



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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October 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.

BE AN INFORMED VOTER! LWVCA CAN HELP!

Inside: October Election Issues Review

Next month, voters in our area will vote on:

- President and Vice President
- US Representatives to Congress
- Ohio State Senator (Dist. 8)
- Ohio State Representatives
- County Commissioners
- County Coroner, Engineer, Prosecutor, Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer
- Ohio Supreme Court Justices
- Court of Appeals Judges
- Common Pleas Court Judges
- County Clerk of Courts
- Members of state and county central committees of political parties
- State, county and local ballot issues.



October is the month to promote informed voting in our community in many ways. League voter service information includes our *Smartvoter* website with customized ballot lookups, distributing 100,000 printed "Who and What" voter guides, ballot issue discussions in each of our units (see insert), and candidate forums and debates.

LWV Ohio is hosting a Supreme Court debate the week of Oct 6 and an Attorney general debate the week of Oct 27 both distributed statewide to public television affiliates

LWVCA is participating as a cosponsor with the Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in televised debates on Channel 9 for candidates in the 1st (Oct 22) and 2nd (Oct 6) Congressional debates.

We are also extremely proud to be hosting and moderating a Candidate forum for the 34th Ohio House District with Candidates Jeff Sinnard and Peter Stautberg on October 9, 2008 at 7 pm. League member **Bette Evanshine** will be the moderator. The debate will take place at the new Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road. It will be televised live and re-run several times in October on Anderson Cable TV. The Anderson Unit is coordinating the event.

Information on how to evaluate candidates is available in publication "How to pick a candidate" available from the League office or on our website. The LWV-US has a great Debate Watching kit on their website: go to lwv.org, and select Projects, then Voter Information.

By Marjorie Davies

After a long primary season, Election Day is just a month away! League services are much in demand: **Sylvia Mersfelder**, **Doña Neiheisel**, and **Dottie Cowan** have coordinated volunteers to staff dozens of speaking engagements, issues forums, and voter registration events. On October 13, distribution will begin for our annual nonpartisan print voter guide, **Who & What of Elections**. This earlier printing was arranged to serve an expected deluge of early and absentee voters. The *Who & What* will also be included as an insert in the CityBeat newspaper in late October.



SmartVoter.org, our comprehensive nonpartisan online election guide, will be loaded with candidate responses by late September: biographical information, priorities, positions on issues that concern our community, and links to candidates' sites. SmartVoter.org provides a very cool service that looks up your individual ballot information based on the precinct in which you live, so that you can concentrate on just those issues and candidates that you will be voting on.

The LWVCA is working with the Cincinnati Chamber and Channel 9 to televise candidate debates for the First and Second Congressional Districts; dates are tentatively set for October 22 at 7 pm and October 6 at 7 pm, respectively; locations on page 8. The Anderson unit is sponsoring a debate of Ohio House District 34 candidates October 9 at 7:00 pm at the Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Rd, to be televised live by Anderson Cable.

City Government Committee, led by **Carolyn Miller**, is reviewing two likely ballot issues — to prepare pro and con information for our voter guides. (see insert)

Action Director **Gretchen Langdon** organized a summit of representatives of southwestern Ohio Leagues in Dayton on August 23 to explore opportunities to collaborate on action projects. Participants will be identifying major issues to address, and developing closer ties with LWVO lobbyists.

Carolyn Meyers-Hughes's Membership Committee has included a redesigned interest form with your renewal letter, to make it easier for you to make an impact on those issues that most concern you, whether that's health care, natural resources, education, city government, or any of our other program areas.

Neighborhood unit leaders met September 4 at **Mary Kay Gardner**'s home for a pot-luck dinner. **Don Rhoad**, VP of Program, described monthly discussion topics for the coming year and Membership Director **Carolyn Meyers-Hughes** offered ideas for welcoming new and existing members into our units. Please plan to attend a monthly unit meeting this program year in whichever neighborhood is convenient for you – nonmember visitors are welcome.

At our new Eastern Day unit September 4, **Dottie Cowan** led an animated discussion of Hot Topics: Home Foreclosures and Recycling. Fourteen members and guests enjoyed refreshments in the Marjorie P Lee library. Thank you to **Janet Kreider** and **Tucker McHugh** for the phone calls that made this a success.

A large and active Fund Development Committee, led by **Sherrie Heyse**, is investigating local foundations for selected project funding and targeting corporations for sponsorship of League publications and voter service activities.

Next month I will answer your questions on League finances, in response to a request made at Annual Meeting. For inclusion in this feature, please send your questions to me via email or postal mail before November 1. Planned topics: sources of revenues, LWVCA versus Education Fund expenses, how much of our dues are available for local activities, the status of fundraising efforts, and how the Steiner and Education Funds provide support for League projects.



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**.

Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates

By Sue Gorman

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) has scheduled 4 debates, three for the presidential candidates and one for the vice-presidential candidates. All debates will be 90 minutes and start at 9:00 pm. Each debate will be administered by a single moderator.

The first presidential debate occurred Sept. 26 and focused on domestic policy. The second presidential debate will be a town meeting format and include any issues raised by members of that audience. The third presidential debate will focus on foreign policy. During the vice presidential and third presidential debate, candidates will be seated at a table with the moderator. The moderator will introduce each segment with an issue on which the candidates will comment, after which the moderator will facilitate further discussion of the issue. According to CPD, "Loosening the constraints within the ninety minutes debate will allow for more serious examination of complicated questions. This change will also open the possibility of the moderator inviting candidates to question each other."

At the second presidential debate citizens will pose questions to the candidates. Participants will be undecided voters from the Nashville area chosen by the Gallup Organization and questions solicited via the Internet.

The following criteria were used to determine who was invited to participate: Candidates must be constitutionally eligible, appear on a sufficient number of state ballots to have a mathematical chance of winning a majority vote of the electoral college, and have 15% support in national polls before the debates.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE - Thurs, Oct 2

Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Moderator: Gwen Ifill, PBS

2nd PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (Town Meeting) - Tues, Oct 7

Belmont University, Nashville, TN

Moderator: Tom Brokaw, NBC

3rd PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE - Wed, Oct 15,

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

Moderator: Bob Schieffer, CBS

NONPARTISANSHIP DISCLAIMER

The League of Women Voters has a special history of maintaining its non-partisan approach. While we encourage our members to run for office, participate in party politics and help with campaigns, the League itself never supports or opposes any candidate for office. Board members have restrictions on what they may do politically to help maintain this reputation and to foster broad dialogue on issues. Because we are strictly nonpartisan, the gender of specific candidates is not a relevant issue for us.

Unfortunately a League Leader in New York was interviewed by local press about female candidacy and the outcome was an erroneous report on CNN hinting that the League of Women Voters supports Sarah Palin. Of course, League does not support or oppose this candidate. It is not clear whether the League member was misquoted or if she abused her role as officer of a local League. Certainly, this is a teachable moment to all of us to be very careful about how public statements can be misconstrued and can travel widely. The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area wants you to know that the League at all levels does not and will not support or oppose this or any candidate.

48th National League of Women Voters Convention

by Mary Kay Gardner

I was privileged to be one of four delegates from Cincinnati to go to this summer's National Convention in June. Every day we got a Credentials Report of numbers of persons in attendance and guests. Saturday we started out with 611 delegates and by Monday we had 684 delegates from 49 states. So we were a large Convention.

We were addressed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oregon Senate, two Governors of Oregon, the first women Governor and the Governor from 1994-2002, a Supreme Court Justice, Oxfam America, and two Professors from the Applied Ocean Sciences & the School of Public Policy.

This was also a busy Convention, as we set Program for the next two years, adopted Bylaws, adopted PMP (per member payment) of \$28 for this year and \$29.20 next year, adopted LWVUS Budget, heard Resolutions from different states, heard all items including "non-recommended" study items and elected a new National Board. (Continued on page 4)



Poll: Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools

The 40th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll (PDK/Gallup Poll) was released in August. League lobbyist Joan Platz summarized some of the findings for us. To read the full results of the poll, please visit www.pdkeducationpoll.org

Regarding the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2002: The majority (54 percent) of the public still know very little or nothing at all about NCLB. "Only one in four Americans believe the legislation is helping schools in their local communities. And if a school is labeled as failing under the law's accountability standards, equal numbers of Americans would blame the law as would blame the school." A greater number of public school parents believe that examples of student work (36%) and teacher observations (24%) are more accurate measures of student achievement than test scores (20%) or teacher grades (15%). ... "Over 40 percent of the public believes the next president should change the No

Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) significantly, while a quarter would like to see the law expire. Sixteen percent would like to see NCLB extended without change."

Note: Joan provides very useful summaries of state and

national education policy. Contact the League office for a copy of her report.



Hurricane Season

By Rina Saperstein

Sylvia Mersfelder and I attended a performance, poetry and activism event by a Brooklyn based group called "Climbing PoeTree."

Through video, slides, shadow art, taped interviews, statistics, music, chanting, dance and ritual the two performers tied national and international environmental and social issues together into a call

for activism and involvement. The League was one of three local groups invited to highlight solutions: ways for local people to make change in their community and the world. *Hurricane Season* was brought to Cincinnati by the HipHop Congress, a local group of artists and activists. For me, it was an intensely moving and informative event and an honor to be invited to participate. For more information see www.hurricaneseasonontour.com.



One Voice Can Make All the Difference Vote!

(Cont'd from page 3)

It was good to hear from our own Mary Wilson, National League President, on the *State of the League*. A great emphasis has been placed on publicity for League. League is on "Facebook" and 411(to vote). There is a new program for recruiting membership and before Convention \$80,000 was pledged. Remember "It is not sinful to seek publicity for the League." Besides all the interesting workshops and general sessions (plenaries), convention is a lot of other things. Late nights, lack of sleep, new friends, interesting conversations, and fun times. You are never alone with Leaguers; we're all "family." So if you have never gone to Convention, you should go to find out what you are missing; do go next time and you'll enjoy the experience. Thanks for sending me.



LWVO Spotlight On... Voter ID and Proof of Citizenship

CREATING BARRIERS: VOTER IDENTIFICATION AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

By Tim O'Brien, Project Specialist LWVUS

State legislatures continue to introduce legislation that creates barriers for citizens on their way to the voting booth. Over the past several years legislation has been introduced, and in some cases passed, across the nation that would require voter photo identification as a prerequisite to voting. Last year a new trend emerged - requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

The wave of voter photo identification requirements began after the 2004 elections. Today Indiana and Georgia require all voters to present a photo ID at the polls. If a voter does not have a photo ID they can cast a provisional ballot; however they must return with a photo ID in order for their votes to be counted. Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, South Dakota and Michigan request a photo ID while 17 other states require ID but not necessarily one with a photo.

It can be easy to assume that all of our fellow citizens have some form of photo identification, but in reality, many do not. Eleven percent or as many as 21 million Americans do not have a photo ID. Photo ID requirements have a disproportionate negative impact on specific groups of citizens. For instance; 18% of Americans over 65 (6 million), 25% of African Americans, 10% of 40 million people with disabilities and 15% of low income voters do not have a photo ID.

In Ohio the current requirements for Election Day voting according to the Secretary of State are:

- A current and valid photo identification (i.e. Ohio driver's license, state ID, government ID). Photo identification must show name and address (does not need to be current address for driver's license); or
- A military identification that shows the voter's name and current address; or
- A copy of a current utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address (including from a public college or university).

In 2007-2008 state legislative sessions's proof of citizenship legislation was introduced in 19 states. None of those bills became law, but we anticipate the trend will continue. To date only Arizona requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote. More than 38,000 voter registration applications have been thrown out since Arizona adopted its measure in 2004.

Once again this may appear to be a "reasonable" request; however, specific groups are disproportionately adversely affected by these reforms. A recent study showed that seven percent of the American citizens surveyed do not have ready access to U.S. passports, naturalization papers or birth certificates. This translates to more than 13 million American adult citizens nationwide who cannot easily produce documentation proving their citizenship.

As many as 32 million voting-age women may have citizenship documents that do not reflect their current name. Survey results show that only 48% of voting-age women with ready access to their U.S. birth certificates have a birth certificate with current legal name - and only 66% of voting-age women with ready access to any proof of citizenship have a document with current legal name.

The assault on voters will likely continue as long as an electoral advantage results from implementing legislation that creates additional barriers for targeted populations. That is why LWVUS has created the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP) to bolster the League's capacity for critical state-based advocacy. We are in phase three of the grant and are now working in the following nine targeted states: GA, FL, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, PA and WI.

PAVP focuses on approaches to five specific issues threatening the voting rights of citizens nationwide. We work to: (1) oppose ID and documentary proof of citizenship; (2) improve administration of statewide database systems; (3) guard against undue restrictions on voter registration; (4) improve polling place management; (5) improve poll worker training and strengthen poll workers.

To learn more about Voter ID and Proof of Citizenship as well as the PAVP project go to www.lwv.org/PAVP.

Source:

Brennan Center A Survey Of Americans' Possession Of Documentary Proof Of Citizenship And Photo Identification. www.federalelectionreform.com/pdf/citizens%20without%20proof.pdf

“Political action is really the League’s reason for being.”

By Gretchen Langdon, Action Chair

So begins the “Program: Action and Advocacy” section of *In League in Ohio*. As you know, the League thoroughly studies a political issue and has a process to reach consensus in order to have well articulated positions. All positions are reviewed biennially during program planning to ensure relevance and membership buy-in. Actions and advocacy activities are based on these positions and need the approval of the appropriate board (local, state or national) before action is taken.

League has professional lobbyists in Washington as well as volunteer lobbyist corps at the state level. In addition to the League lobbyists, local Leagues have a responsibility to act on positions when asked to do so by the state and national levels. Local Leagues receive Action Alerts from the state and national Leagues. Most local action activities originate in our program committees.

But what exactly does “to take action” mean? *In League in Ohio* defines League action and advocacy activities as:

- Letter to the editor or editorial columns, signed by the president.
- Personal letters (not mentioning the League) from members, at the direction of the board.
- Information on League web site (*not* a voter service part of the site)
- Newspaper advertisements
- Circulation of petitions
- Rallies and demonstrations
- Speaker’s bureau
- Radio talk shows
- Blogs

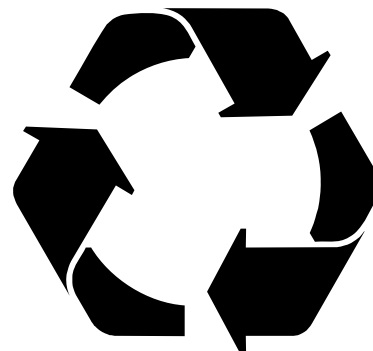
In the months to come, LWVCA will be forwarding Action Alerts to all our members who have email. Members without email can receive them in the mail by contacting the office. If you participate in an action/advocacy activity, please let us know so that we can let others know about it. Each month, *The Voter* will contain a summary of the Action Alerts, local action and the outcome (if any). Social change is never quick or easy and there is only one way to make it happen – STAY ACTIVE!

How can communities encourage recycling?

By Jeff Davis, Natural Resources Committee

In Cincinnati, residents are not charged for curbside recycling. In other local communities, however, residents are charged an extra fee for recycling, thus creating a disincentive to recycle. Rather than charging for recycling, more than 7,000 U.S. cities and many European countries charge a fee based on the amount of garbage thrown away, so that there is an incentive to recycle and reduce the amount disposed of as garbage. For example, residents would buy special bags or stickers for trash (with possibly the first bag or can free). The advantage of such a system is that it changes the incentives in favor of recycling more and trash less; proponents cite a 17% reduction of waste going to landfills. The disadvantages include the possibilities of increased illegal dumping, residents overly compacting trash to fit it in a single container, perceived unfairness to large families, and the challenges of overcoming a mindset in many communities where the cost of garbage disposal is invisible.

The city of Montgomery, Ohio, is taking an alternative approach: Rather than punish residents for not recycling, they are rewarding residents for recycling. Residents have the option to sign up for a two-year trial program. Those who sign up get a larger recycling container, which is weighed on a weekly basis. Coupons worth up to \$420 per year are then distributed based on the weight of recyclable material a residence generates each week. These coupons can then be exchanged for discounts at local stores. The initiative is part of the national RecycleBank program (www.recyclebank.com).



Leaguers Learn Green Is Good on Roofs

By Don Rhoad

Nineteen members and guests participated in the League's Green Roof Afternoon event on Saturday, August 16. We convened at the beautiful Civic Garden Center for lunch, then heard presentations describing green, or vegetated, roofs and the economic and ecological advantages that they offer.

The program at the Civic Garden Center featured Virginia Russell, Associate Professor of Architecture at UC, and Gary Meisner, principle of Meisner + Associates planning and landscape architecture firm. They explained the various types of green roof designs and their respective advantages and disadvantages. The Intensive approach utilizes a six-inch or less combination of growth media and drainage elements, while the Extensive system is thicker and heavier, allowing the use of a greater variety of plants. Among the advantages of green roofs are storm water management, air quality, energy conservation, sound attenuation, and aesthetics.

The second half of the afternoon offered a visit to a Metropolitan Sewer District site on West Galbraith Road where a relatively new green roof could be viewed. Virginia was joined by this roof's designer, David Hart of Tremco Inc. This site visit required a climb up steep metal steps, but most folks opted for the climb and were rewarded with an excellent close-up look at a real green roof.

The League thanks **Nancy Dawley** for suggesting this program, then coordinating the key role of Virginia Russell and the other presenters.

The success of the Green Roof Afternoon was measured by the number of those attending who thought to themselves, "I wonder if I could do this with my roof."



Green Energy Ohio's 2008 Solar Tour - Cincinnati - October 4th

by Ginnell Schiller, OEQ, Climate Protection Coordinator

Learn how renewable energy is working for numerous Cincinnatians and can work for you! Encompassing sustainable features beyond solar energy, this event features self-guided, guided or open house tours and highlights a growing list of over 21 sites with solar, wind, biomass, green design and energy-savings technologies at homes in old and new urban settings, energy company solar arrays, commercial and industrial sites, training programs, , parks, schools, and other public sites. Visit www.greenenergyohio.org for more information or call (614) 985-6131.

Observer Corps: Notes on Board of Elections Meeting Aug. 2, 2008

by Nancy Forbriger, LWVCA BOE Liaison

All Board members were present.

Results of August 5, city of Harrison certified. The BOE certified candidates and issues list for the Nov 4, 2008 Election. Additional candidates for minor parties' Presidential and Vice Presidential offices may be added by the state.

There were 3 state constitutional amendments proposed and approved and 3 pending for the Ballot. (See insert) As of Aug 22, there were 12 City ballot issues: Eight local option requests for Sunday Liquor Sales, and four for gas aggregation. Home Rule charter cities have until Sept 5 to file Charter amendments. Twenty-one Villages and Township have issues, Six School Districts and three other special districts. The Board fears it may be a two page ballot due to the long ballot wording on the state issues.

The Board will be mailing voter I.D. cards and Absent Voter Applications on Sept 5. Two citizens spoke against encouraging absentee voting, saying it is open to voter error by which a voter may lose his vote. BOE staff reported that in 2006, 3% of the AV ballots were not counted.

The Board was reminded that each provisional voter is supposed to receive a card with a phone number to call to find out if his vote was counted. They also stated that some other counties put their Board minutes on line, which they found very helpful.

Local Congressional Debates

The Ohio 1st Congressional District debate will be held Wednesday, October 22 from 7-8 pm in the Harriet Tubman Theatre at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

The Ohio 2nd Congressional District debate will be held Monday, October 6 from 7-8 pm at the Anderson Center.

Both of these debates will be broadcast live on WCPO-Channel 9.

Anderson Unit in News

Anderson Unit was featured in Forest Hills Journal, thanks to an excellent article by member **Sara Johnson**.

Sherrie Heyse and **Gail Wick** were interviewed on "Anderson Speaks" a local interview show shown on Cable Access throughout the month of September. Gail and Sherrie were promoting the 34th Ohio District Candidates Debate which will be held October 7. Anderson Unit also had a wonderful voting display in the Anderson Public Library.



State of Recycling in Cincinnati

By *Jeff Davis, Natural Resources Committee**

In 2006, Americans generated about 251 million tons of residential trash, and recycled or composted 32.5% of that amount. That's about 4.6 pounds generated per person per day, with 1.5 pounds recycled or composted. Recycling rates are measured differently in different locations, so it is a mistake to compare national and local numbers.

Cincinnati's dispose of 120,000 tons of trash in the Rumpke landfill every year. A 2004 study estimated that trash disposed of in landfills in Ohio consisted of 42% paper, 16% plastic, 5% glass, and 4% metal, a total of 67% of trash that can be recycled. Much of the rest is compostable food waste and yard waste. Yet Cincinnati's diversion rate (proportion of waste recycled) was 9% in 2006 (according to Rumpke, this would be 18% if you factored in yard waste).

The recycling contract costs Cincinnati about \$2.1 million dollars per year. The City also spends about \$9 million per year to collect, haul and dispose of garbage at the Rumpke landfill (including a \$24.50/ton tipping fee). Cincinnati receives back \$28 per ton of recycled materials from Hamilton County Solid Waste District as a Residential Recycling Initiative (RRI) grant, a total of \$344,982 compensation in 2006. Collecting more recyclable material could thus reduce tipping fees and increase the incentives paid by Hamilton County.

Clearly, recycling in the City has room for improvement: only 37% of households participated in the program. But initiatives to increase recycling (which included more publicity and more initiatives to get bins distributed, as well as an increasing general community awareness of green concerns) seem to be working. After years of a decline in recycling rates, the diversion rate increased to 10% in 2007, and to 13% for the first half of 2008. Overall, a 10% increase in recycling tonnage was measured between the first half of 2007 and the first half of 2008.

Mayor Mark Mallory introduced the Cincinnati Community Recycling Challenge as part of Mayor's Green Recycling Plan in April, 2008. Cincinnati neighborhoods are encouraged to sign up and participate in reaching six-month recycling goals; Rumpke will award prizes of \$250. In May, 2008, City Council passed measures to expand the city's recycling program, including offering services at all apartments, condominiums, and public housing units. These initiatives will need to be funded in the 2009/2010 City budget before they can be implemented. Council also passed a motion that the city administration renegotiate the curbside recycling contract with Rumpke and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the competitive bidding process; the new contract should pay the recycling contractor based on the annual recycled tonnage rather than a flat amount. The motion sets a goal of 30% diversion rate by 2015. Many grassroots organizations – including the Environmental Advisory Committee, Sierra Club, Environmental Community Organization (ECO), and the Blue Green Alliance – played a key role in emphasizing the importance of recycling and urging Cincinnati City Council to act.

As recommended by Cincinnati City Council's Environmental Advisory Council EAC, the responsibility for the city's recycling program will be transferred from the Public Services Department to the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) this fall. The OEQ will issue the RFP for the city's recycling program and provide oversight for the recycling contract. The OEQ plans to hire a Recycling Coordinator by November 2008 to further improve the City's recycling efforts.

Other Environmental Advisory Council recommendations include:

- Consider a limited "pay-as-you-throw" plan.
- Promote recycling within City departments, including using recycled material.
- Require recycling for special public events like the Taste of Cincinnati.

(Continued on page 9)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Housing Committee

The Housing Committee welcomes anyone who would like to learn about housing issues to join us at 7 pm the third Monday of each month at the League office. The Committee is an active one: sponsoring forums, studying issues, and following up with action on League's national position: "Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."



LWVCA joined the Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) at its inception and has played an active part with the group since then. Several of our housing committee members attend regularly, and three members sit on the AHA Board of Directors. AHA has a long list of accomplishments which may be reviewed by visiting its website at www.ahacincy.org. In addition to AHA, LWVCA joined The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless last year. To view goals and accomplishments of the Coalition for the Homeless, visit the organization's website at www.cincihomeless.org.

In past years our committee hosted affordable housing tours as well as forums on fair housing, senior issues in housing, and subsidized housing. The problems of substandard housing in the area, lead contamination in housing stock, and foreclosure issues became the topics of research and publications. These are available for you to review on our own League website under publications.



Housing Committee members: (L-R) Helen Rhoad, Chris Moran, and Bette Evanshine

The committee urged members to support the Foreclosure Forum at the Fairfield Arts Center on September 16. **Elizabeth Brown** did this presentation and also in September moderated a forum for the AHA Annual Meeting. This included presentations concerning foreclosures issues, Section 8, and Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Especially of interest is *Dinner with the League* Monday, October 27, at the Vernon Manor. Al DeJarnett will present the Stable Integrated Neighborhood Study results following the dinner. (This was originally scheduled for September but had to be postponed.) His presentation will provide the basis for the November unit discussions concerning Stable Integrated Neighborhoods. The committee is

also preparing the November *Voter* insert for the unit discussions. You don't need to be an expert in housing issues to join our committee, but you will have the opportunity to learn about the housing industry and help make a difference for people in need. Any questions? Please call **Helen Rhoad** or any of the members of the committee.

(Cont'd from page 8)

- Work with the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce to provide a market for recyclables.

Cities, villages and townships outside Cincinnati vary in their recycling programs and in their recycling rates.

Resources:

- Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Department of Solid Waste, recycling information: www.hamiltoncountyclecycling.org/
- Cincinnati Recycling Information: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/pubsvr/pages/-10147-/

*Thanks to Larry Falkin, Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality, for quickly reviewing portions of the article and providing clarification.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kim Thompson has rejoined the League Board as our new Treasurer. She is a member of the E-unit, and has participated on the Budget Committee, Website committee and as Public Relations

Director. Kim works as a Registered Client Associate for Wachovia Securities, and lives in eastern Cincinnati with her husband Keith and two cats.

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

I became a League member in the early 1990's. I met some other League members through a collaborative program with the company I worked for at the time. The members were very dedicated to environmental issues. I was impressed with their knowledge and commitment, and gladly joined the League when they invited me to do so.

Q: What do you enjoy about league membership?

I really enjoy the camaraderie among League members. I also enjoy working together toward our common goals and seeing the results of our efforts.

Q: What do you look forward to as Treasurer?

I look forward to helping to educate the general membership about League finances. I think there's a need and a desire for this, and I look forward to the challenge.

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

I live in the Columbia-Tusculum area. I've lived there for over 10 years and enjoy the diversity of the residents, the community spirit, and the unique architecture of the area.

Q: What have you been reading lately?

I wish I had more time for recreational reading. Recently, I read "The Glass Castle" by Jeanette Walls. I was inspired by the way the author overcame her upbringing to become successful.

COMMUNITY SHARES: *Community, Priority, Choice*

By Sherrie Heyse, LWVCA Fundraising Chair

The LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati,



a partnership of 27 local nonprofit organizations building social and economic equity and a healthy environment in Greater Cincinnati. Community Shares raises awareness and support for its member organizations through workplace giving campaigns, professional enrichment, and community education.

Community Shares provides employees with the opportunity to make charitable contributions through payroll deduction. It is unique in that each donor has complete flexibility in choosing the Community Shares member organizations he supports. You can give to the nonprofits that match your personal values and make Greater Cincinnati a stronger community in the ways that matter to you most. If your workplace already supports a Community Shares campaign, you will probably receive information in October to secure your pledge for 2009; we hope you'll include LWVCA Education Fund in your designated choices.

The LWVCA Education Fund receives over \$6,000 a year in donations from the workplace giving campaigns. It's easy for a workplace to get involved – to find out more, please contact Community Shares (513-475-0475) for information on establishing a workplace campaign. For more information on Community Shares and its member agencies, visit www.CintiShares.org or call the office for a brochure.

If you would like to help the LWVCA Education Fund as a liaison to Community Shares, please call **Sherrie Heyse**. The liaison would be a contact for our organization and would be expected to attend quarterly daytime meetings with Community Shares. This position is not hard and is an essential part of our fundraising plan.

OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS**TOPIC: Election Ballot Issues****ANDERSON**

Wednesday, Oct 8, 7 pm

Anderson Center, Conference Room, 7850 Five Mile Rd

CENTRAL EVENING

Wednesday, Oct 8, 7:15 pm

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

103 Wm Howard Taft Rd

Discussion Leader: **Chris Moran****COLLEGE HILL**

Tuesday, Oct 14, 11:30 am Brown Bag

Location: TBA

Discussion Leader: **Mary Kay Gardner****EASTERN DAY**

Thursday, Oct 2, 12 noon

Marjorie P Lee Retirement Center Library

3550 Shaw Ave

Discussion Leader: **Mary Kay Gardner****HAMILTON-FAIRFIELD**

Date/Location TBA please see online calendar

or call the office

HILLTOP

Monday, Oct 13, 7 pm

Location: TBA

Discussion Leader: **Elizabeth Jamison****METRO DAY**

Wednesday, Oct 15, 12 noon, Brown Bag

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

103 Wm Howard Taft Rd

NORTH CENTRAL

Tuesday, Oct 14, 12 noon, Brown Bag

Friendship United Methodist

Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd

Discussion Leader: **Doris Adams****NORTHEAST EVENING**

Monday, Oct 13, 7:30 pm

Madeira Municipal Bldg

Euclid & Miami Ave

Discussion Leader: **Helen and Don Rhoad****WARREN COUNTY**

Tuesday, Oct 14, 7:30 pm

Mason United Methodist

773 Mason-Montgomery Rd

E-UNITOnline at: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvca_internet*All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend! Check lwvcincinnati.org for updated dates and locations***EVENTS IN OCTOBER:**

Thurs - Oct 2, 9 pm Vice Presidential Debate (Televised-PBS)

Sat - Oct 4, Voter Newsletter Submissions Deadline

Mon - Oct 6, Ohio Voter Registration Deadline for November Election

Mon - Oct 6, 7 pm 2nd Congressional District Candidate Debate (Televised WCPO Channel 9)

Tues - Oct 7, 6:30 pm League Board Meeting*

Tues - Oct 7, 9 pm Presidential Debate (Televised-NBC)

Thurs - Oct 9, 7 pm LWVCA Candidates Debate for 34th Ohio House District, Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road (also televised on Anderson Cable TV)

Mon - Oct 13, 10 am *Who and What* Voter Guide Distribution*

Thurs - Oct 15, 9 pm Presidential Debate (Televised-CBS)

Mon - Oct 20, 5:30 pm County Government Committee*

Mon - Oct 20, 7:00 pm Housing Committee*

Wed - Oct 22, 6:00 pm Program Development Committee (PDC)*

Wed - Oct 22, 7:30 pm Eve Discussion Leaders Briefing*

Wed - Oct 22, 1st Congressional District Candidate Debate (Televised WCPO Channel 9)

Sat - Oct 25, 1:00 pm Day Discussion Leaders Briefing*

Mon - Oct 27, 5:30 pm Dinner with the League, "Stable Integrated Communities" Vernon Manor Hotel, 400 Oak Ave \$25 Dinner; \$5 speaker only.

Tues - Oct 28, 6:00 pm LWV Clermont County Meeting. Receptions, East. For info www.lwvclermont.com 513-284-1453

Tues - Oct 28, 6:30 pm Health Care Committee*

Diversity Committee, Natural Resources Committee: please see our web calendar for October meeting date.

As always, see our website calendar (www.lwvcincinnati.org) for more information on upcoming events.

* Location: League Meeting Room

