



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

THE VOTER

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-281-8683 Fax: 513-281-8714
info@lwvcincinnati.org www.lwvcincinnati.org

October 2010

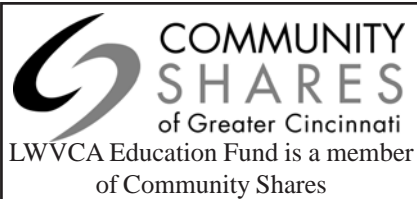
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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all men and women over 18. For 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.



**VISIONS FOR GREATER CINCINNATI
October 7, 2010**

For 17 years, *Visions for Greater Cincinnati* has been the largest fund raising event benefiting the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). This nonpartisan charitable fund supports the annual *Who & What of Elections* publication as well as the interactive online guide smartvoter.org, phone hotline 281-VOTE, speakers' bureau, and directory of public officials *They Represent Us*.

This year's dinner, timed to coincide with the release of the *Who & What*, will be Thursday, October 7 in the Westin Hotel Taft Ballroom. The evening begins with a social hour/silent auction 6:00-7:00 pm, followed by dinner, welcome, and award presentation 7:00-8:00 pm, and keynote speech 8:00-8:30 pm.

- Keynote speaker Doug Bolton, publisher of the Cincinnati Business Courier, will discuss "Opportunities for Greater Cincinnati Innovation Leadership."
- Recipient of the 2010 Daniel J. Ransohoff Civic Award is the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Leadership Cincinnati Class 27 team, which established the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy.
- During the dinner, eleven works by renowned wildlife artist John Ruthven will be auctioned by Jonas Karp of Main Auction Galleries, with proceeds to the League.



Tickets are \$75 for League members and \$100 for nonmembers, or \$1,000 for a sponsorship table of 10. Mail your check to the League office or register online with credit card at lwvcincinnati.org; click on Upcoming Events. Reservations close October 1.

For more information, call the League office at 281-8683. Join other League supporters in celebrating the release of the *Who & What of Elections*, and benefit our crucial voter services!

**OCTOBER DISCUSSION AND GUEST SPEAKER:
Ensuring an Impartial Judiciary**

There is hardly a political question in the United States which does not sooner or later turn into a judicial one.—Alexis DeTocqueville

This is the year that Ohio votes for judges.

- Ohio Chief Justice
- Ohio Supreme Court (2 benches)
- Ohio Court of Appeals (2 benches)
- Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas (8 benches)

(Continued page 9)



October is go-time for Leagues around the country as the public turns to us to provide nonpartisan election information, and our League is no different.

Voter Service, headed by VP **Susan Banoun**, has been working hard to publish an excellent *Who and What of Elections* and *SmartVoter* pages. We are proud to co-sponsor several debates in the area, including 34th Ohio House and 7th Ohio Senate Districts on Oct. 19, and with the Cincinnati USA Chamber Alliance, Cincinnati Enquirer, WCPO-TV and Cincinnati. Printing of the *Who and What of Elections* is expected early October with 100,000 copies distributed. *SmartVoter* is an invaluable tool during the election season, and one I hope you are telling all your friends and neighbors about. It has great interactive features, including ballot lookup, links to candidate forums and websites, and news stories about the issues on the ballot.

October also means our fundraiser, **Visions for Greater Cincinnati**, is upon us. It has been revamped this year as a Dinner on Thursday, October 7 at the Westin Hotel. Please join me in attending, as Visions is the major fundraiser benefiting the LWVCA Education Fund, which makes all our voter services activities possible. Thanks to VP **Marjorie Davies** and her committee for making this event possible.

Fall is a time that the League gets to shine. Thank you continuing your membership with such a vital organization as the Cincinnati Area League.

In League

Melissa Currence, LWVCA President

BOARD BRIEFS AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

- Current membership total in September was 368. Nine units are currently active.
- The board retreat on August 21 was a good start toward a long-range plan. We decided to solicit member input on strategic planning during the October unit meetings.
- LWVCA will provide timekeepers during the U.S. District 1 and District 2 debates. Contact **Melissa Currence** if you are interested in volunteering.
- Because of the lack of election issues, the October program will involve Impact Ohio, and two representatives from LWVO are helping put together a presentation titled “Ensuring an Impartial Judiciary.”
- **Carolyn Miller** was appointed LWVCA representative to the Citizens Budget Coalition.
- The Social Media ad-hoc committee met August 10 to discuss pros and cons of use of social media. Agreement reached that LWVCA should be involved in one or more of these venues and decided that initial focus will be on Facebook.
- **Beth Kochheiser** was featured in the August 11 Cincinnati Enquirer business section. **Nancy Dawley** was featured on the Local 12’s Newsmakers program on waterworks.
- The goal release date for *Who and What of Election* is October 4 or earlier in order to meet the October 7 Visions event date.
- A pilot of **Vote411.org** is being planned for the LWVCA starting this election.
- The Summer Bus Tour was a success with 43 total attendees participating. Thanks to **John Hunter** for his efforts in organizing the outing.
- The Education Committee would like to participate in the LWVO study on education funding and is currently

LWVCA 2010-11 Board of Directors:

President: **Melissa Currence**

President Elect: **OPEN**

Treasurer: **Kim Thompson**

Secretary: **Glenda Bernstein**

Vice President, Program: **Nancy Dawley**

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

Vice President, Administration: **Pinky Kokoshis**

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

Director, Public Relations: **Alice Schneider**

Director, Membership: **Mary Van Ausdall**

Director, Unit Coordinator: **Susan Lehman**

Executive Director: Beth Kochheiser

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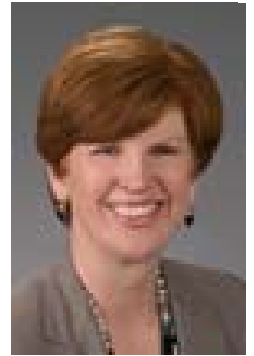
MEET THE NEW LWVUS PRESIDENT: ELISABETH MACNAMARA

Elisabeth MacNamara is the 18th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). A longtime DeKalb County, Georgia resident, Ms. MacNamara was elected national League president in Atlanta during the League of Women Voters’ 49th Biennial Convention and celebration of the organization’s 90th anniversary.

Ms. MacNamara joined the League in 1983 and has since served in leadership roles at all levels—local, state and national. She has served on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Georgia and of DeKalb County, specializing in Courts/Criminal Justice. She had been President of the Georgia League since 2001.

Professionally, Ms. MacNamara is an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in charge of the office’s juvenile court division in DeKalb County. Prior to this promotion, she had served as assistant district attorney since 1986. Her interest in juvenile justice arose after years of volunteering for the public high school activities of her two sons, including mock trial, academic bowl, track, marching band and cross country. She has also served as a staff attorney for the National Center for State Courts and law clerk for the Superior Court of DeKalb County.

Ms. MacNamara graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in 1976 and a J.D. in 1979. She is a proud member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Delta Epsilon, and has lived in DeKalb County, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, since 1974.



HOW DO WE DESCRIBE THE LEAGUE?

By Cheryl Graeve, LWV US

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join us in making democracy work!

This sentence was designed by marketing professionals to help share the benefits of membership in the organization. It’s clearly not as snappy as Nike’s “Just Do It” and doesn’t roll off the tongue as easily - but it can be effective when included in a press statement or email signature. I’ll add in CAPS what the sentence is meant to convey

The League of Women Voters is where hands on (GRASSROOTS/REAL COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVISTS) work to safeguard democracy (SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY WHAT MOST THINK WE DO ALREADY) leads to civic improvement (BETTER COMMUNITY/COUNTRY - WHICH MOST PEOPLE WANT). Join us (JOIN US/YOU ARE WELCOME!!!) in making democracy work.



League members in New York State and elsewhere sport this “temporary tattoo” to show their allegiance at fairs and events.

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

SHOULD WE DISPLAY JUDICIAL CANDIDATES' POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS?

By Meg G. Flack, President LWV Ohio (Letter to the Editor of the Columbus Dispatch)

A lawsuit filed in federal court seeks to require that Ohio judicial candidates' political affiliations appear on the November ballot and seeks to allow judicial candidates to personally solicit campaign contributions. Ohio law and the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct currently prohibit these to minimize the role of partisan politics in judicial elections.

The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees Ohio, recently struck down similar prohibitions in Kentucky, stating:

While political identification may be an unhelpful way to pick judges, it assuredly beats other grounds, such as the all-too-familiar formula of running candidates with familiar or popular last names. In that respect this informational ban increases the likelihood that one of the least relevant grounds for judicial selection – the fortuity of one's surname – is all that the voters will have to go on.

Research shows the majority of voters say they lack information about judicial candidates—and few would agree that voting for a candidate with a popular last name is a good way to select our judiciary. However, further politicizing judicial races exacerbates the problem by increasing the likelihood judges will be selected for reasons having little or nothing to do with their judicial qualifications.

The increased politicization ignores the fact that judges are not like other political candidates who are elected based on their promises to voters, and are re-elected based on how well they fulfill those promises. Judges are different. Judges are expected to apply the law fairly and impartially regardless of their own ideology or that of their supporters.

We need to get politics out of Ohio's judicial races – not make them more political. The League of Women Voters of Ohio has long supported an appointment / retention-election system that retains Ohioans' right to vote on judges; that is open and transparent; and in which a commission would evaluate and report on the performance of judges, providing voters with much more information than they now have.

Yes, there is a better way to select our judges. The increasing politicization of judicial campaigns—and the wide-spread perception that campaign contributions influence judges' decisions—make it imperative that Ohioans seriously consider moving to an appointment / retention-election system.

NOV. 2, 2010 – A CRITICAL ELECTION FOR OHIO

More value of Smart Voter

By Nancy Dawley, Program VP

Despite the small number of candidates and lack of issues on the November ballot, this 2010 election is critical for the people of Ohio. Three reasons:

1. Redistricting of Federal Congressional Districts will occur by the newly elected Ohio Legislature. In past years redistricting was done in a very partisan way, depending on which political party won the most seats. The Ohio League of Women Voters spent several years working to change this, but was unable to get a bill passed this past summer in the Ohio legislature. Voters can still speak for fairer districting by electing candidates that pledge to support a non-partisan redistricting process. ***Use Smart Voter to find out your candidates' views on this topic.***
2. There are many county and state judicial races. Candidates for these positions are frequently less-known than other candidates. But their impact on our democracy is profound. *The law makes a promise—neutrality. If the promise gets broken, the law as we know it ceases to exist. All that's left is the dictate of a tyrant, or perhaps a mob.* –U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. ***Use Smart Voter to find out your candidates' views on this topic.***
3. The recent Supreme Court's ruling to permit corporations and unions to donate unlimited funds to campaigns finds about 70% of Americans in disagreement. The ruling could be mitigated by legislation in Congress. ***Use Smart Voter to find out your candidates' views on this topic.***

How do you make the most of your vote?

Finding information on each candidate is made easier by the League of Women Voters. Begin with *Smart Voter* and *Who and What of Elections*. *Smart Voter* provides candidate history and answers to pertinent questions as well as many informational links to non-partisan websites, news stories, interviews, debates, and white papers written by the League.

www.smartvoter.org

LWV-OHIO WILL NOT PURSUE DATABASE CLAIM IN ELECTION ADMINISTRATION LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On August 31, the League of Women Voters of Ohio resolved the final item in its historic lawsuit seeking to fix defects in the way Ohio conducts its elections.

The federal lawsuit, filed in 2005, alleged that for over 30 years, the offices of the Ohio Secretary of State and Governor had failed to protect the fundamental rights of eligible Ohio voters to cast a meaningful ballot. The settlement agreement reached in June 2009 required that the state provide uniformity and consistency in Ohio election procedures so that the opportunity to vote can be enjoyed equally by all Ohio citizens.

However, the settlement agreement did not resolve plaintiffs' claim relating to the accuracy of Ohio's statewide voter registration database, implemented in 2005-2006 by then-Secretary of State Blackwell. When the settlement agreement was reached in 2009, Secretary Brunner was still refining the processes to be used to compare voter information contained in the statewide voter registration database with information contained in Bureau of Motor Vehicle and Social Security Administration databases, and with information maintained by local boards of elections.

The Secretary filed reports on the status of voter registration database issues on December 31, 2009, and June 30, 2010. The reports outlined the matching process and detailed the requirements placed on local boards of elections to achieve uniform criteria for handling voters' records. The reports also detailed the constraints the Secretary faced in verifying records due to limited access to the Social Security Administration's database to check existing records.

After careful review of the reports and a meeting between Secretary of State administrators and League leadership and election specialists, LWV-Ohio concluded that the Secretary has made sufficient progress in improving the accuracy of the database and in ensuring procedures are in place to address future inaccuracies to warrant dismissal of the remaining claim. It is recognized that there will always be errors, but a uniform statewide process to resolve them is now in place.

LWV-Ohio elections specialist Peg Rosenfield notes, "The Secretary of State recognized the problems with the database and has made significant progress addressing them. Many types of errors, inconsistencies and incomplete data have been reduced to a small fraction of those existing three years ago. More importantly, there are best practice guidelines and uniform standards statewide to address and resolve inconsistencies on an ongoing basis as they arise."

On August 31, 2010, the League filed a notice with the court indicating it did not intend to pursue this claim, thus resolving the final issue of the lawsuit. The terms of the agreement will remain in effect until January 11, 2015. The League of Women Voters of Ohio will continue to monitor the election-administration efforts to ensure compliance with the terms of the settlement agreement and the accuracy of the voter registration database.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR OHIOANS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Thanks to the recently passed federal health reform law – the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – the state of Ohio took an important step last month to provide affordable, health insurance to uninsured individuals who have been denied or priced out of coverage due to a pre-existing condition.

Ohio's High Risk Pool – which will be administered by Medical Mutual of Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Insurance – began accepting applications on August 1, 2010, and began offering benefits on September 1, 2010. The Ohio High Risk Pool provides a health insurance option to thousands of uninsured Ohioans who have been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition, and are currently unable to access affordable health insurance. Unlike traditional insurance plans, applicants within this state-based pool cannot be charged higher premiums or denied coverage because of their medical problems or the medications they take.

In order to qualify for Ohio's High Risk Pool, applicants must be a citizen or national of the United States; be an Ohio resident; have a pre-existing condition; and have been without health care coverage 6 months or more before the application date.

However, this insurance pool is just a bridge to 2014, when additional provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will be implemented. Beginning in 2014, this legislation will ban insurance companies from discriminating against individuals with pre-existing conditions, provide low and middle-income individuals with tax credits to purchase insurance, and put strict new limits on what health insurers can charge in out-of-pocket costs.

BIONEERS 2010 IN CINCINNATI: A CONFERENCE ON GREEN URBANISM

October 15-17, 2010

Cintas Center, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sponsored by Imago.

A conference for people passionate about solutions for restoring people and planet



- LEARN about local advances from leading innovators
- CONNECT with other people committed to greening our cities
- APPLY these innovations in your own life and in your community
- EXPLORE cultural, social, and spiritual transitions for healthy planetary citizenship.
- DEVELOP “next step” strategies for a sustainable future

Join us as we learn about all of the amazingly green things going on in our region and be a part of the solution as we work together to create a Green Cincinnati!

Contact: Imago (513)-921-5124 www.imagoearth.org/bioneers

SAFE TAP WATER

By *Nancy Dawley, Program VP/Natural Resources Committee*

We all depend on safe water coming out of the tap. Many of our nation’s water systems, built in the early 20th century, are reaching the end of their lifespan. Without federal funding, communities simply cannot afford to make necessary repairs to pipes and water systems. This is a problem that should not be ignored; safe management of human waste was a major factor in the reduction of dysentery-like diseases over the last century. Each time a pipe breaks or a treatment system is too small for current volume, raw waste flows into neighborhoods, creeks, and rivers, recreating the unsanitary conditions of the late 1800’s.

Food & Water Watch, a nonprofit consumer organization has initiated a campaign called *Renew America’s Water*. The purpose is to encourage American citizens to lobby Congress to create a dedicated source of federal funding for maintaining water systems. While this is not a League supported issue at this time, Leaguers who want to consider one possible solution can go to this website: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/renew/renew-americas-water/>.

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REPORT

By *Shirley Jason, LWVCA BOE Liaison*

In the August special election in Mt. Healthy, only 325 voters out of 4,410 registered voters (7.37%) voted. A tax levy was defeated by a 44 vote margin: 184 to 140 votes.

Voters have begun to receive their applications for early voting. Early voting opens (35 days before election) September 28th and closes October 31, 2010. One of the Board of Elections’ focuses has been training for poll workers, making sure they are properly trained and evaluations are conducted. They are now providing in-house training, which is cost effective. They also recently purchased a new copier which allows them to do a lot of in-house printing and is also cost-effective.

“I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end.”
—Suffragist Alice Paul

***Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire’s Slaves* by Adam Hochschild**

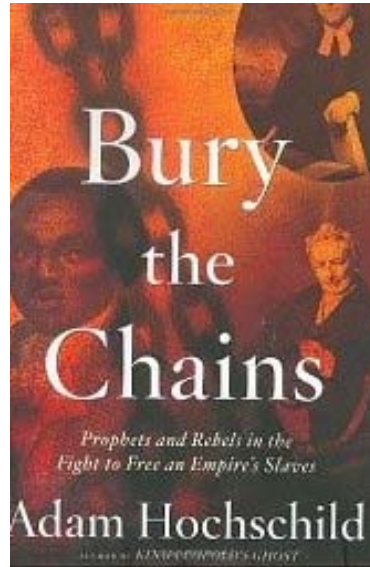
Reviewed by Rina Saperstein

This book traces civic advocacy for change in the eighty year history of the British slavery abolition movement. While “Amazing Grace” focused on a legislator, “Bury the Chains” looks at the public movement and shows that almost every tool we use today for public activism can be traced to the British abolitionists. The book serves as a primer on social change movements; if you read this book, Thomas Clarkson will be your new hero.

In the eighteenth century, slavery was as deeply entrenched in the British economy as fossil fuels are in ours. Slave plantations and trading was the basis of most English wealth and the source of cheaper consumer goods. The slave trade supported the industry of most English cities and Britain’s military strength. Slavery was a far-away evil most citizens never saw; slavery had the entire of human history and religion behind it. And, finally, most Britons couldn’t vote. Only male landholders had the franchise.

Yet British abolitionists came up with the consumer boycott, campaign buttons and campaign graphics, and the petition. They used both inside and outside government strategies (as did suffragettes a hundred years later). They ran a sophisticated media campaign bringing the ugly face of slavery home and making it personal and human. They made Britons understand the connection between forced labor at home and slavery abroad. They built grassroots organizing in multiple cities, faith/labor collaborations and international solidarity. And they worked long enough (eighty years!) to win.

The book taught me a lot I didn’t know about the history of Haiti and the Caribbean. It is long and a bit disorganized, and it unfairly discounted the important role of people of faith, especially the Friends, in the abolition movement. Still, for anyone interested in human rights, social justice, and community organizing, this book will be a tool and a revelation.



Join the League of Women Voters
...where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.
 All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement. Dues include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National membership, including newsletters from each.

Individual - \$60.00
 Household - \$80.00
 Student - \$25.00

Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____

Optional deductible contribution to LWVCA: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft,
 Cincinnati, OH 45219

FUND RAISING REPORT

By *Marjorie Davies, VP Fund Development*

Annual campaign: The Annual Campaign is well underway. Goals are \$20,000 for the Education Fund and \$5,000 for the LWVCA, and are needed to provide our basic services. Please give generously.

Cincinnati Art Museum Tours: Two-in-one Cincinnati Art Museum tours will be conducted Thursday and Saturday, November 11 and 13, 11am – 2pm, to benefit our Education Fund. Reservation forms will be included in the November/December Voter, or you can reserve online beginning in early October. Both days, we tour the special Gainsborough exhibit for an hour, enjoy lunch in the Castellini room, and then tour the Wedding Dress exhibit. Cost is \$30 per person, including the box lunch. These private tours are available only through the League; do not contact the museum directly.

Joseph Beth Book Fair Fund Raiser: On December 11, the LWVCA hosts a book fair at Joseph Beth Booksellers at Rookwood Pavilion in Hyde Park. Our Education Fund will receive 20% of sales accompanied by a League coupon, which will be included in the November/December Voter and available at fall unit meetings.

Susan B Anthony Luncheon: Our annual luncheon to celebrate women's suffrage is scheduled for Saturday, February 12 at the Phoenix downtown.

CELEBRATE 90!

By *Beth Kochheiser, Executive Director*

In order to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the League we have established a simple and nearly painless way for donors to make a gift of \$90 to the League or League Education Fund. Using our secure online PayPal system donors can choose to make a monthly donation of \$10 for 9 months...voila! a \$90 gift with only \$10 per month debit to the checking account or credit card!



As the 90th anniversary year is winding down I hope you will take this last opportunity to celebrate the important milestone reached in 1920. Your \$90 donation, combined with those of so many others, will help ensure that LWVCA is better able to continue to provide the voter services and advocacy we all rely upon for another 90 years.

VOTER SERVICE REPORT

By *Susan Banoun, VP, Voter Service*

There are no state, county or city issues on the ballot this year. None at all! But it is still an important election with many state and regional races to be decided by the electorate. League members met with Tom McKee of WCPO at the LWVCA office to be filmed asking questions for state races. WCPO will have the candidates answer the questions then feature the answers as segments on the news. It was fun to do!

As of mid-September, *Smart Voter* is in high gear with candidates entering information. Letters were mailed out the week of August 23 to all candidates certified by the Board of Election. Ann Mitchell and **Melissa Currence** are fielding questions from candidates and soon we will begin the process to produce the print version, *Who & What of Elections (W&W)*. His print publication will be distributed to the general public within the *City Beat* weekly newspaper. Our target date to receive *W&W* from the printer is October 4th. We will need some volunteers to help with mailing the *W&W*, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 6.

There are a few events scheduled for Voter Services: Anderson and Wyoming are managing candidate forums. On September 21, **Beth Kochheiser** and I are going to Mason to register voters at a newly merged company with relocated employees. We may help register up to 500 employees! We are also working with the Starfire Council and the Hip Hop Congress on projects to register voters and host groups to discuss the voting process.

LWVCA is also a co-sponsor (and timer) with the Cincinnati Debate Alliance of televised debates for the US First and Second Congressional Districts. Both will be aired on WCPO Channel 9.

BULK MAIL COMMITTEE

By *Pinky Kocoshis and Bridgett Pincus, Co-Chairs*

Many of you have already helped us with a mailing this fall; you can be assured there will be many more. Snail mail is still a major means of communication with our members. We value every one of our hardworking volunteers!!

It is the responsibility of each activity/event organizer to supply the volunteers for the bulk mailing. Usually, the number needed is determined by the size of the mailing, in consultation with the chairs. Each of our units also has an assignment to help with one of our *VOTER* mailings once a year. In case there are not enough unit members who can make that date (usually the 4th Thursday, but it varies); there is a list in the office of members who will help. These *VOTER* mailing dates are set in advance for the whole year.

Once again, thanks to all who help with this important league job. During the mailing, we have time to socialize and meet League members from other units. It's not so bad, really!! Join us! Send an email or call the office to let us know you will volunteer.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By *Mary Van Ausdall, Membership Director*

facebook vs. twitter — what should we use??

If you can help us understand the pros and cons of using facebook vs. twitter vs. LinkedIn for launching our efforts, we could use your help. Several LWVCA members are meeting to strategize how to use social media to inform the community of our position statements and to recruit new members. Send a message to membership@lwcincinnati.org to share your thinking about this subject and this question.

Also, Sept and Oct are membership renewal months.... Your membership dues in the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area automatically include membership in the LWV Ohio and LWV United States. Lend us your support and gain a wealth of information for little cost. As a member, you help build your community and join others in becoming a force for change. *90 years ago, the LWVCA, one of the nation's first Leagues, was formed!*

Impartial Judiciary cont'd from page 1

In Ohio, all judges are elected except federal judges. The purpose of electing state judges is to get people involved in the judicial process, provide voters with meaningful choices, and ensure that judges are accountable.

Is this process working in Ohio? Join the LWVCA in October to review this topic. Some areas to consider: rule of law versus popular opinion, the complexities of potential conflicts of interest, and holding judges accountable.

Judicial independence is the freedom that a judge should have to decide a case in front of her based on the facts and law, free from outside pressures or special interests.

—League of Women Voters, *Creating a Just Society: Judicial Independence*

Guest speaker, Ann Henkener, from the LWVO will lead the Unit briefing meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 7:00 pm, in the Social Hall. All are invited to hear and question her, regardless of whether you are an October unit program leader or not.

Board briefs... cont'd from page 2

gathering more information. An ad hoc Committee is preparing *VOTER* insert pages on Ohio Finance & Taxation.

- LWVCA participated in Shares on the Square on August 18. This event highlighted organizations supported by Community Shares.

- The Annual Campaign officially begins with this year's dues renewal mailing. Solicitation letters will be included with **Who and What of Elections**, allowing us to reach a wider audience who may wish to make a donation.

- **Dee Shaffer** will establish a committee to develop a planned giving program. Dee and **Beth Kochheiser** attended a seminar presented by the Greater Cincinnati Planned Giving Council.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Glenda Bernstein

Glenda serves on the LWVCA Board as Secretary. She is a member of Central Evening Unit and the Health Care Committee and has volunteered as a moderator and timekeeper for candidate forums during Election season.

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

A: My hometown is the fair city of Louisville in the beautiful Bluegrass State. I graduated from U of L's nursing school in 1976. I left Louisville in 1982, lived a few years in South Florida and moved to Cincinnati in 1986. In 2002, I earned an MHA (Master of Health Administration) from Xavier University. I've worked at Jewish Hospital since March 2002 as a "Patient Representative" - I sometimes lightheartedly refer to myself as "the complaint lady" but it is quite a serious job that I enjoy very much. I've been married to Malcolm since 2004 and we live in Mt. Adams with our 4 cats, 2 inside and 2 adopted feral cats outside.

Q: When, how and why did you become a League member? What do you enjoy about League membership?

A: I joined LWVCA in 2002, primarily to push myself into becoming more politically aware (I am doing a lot better!). Like many, I was familiar with the League for its nonpartisan voter information, and for its well-deserved reputation as a trustworthy source. What I appreciate about the League is the terrific and talented people I encounter - we have some very impressive members, many who work quietly in the background yet contribute so much. I am privileged to know them!

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

A: Mt. Adams is my neighborhood - I've been a city dweller only since 2005 and I love it on "the hill"; it is a wonderful place for walking (which I do a lot) and we have an amazing amount of green space here. I'm an amateur bird-watcher and you might be surprised at the variety of species I've sighted in the area.

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

A: My current reading is "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay" by Michael Chabon. We are Playhouse in the Park subscribers and, of course, walk to performances. We're also avid CSO fans and attend every Saturday concert unless we are away.

In Memoriam

Leaguers across the country commemorate Smart Voter's original project director Trudell Een, who passed away in August after a long struggle with cancer. Trudell founded SmartVoter in 1997— when the internet was young— as an innovative way to provide voter information to the public using Silicon Valley know-how. She served as project director until 2008.

TAKE NOTE -

CINCINNATI DEBATE ALLIANCE PRESENTS TWO TELEVISED DEBATES Televised on WCPO Channel 9

Sponsors include Cincinnati Regional Chamber of Commerce and LWVCA.

US Congress First Congressional District Ohio

Steve Chabot vs. Steve Driehaus

Wednesday, October 20 from 8:00 - 9:00 at the new School for Creative and Performing Arts.

US Congress Second Congressional District Ohio

Jean Schmidt vs. Surya Yalamanchili

Tuesday October 26th from 7:00 - 8:00 Location TBA

CALENDAR: OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS

Discussion Topic: Ohio Impact: Impartial Judiciary
Unit meetings are our grassroots discussions, located at different places and times so that there's always one convenient for YOU! This is your chance to get involved. All meetings are open. Come, and bring a friend!

2nd Monday 10/11/10

Hilltop: 7:00 pm Location TBA*
 Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Ave

2nd Tuesday 10/12/10

College Hill: 11:30 am Home of **Mary Kay Gardner***
 North Central: 12:00 noon, Friendship United Methodist Church, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd
 Warren County: 7:30 pm Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd

2nd Wednesday 10/13/10

Anderson: 7:00 pm Anderson Government Center, 7850 Five Mile Road
 Central Evening: 7:15 pm League Office, 103 Wm H Taft

2nd Thursday 10/14/10

Eastern Day: 12:00 noon with brown bag lunch, Marjorie P. Lee Home, 3580 Shaw Ave.

3rd Wednesday, 10/20/10

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.

ANDERSON CANDIDATE FORUM

LWVCA Anderson Unit is sponsoring a Candidate Forum on October 19, 2010. The forum includes candidates Max Kinman and Peter Stautberg for the Ohio State District 34 and candidates Sam Pettinichi and Shannon Jones for Ohio Senate District 7 races. The forum, to be held at the Anderson Government Center, will be moderated by LWV member **Glenda Bernstein. Ruth Hardy** served as the forum committee chair to coordinate the forum. The Candidate forum will air on Anderson Cable Television on the night of the forum and will rerun several times before Election Day.



Ruth Hardy was a key organizer for the Anderson Candidates Forum



Anderson Unit Candidate Forum team. Left to right: **Gail Wick, Joan Honeck, Ruth Hardy** (kneeling), **Sherrie Heyse** and **Pinky Kocoshis**.



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



Your Fall Election Guide is at www.SmartVoter.com!

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

*All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, 103 Wm. Howard Taft unless otherwise noted.
 Bring a friend!*

Tuesday	Sept 28		Early voting opens in Hamilton County (through October 31)
Wednesday	Sept 29	7 p.m.	Discussion Leaders' Briefing on Judicial Elections with Guest Speaker, Ann Henkener from the LWVO; Social Hall, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
Monday	Oct 4	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Monday	Oct 4		Voter Registration deadline for fall election
Thursday	Oct 7	6:00 p.m.	Visions for Greater Cincinnati dinner. Keynote Speaker: Doug Bolton, Cincinnati Business Courier. Tickets \$75 members, \$100 nonmembers.
Friday	Oct 8		Voter copy for November and December due to Editor
Thursday	Oct 14	7:00 pm	Natural Resources Committee
Monday	Oct 18	7:00 pm	County Government Committee
Tuesday	Oct 19	7:00 pm	Candidates Forum - 34th Ohio House & 7th Ohio Senate Districts. Anderson Center
Tuesday	Oct 19	7:00pm	Housing Committee
Wednesday	Oct 20	8:00 pm	Televised 1 st District Debate. WCPO Channel 9
Thursday	Oct 21	10:00 am	November Voter Collating - Metro Day in Charge
Saturday	Oct 23	1:00 pm	November Discussion Leaders Briefing (Ohio Finance & Taxation)
Tuesday	Oct 26	7:00 pm	Health Care Committee (League Office)
Tuesday	Oct 26	7:00 pm	Televised 2nd District Debate: WCPO Channel 9
Tuesday	Oct 26	6:30 p.m.	LWV Clermont County presents: "Now You're 18" Training. Miami Township Civic Center
Wednesday	Oct 27	5:30 pm	Program Development Committee (PDC)
Wednesday	Oct 27	7:00 pm	November Discussion Leaders Briefing (Ohio Finance & Taxation)
Saturday	Oct 30		Last Day to request absentee ballot by mail for November election.
Monday	Nov 1	6:30 pm	Board Meeting
Tuesday	Nov 2		General Election, Hamilton County Polls open 6:30 a.m.

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