaxed and extended Saturday night with food and drink in a club environment. Yet the information was serious: City Council candidates were randomly drawn in groups of four to answer varied questions on strategies for neighborhood revitalization in a time of fiscal crisis. Candidates and guests alike remarked that they enjoyed the forum format and questions because it gave more extended and interesting discussions. Our volunteer ushers, greeters and timers and planners included **Alice Schneider, Marty Harrington, Elizabeth Brown, Kathy Helmbock, Nancy Forbriger, Steph Stoller, Sarah Gideonse, Mary Van Ausdall, Jeff Davis and Rina Saperstein.** And in a great example of voluntarism at work, the Walnut Hills Citizens on Patrol escorted folks to and from their cars. We thank Mark and the Greenwich staff for this remarkable opportunity. Along with civic events, the tavern also hosts poetry, spoken-word, music and art events see www.thegreenwich.com.



Mark Yates sets ground rules for candidate forum.



Panel participants: moderator and Walnut Hills activist Kathryn Gardette, LWVCA's Elizabeth Brown, CityBeat's Kevin Osborne and Channel 9's Annette Pegler.

CITY OF CINCINNATI PROPOSED ENHANCED RECYCLING PROGRAM

By Pinky Kocoshis, Natural Resources Committee

In 2007, Mayor Mark Mallory unveiled his “Green Cincinnati” plan, which included the goal for the City to increase its landfill diversion rate by 50% by the year 2011. In response, City Council charged the Office of Environmental Quality to develop a recycling program that would increase citizen participation and landfill diversion rates, while minimizing the City’s overall cost.

The City of Cincinnati has proposed enhancing its recycling program to upgrade all eligible households (single family households and complexes with less than nine units) with a 64-gallon wheeled recycling carts. In addition to the larger containers, households will be eligible to participate in the RecycleBank program and earn incentives for diverting materials from the waste stream.

Anticipated Costs:

It is projected that the enhanced recycling program would actually cost less in 2009-2011 than the current recycling program and that the City could save \$330,000 in 2010. The reduction in cost is due to several factors including:

- The City of Cincinnati has secured a \$750,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to help offset the costs of implementing the proposed enhanced recycling program.
- By upping the City’s waste diversion rate, Cincinnati would increase the rebate it receives from the Hamilton County Solid Waste District. The city now gets \$30 per ton. The rebate increases to \$34 per ton by recycling 15%.
- The increase in the amount of recycling is expected to divert more than 37,000 tons from the landfill, which is projected to save the City \$4,615,053 in avoided landfill fees over the next 10 years.

In addition, the City may receive \$12.50/ton-\$25/ton in added revenue from sales of recycled materials depending on the market and volume recycled.

RecycleBank Benefits:

- In addition to having the ability to recycle more, residents will also benefit from the RecycleBank program. The average RecycleBank participant earns \$200 in rewards from area businesses.
- If all Cincinnati residents spend their points, this could potentially inject \$20 million back into the local economy.

Information from City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality.



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM: A GREAT COLLABORATION

From Sarah Gideonse, Woman’s City Club

I want to thank everyone who contributed to making our CPS school board candidate forum successful. I think we got really good information to help us decide whom to vote for — although it is amazing how different people’s reaction was — and previous knowledge of course contributed. Thanks to everyone who contacted the candidates. We got 100 % attendance of all candidates who are actually showing up anyplace.

Thanks to Burt — we played tag team spelling each other on leading the committee. Thanks to all the organizations who publicized the event! Many of you who helped design the program format and craft the comprehensive brilliant questions! Thanks to Kent, Jennifer, Sandy, Barbara, Lisa, and Beth. We made a great team.

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

NOVEMBER UNITS DISCUSS LOCAL PROGRAM

By Gretchen Langdon, Action Chair

Every two years, League units review our program positions, alternating between state and local/national positions. This year we decided to devote November to local program planning and January to national program planning.

Our positions are our springboard for action. They provide the principles by which we determine whether or not to support or oppose local, state and national political actions and legislation. League members also need a thorough understanding of major public policy issues in order to meet our mission of educating the public. In her May, 2009 Remarks about the League's Consensus Process, national president Mary Wilson wrote (in part):

“From its inception, the advocacy work of the League of Women Voters has been directed at issues on which action by a branch of government will have an impact on the lives of individuals and on our democracy. We use our advocacy voice to spur government to take action that will have a positive effect on the issues about which we care. In other words, the advocacy work of the League focuses on “making a difference” on public policymaking.

At our national Convention, delegates may select a new issue (or new twist on an old issue) to study further because they think the voice of the League could be useful. But, in order to speak about the issue, we must “discover” how League members feel about that issue. The process by which the League makes that discovery is called study and consensus. The first step is vital: STUDY. League members across the country must look at all sides of an issue, study the facts, the ramifications of all approaches, alternative solutions, the impacts on people, places and things, the costs and benefits. Only after studying the issue do League members come together to arrive at the “consensus” of their League on the issue. The results of all local Leagues discussing the issue are compiled to determine the CONSENSUS of the League as a whole.

In discussing the issue, League members must turn the issue upside down, sideways, backwards and forwards. Because of our nature, training, upbringing, and experience, League members will see an issue differently. We cherish the fact that we bring different perspectives on issues. Because the process of coming to consensus is an amalgam of members' thoughts, ideas and ways of looking at the facts, members attending the consensus meeting must dig deeply into the issue.”

This process has been very successful for developing positions at the local level, with our Annual Meeting being our “convention.” However, as our membership changes, many of our members were not participants in the original studies or consensus process. They were not part of the *turning of the issue upside down, sideways, backwards and forwards*. Our program planning meetings are a time to educate our members about the study that went into our positions and to re-assess our consensus. A unit may decide that a position should be dropped, or a new study may be recommended. See the buff pages to begin this interesting and important work.

MORE LEAGUE LINGO

PMP: Acronym for *Per Member Payment*, the amount of money paid to the LWVUS and the state League on behalf of each member.

POSITION: A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.

WHO AND WHAT: The Cincinnati League's title for the printed election guide we produce each fall: full name: *“The Who and What of Local Elections”*. Also known as *W&W*.

FALL IS CAMPAIGN SEASON (in more ways than one)

By Rina Saperstein (Rina is a member of Community Shares Board)

Since 1996 Community Shares has raised funds for member organizations through workplace giving campaigns. A workplace giving campaign offers employees the opportunity to make charitable contributions through payroll deduction. A donor can contribute to one, a few or all of Community Shares' member organizations, including the LWVCA Education Fund. A Community Shares workplace giving campaign is an efficient way for employees to connect to organizations that positively impact Greater Cincinnati.

In workplaces throughout the city, Community Shares campaigns kick-off in the fall. These campaigns inform workers about Community Shares and its member organizations and encourage workers to pledge regular donations through payroll deduction. Worksites include local governments, universities, school systems, and a variety of architecture and legal firms and nonprofit organizations (see www.cintishares.org for the list). If people you know are employed in these workplaces, please encourage them to participate in Community Shares Campaign and to designate the LWVCA Education Fund as one of their donation choices.



DON'T BE SILENT!

By Lora Jollis, SBA Auction Chair

The Susan B. Anthony 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and silent auction is scheduled for February 27, 2010, and we're counting on hearing from you! We need your creatively themed baskets for the auction block. Eye catching baskets of wine, party supplies, food, personal care, and baby items are always a hit.

"I don't have the time to assemble a basket" you say? That's OK. We'd appreciate individual, new or gently used items that **Sherrie Heyse** and **Lora Jollis** will combine into baskets. Don't be silent! Test our creativity... consider donating books, art, small antiques, unique crafts, or that kitchen utensil you found on sale and never found a use for. Baskets and other auction donations are due by February 5, 2010, but the earlier you donate, the more spectacular our auction will be. Contact Lora Jollis for more information or to schedule pick up of your items.



Carolyn Honkomp with an SBA Basket in 2009.

PRAISE FROM NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dear LWVCA Voter Editor and Article Authors,

If I were presenting awards for comprehensive Voters, I'd probably give my award to LWVCA. You certainly keep your members in the know about issues and events involving all levels of League: Local, State, and National. I like your member spotlight section as well as League lingo to help members get to know each better and to learn more about League.

Looks like you have a jam-packed array of election activities, too.

Love your plans for the LWVUS 90th anniversary. Please consider posting your plan for Feb. 27 on the Leaders list serve: leaders@lists.lwv.org. I am the 90th Communications Captain for the LWVUS board and I have started a discussion for leagues nationwide to share their ideas and plans for the 90th on the Leaders list serve. Cincinnati could be the poster child by being the first to post!!!

Keep up the good work.

Dianne Wheatley Giliotti

LWVUS Director (Tampa Bay, FL)

FUND RAISING UPDATE

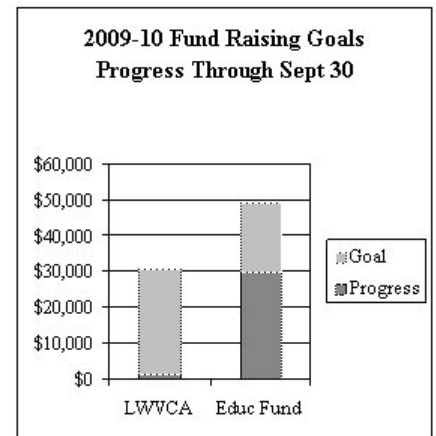
By Marjorie Davies, VP Finance

The LWVCA Annual Campaign kicked off with dues renewal mailing in late August and continues with the October *Who & What of Elections* mailings to members, community, and businesses. New this year is a mailing of complimentary copies of *Who & What* to friends of League members. Thank you to all who are participating in this fun letter-writing project.

Annual Campaign goals are \$15,000 for LWVCA and \$30,000 for the Education Fund. Very early progress through September 30 is \$660 for LWVCA and \$18,717 for the Education Fund, of which nearly \$12,000 was a bequest from the Philip Nightingale estate and \$6,884 was from members and the community.

Other projects to benefit the Annual Campaign will be targeted year-round corporate solicitations, including phone calls and visits; solicitations and proceeds from the Visions Luncheon, and a local Phonathon in March.

Fund Raising Progress: The accompanying chart shows total revenue through September 30 from all sources: investments, dues, bequests, events, and member, community, and corporate contributions. The purpose is to show progress towards meeting budgeted expenses. Of the nearly \$30,000 revenue so far in the Education Fund, \$10,313 is unrealized (paper) gains from the recently-surgeing stock market, which might not be available to help balance the current year budget.



WE THANK OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Presidential \$10,000+

Estate of Philip Nightingale

Leadership \$1,000+

Doris Adams, Marjorie Davies, Francie Pepper, Dee Shaffer

Benefactor \$500+

Patron \$100+

Corning Benton, Karen McGuirk, Susan Stanton, Phyllis Vogel

Friend

Kit Berger, Glenda Bernstein, Lee Burgett, Kathleen Chatham, Donna Dansker, Pat Earley, Ann Gilton, Susan Gorman, Joanne Grossman, Corinne Gutjahr, Sherrie Heyse, Florette Hoffheimer, Joan Honeck, Ruth Hubbard, Helen Hunter, Suzanne Joiner, Janet Kreider, Carolyn Meyers-Hughes, Marlene Muse, Marilyn Nicholson, Helen Rhoad, Carl Schmidt, Loraine Schultz, Mary Kercherval Short, Genevieve Smith, Sue Ann Spears, Alice Stadler, Victoria Tavares, Clare Weinschenker, Harvey Weitkamp, Gail Wick, Harriet Wilson

IN MEMORIAM

The League is sad to hear of the passing of **Martin Medow**, husband of Life Member **Miriam Medow**, in early October. Both were regular attendees at Hilltop unit meetings for many years. We send our sympathy to Miriam.

The League mourns the death of lifetime League member **Eleanor Skyllingstad** on September 8 at age 92. She was an artist, philanthropist, and member of the Hamilton-Fairfield unit. Our condolences to her family.

The League of Women Voters mourns the loss of **Terry McCoy** who died Oct. 2. Terry served as a board member for the League of Women Voters of the United States from 1994 to 1998, as the Ohio League's Legislative Director, then LWVO President from 2001 to 2005. Among her many contributions were her passionate advocacy for judicial reform and the abolition of the death penalty.

LWVCA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

(Sept 09)

Noah Fleischmann

Judith Harmony

Barbara & Everett Landen

Leslie McNeill

Brewster Rhoads

Maggie Shurte

Nancy Lu Walters

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS: *Local Program*

2nd Monday of the Month 11/9/09

Hilltop: 7:00 pm, Home of Helen and John Hunter.

Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm, Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Ave

2nd Thursday 11/9

Eastern Day: 12:00 noon with brown bag lunch, Marjorie P. Lee Home, 3550 Shaw Ave

2nd Tuesday 11/10/09

College Hill: 11:30, with snack, home of Lucia Hudson.

North Central: 12:00 noon, Friendship United Methodist Church, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd

Anderson: 7:00 pm, Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road **Note changed day*

Warren County: 7:30 pm, Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd

2nd Wednesday 11/12/09

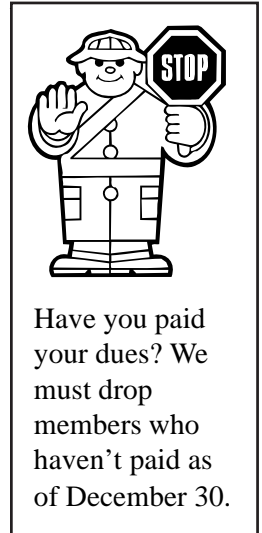
Central Evening: 7:15 pm, League Office, 103 Wm. H. Taft

3rd Wednesday, 11/18/09

Metro Day: 12:00 noon, League Office, 103 Wm. H. Taft

**Note: Hilltop and College Hill meet in individual member homes. Please see your membership directory or call the office or your unit chair for these addresses.*

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



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The LWVCA was one of the first leagues in the country to experiment with an internet based unit. Currently, however, we do not have an active group nor a unit chair. League members who would like to reactivate the "E-Unit" should contact the League Office at info@lwvcincinnati.org to communicate their interest.

FROM 7 KEYS TO GROW YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

By Carolyn Meyers-Hughes, Membership Chair

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

#3 Be visible!

How will our community know about the LWV, if, as members, we do not make our activities public? Talk up our organization and all of its excellent work, especially the successful candidate and issue forums in October. Additionally, make sure you understand how what you are doing ties into the bigger picture of community change/voter education/citizen participation. Is there a notice in the local paper for your unit meeting? Is there a place to hang the posters provided at the August Unit Leaders gathering?

Your assignment for November is to **ask someone to join the League.**

How many are we? As of October 6, there were 368 members of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area.



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



NOVEMBER LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

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

- Mon Nov 3 Hamilton County General Election
- Wed Nov 5 10:30 am Unit Chairs Meeting
- Fri Nov 6 Deadline for December Voter
- Thurs Nov 12 7:00 pm Natural Resources Committee
- Tues Nov 10 12 noon Steiner Fund Committee
- Tues Nov 10 6:30 pm LWVCA Board Meeting
- Mon Nov 16 6:30 pm County Government Committee
- Tues Nov 17 6:00 pm Investment Committee
- Tues Nov 17 7:00 pm Education Fund Committee
- Wed Nov 18 5:30 pm Program Development Committee (PDC)
- Thurs Nov 19 Voter Collating Party Hilltop Unit
- Thurs Nov 19 Reservation Deadline for Dinner with the League
- Sat Nov 21 8:30 am Hidden Treasures: A Human Relations Summit, Forest Park Senior Center, 11555 Winton Rd.
- Mon Nov 23 5:30 pm Dinner with the League, Kingsgate Marriott Conference Center, 151 Goodman Ave- see flyer for details.
- Tues Nov 24 6:30 pm Health Care Committee
- Nov 25-30 Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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

- Individual Membership (\$55) _____
- Household Membership (\$75) _____
- Student Membership (\$25) _____

Dues pose a hardship: I can pay this amount: _____

Optional nondeductible contribution to LWVCA _____

Name(s): _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (h): _____ Phone (w) _____

Email: _____

Mail to: LWVCA at the address above.