



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

Summer 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

President's Letter -	page 1
Board Briefs -	page 2
National News -	page 3
Ohio News -	pages 4 - 5
Local News -	page 6
League News -	pages 7 - 9
Summer Meetings -	page - 10

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.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to thank Marjorie Davies for her distinguished leadership as president this past year. While she has completed her tenure as president, she will continue on the board as VP of Fund Development.



When I have mentioned to people that I am going to be the president of the League of Women Voters, there is response of awe and respect, not for me, but for the League itself. Most people that I talk with know and highly respect the League and I, as the newly elected president, am proud to be part of the League. It is impressive to look at all the services and publications that our local League provides, such as the *Who and What*, *Smart Voter*, *They Represent Us*, an excellent website, forums, unit meetings, timely information on current issues just to mention a few things that we do. People depend on us because we provide such accurate non partisan information.

However, we have some challenges this year. They are finances, volunteer help, and technology. Regarding the first, finances - while the majority of the League work is done with volunteers, it still costs money to print publications, maintain the office and maintain a website. Last year the publications alone (including the online Smart Voter) cost nearly \$20,000. With corporation donations down, there is a deficit in the budget of nearly \$9,000. We need to do some serious fundraising. To this end, Marj Davies is setting up a series of meetings to address this by planning various fundraising activities. See Marj's article on page 7.

The second is volunteer help. While there are many excellent volunteers in the League, the pool is getting smaller. As mentioned before, the League has an impressive operation, but if it is to continue to thrive and grow, we need members to take on some volunteer tasks to continue to educate and serve the public. Consider volunteering today!

The third challenge is to keep current with technology. More and more of our services require knowledge of technology. Much of our information is now online- i.e., the website and the online *Smart Voter*. Even our printed publication, the *Who and What*, takes only electronic information from the candidates. Social networking such as Facebook and Twitter are current ways of communicating and advertising our events. If we are to remain relevant, the League needs to stay ahead of the curve with technology.

(Continued on page 2)

By Alice Schneider

At the annual meeting Marj Davis honored 10 League members for their outstanding contributions to the League during the past year. They are **Bridgett Pincus, Joan Honeck, Helen and Don Rhoad, Sherrie and Fred Heyse, Rina Saperstein and Jeff Davis, Caroline Honkomp, and Burt Roehr**. Alice Schneider presented **Marjorie Davies** with a gift in gratitude from League members for her excellent leadership this past year.

Attending the League of Women Voters State Convention of Ohio were **Fred and Sherrie Heyse**. Read the report on the following pages.

We also welcome a new member to the board, **Susan Lehman** who will serve as Unit Coordinator. Also, **Melissa Currence** was elected to the LWV State Board of Ohio. Congratulations Melissa!

In a special report to the board, **Fred Heyse**, president of the Education Fund described changes in the operation of the Education Fund. In the past The Education Fund Board and the League Board (there are separate boards for each entity) acted separately from one another and sometimes did not coordinate activities. From now on the Education Fund Board and will take its direction from the League side and will not plan programs on its own. Hopefully, this will result in stronger direction for the whole League program. As an important part of their function, the Ed Fund board members will see that the League and Ed Fund are in compliance with the tax laws for non-profits.

The LWVCA Board will have a retreat on August 29th to look at priorities for the upcoming year. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Feel free to call board members with your ideas.

LWVCA 2009-10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: **Alice Schneider**
 President Elect: OPEN
 Treasurer: **Kim Thompson**
 Secretary: **Glenda Bernstein**
 Vice President, Program: **Don Rhoad**
 Vice President, Fund Development: **Marjorie Davies**
 Vice President, Administration: **Pinky Kokoshis**
 Vice President, Voter Service: **Melissa Currence**
 Director, Action: **Gretchen Langdon**
 Director, Membership: **Carolyn Meyers-Hughes**
 Director, Unit Coordinator: **Susan Lehman**
 Director, Planned Giving: **Dee Shaffer**

LETTER *(cont'd from page 1)*

We will need your help this year! We need donations, and we need volunteers to help with the fundraisers. When we put out the call, I hope you will consider either a monetary or volunteer donation, or both. With your help we will remain the premier resource for non partisan information in Cincinnati!

The Cincinnati League remains strong and I have confidence that with your help that we will meet these challenges for the future and come out stronger.

Respectfully,
Alice Schneider, President

"The League is where hands-on work to safe guard democracy leads to civic improvement."

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**.

LWVUS PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY

By LWVUS President Mary Wilson (abridged)



As the LWVUS Board members and I have talked with members at State League Conventions, we have realized that our previous statements about the current LWVUS advocacy approach to health care reform have not been clear. Let me clarify the answers to a few questions that we have heard.

First, the LWVUS health care position as stated in *Impact on Issues* has not changed. The League favors universal health care to be provided through a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums, commonly known as the “single payer” approach. But, the League’s position is much more expansive than just favoring the single payer approach: we are concerned that a health care program must include basic health care for everyone; we support cost control measures; we believe in equitable provision of health services; etc. When the position was adopted in 1993, League members recognized that it could take several phases before we reached a single payer system. “As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League.” (*Impact on Issues*, p. 69)

We now have the first serious opportunity in 15 years to make major reforms in the way health care is delivered in this country and to achieve universal health care coverage. Several of the proposals currently being discussed in Congress and by the Administration are also giant steps forward towards achieving a government-funded national health insurance plan. But, for economic and political reasons, now is not the time to be able to achieve single payer health care reform – the Administration is not supporting it at the present time and even members of Congress who signed onto single payer bills last session recognize that it has no chance for passage this session. Therefore, the LWVUS Board has chosen to take an advocacy strategy that will make strides in those parts of our position that are key building blocks: supporting coverage for everyone that includes the prevention of disease, primary care, acute care, long-term care, mental health care, and prescription drug coverage, and allows for pre-existing conditions; computerization of medical records; a system-wide program to coordinate information and establish best practices; cost containment measures; etc. We know we can make advances in these areas and, in order to have our voice taken seriously, we cannot couple our message on these important issues with lobbying actively at this time for the single payer approach.

The fact that the LWVUS is using this advocacy strategy at this time at the national level does not mean that state Leagues cannot lobby for a single payer approach in their states or provide educational forums. The restriction on lobbying for a nationwide single payer approach at this time is only on lobbying members of the United States House and Senate and the Obama administration.

LWVUS CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PACKET

Climate change is a priority issue for the national League, as well as the new administration and Congress. This provides a golden opportunity to engage with elected leaders as well as the community at large. LWVUS provides links to a number of items designed to offer resources for your League to take action in coalition with other organizations in your state. Leagues are often asked by other organizations to put our name behind their efforts — this is your League’s opportunity to ask other organizations to join your effort on this vital national issue.

LWVUS provides draft advocacy letters and letters to the editor as well as information on the more technical questions on global warming and information on the League’s work on adaptation. Adaptation is a more international look at global climate change. Latest materials developed by the League’s Climate Change Task Force, can be found at www.lwv.org. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Christina Vamvas, Grassroots Lobbyist at the national League office. at cvamvas@lwv.org or (202) 263-1328.

NEW LWVO PRESIDENT: MEG FLACK

Dublin, Ohio – The League of Women Voters of Ohio held its biennial state convention last week in Dublin, Ohio. The gathering gave League members from around the state the opportunity to celebrate the organization's accomplishments and to discuss important public policy issues that are impacting communities across Ohio.

At the conclusion of the gathering, Meg Flack, Ph.D., of Columbus was unanimously elected to a two-year term by the delegates gathered from across the state. Dr. Flack has served on the LWVO state board as both secretary and chair of advocacy and legislation. She also is a member of the LWVO Lobby Corps where she lobbies on capital punishment issues. In 2006, she co-authored a white paper on judicial reform for the League's statewide impACT Town Hall Meeting project. In 2007, she was appointed by Gov. Ted Strickland to the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel.



Dr. Meg Flack

Dr. Flack has a long history of community volunteerism and has held leadership positions with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County (CASA), VOICES for Children and Families, and the Junior League of Columbus.

ACTION UPDATE: SUCCESS ON OHIO HB 9

In May, LWVO sent out an action request asking members to contact Ohio General Assembly members to support HB 9, a bill designed to protect tenants in foreclosure situations. Renters, who are estimated to be as much as 40% of those facing evictions, are often caught off-guard and evicted without notice when a landlord's property goes into foreclosure. Tenants who have been regularly paying rent are left without a home, or any funds for security deposit, first month's rent or relocation. The LWVO stated that HB 9 is a simple measure to aid tenants and help to prevent homelessness at a time when homelessness and all of its attendant costs are on the rise.

Fortunately, on May 20, the *Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009* was passed. Under the new law, tenants living in foreclosed properties must get at least 90 days notice from the buyer at sheriff's sale prior to termination of the tenancy. The protections are stronger for tenants with leases and Section 8 voucher tenancies.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in League leadership or want to learn tips and tools to improve your League leadership, then this opportunity is for you. From the comfort of your home, you can join into leadership training with just a telephone and internet access.

Leadership Training is designed for local League leaders and future leaders and will address how to delegate tasks, where to find information, and the latest League practices! The remaining training dates are:

July 15th at 7 PM

August 25th 7 PM

Please RSVP for the training at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org and let us know which training session you will join. Log-in details will be sent upon your confirmation.

LWVO ELECTION REFORM WORK GROUP

LWVO is deeply engaged in election reform with the progressive development of an advocacy coalition/partnership that includes the League, Ohio Citizen Action, Common Cause Ohio, The Advancement Project, the NAACP, COOHIO and the AFL-CIO. Representatives from the Brennan Center continue to express interest in joining the partnership. We also have participation from Academics who have been heavily engaged in election reform.

The key issue of focus is Provisional Ballots, both the reduction in the number casts and the counting of those that are casts. The group has engaged in lively conversation as we seek solutions.

If you are interested in participating in this work group or lending your expertise, please contact Deidra Reese at leg@lwvohio.org.

LWVO CONVENTION REPORT

Held in Dublin Ohio on May 1-3, 2009

Informal Notes from Sherrie Heyse

Seems like quite a few new faces in the crowd. We had a workshop on nutrition and health care and speakers on voting, judicial independence and other noteworthy topics. Diane Wheatley-Gillotti gave a presentation on League visibility. Kelly McFarland Stratman from the LWVUS gave a workshop on membership. Other workshops included "How to do a study", Developing Coalitions, Regionalism, Campaign Finance Reform, and Ohio watersheds. Melissa Currence co chaired a workshop on new social networking technology such as Facebook and Twitter which was very interesting and well attended.

There was a budget Q&A along with quite a bit of dialogue in the plenary session about raising the Per Member Payment (PMP). PMP is budgeted at \$24.24 per member and a 75 cents increase was approved for FY 2010 and also another 75 cents for FY 2011.

PowerPledge has replaced Phonathon and this year's campaign has so far brought in \$14,482. It was reported that the donations were significantly lower than Phonathon. Investment income is also down. \$9,770 will be withdrawn from a reserve account which stands at around \$160,000. Ohio Voters will be reduced to 3 times a year and online will be encouraged. Two part time positions have been combined into one full time with a savings of \$9,600. Other administrative changes have been started to reduce expenses.

No new program study was recommended. The LWVO recommended an Education Finance Update be conducted with Greater Youngstown forming the core of the committee. The Taxation and Finance Position Update is ongoing and will continue in the 2009-2011-program period. Advocacy Priorities will be: Apportionment/Districting, Education Finance, and Water.

The LWVO Lawsuit was very near to conclusion but had not the final word yet. No bylaw changes were made. In Directives to the Board, the LWVO Board was asked to create a vehicle for local Leagues to exchange information about regionalism; and secondly to look at PMP reductions for Leagues based on cost-saving use of email instead of printed publications.

LWVCA Ed Fund Chair **Fred Heyse** was able to network with a lot of Ed Fund people; most of the Ed Funds in the state have changed over to having the one board oversee the Ed Fund and League activities.

There was a Silent Auction at the Friday night dinner that was a lot of fun. The food was outstanding and the hotel was great. Next convention in 2011 will be planned by Toledo with help from a couple of smaller leagues.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CLERMONT COUNTY

Orpha Gatch Suffragist Dinner and Awards Ceremony

"Fighting for our Rights"

The Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified granting women in the US the right to vote on August 26, 1920. Each year the Clermont County League of Women Voters celebrates the enduring debt we owe to the suffragists and honors a Clermont County woman who symbolizes the spirit, perseverance and dedication of suffragists by being involved, on a volunteer basis, in activities to better her community. She is presented with the "Orpha Gatch Citizenship" Award, named for Orpha Gatch, a Suffragette, a founding member of the Clermont County League, and an outstanding citizen of Milford until her death in 1991.

The Orpha Gatch Citizenship award has been presented to Martha Dorsey in 1997, Deb Carter-Baker in 1998, Lois Brown Dale in 1999, Noreen Dawson (posthumously) in 2000, Anna Campbell in 2001, Cindy Jenkins in 2002, Debbie Siegroth in 2003, Karen Jessee in 2004, Mia Supe in 2005, Regina Thielman in 2006, Sue Craig in 2007 and Missy Deller in 2008.

The 2009 Suffragist Dinner will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 5:30 p.m. at Receptions Conference Center East. Sponsorships and Program Ads are available through July 28. Reservations may be made on the league website <http://www.lwvclermont.com> through August 15. For further information contact Cyn Macke at 553-7349.

WHAT IS THE CINCINNATI STREETCAR PROPOSAL?

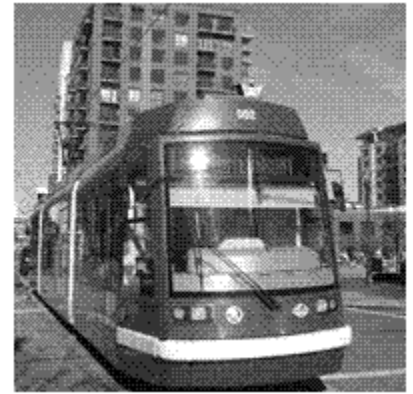
By *Chris Moran and Christen Browne, LWVCA Transportation Committee*

A modern electric streetcar has been proposed to connect the Banks with the Findley market area with a connection to Uptown near UC, a 3.9 mile circular route. It would travel north on Main Street, west on 12th, north on Elm, east on McMicken, south on Race, east on Central, south on Walnut to east on Freedom Way to Main.

A streetcar is a small train that runs on steel tracks in mixed traffic. They are electrically powered with tracks set 12 inches into the pavement in a lane of traffic near the curb. Streetcars use a single pole, the pantograph, to collect power from an electrified wire that is suspended approximately 20 feet over the lane in which the streetcar runs.

A streetcar is a circulator. From the experience of U.S. cities, the fixed route promotes economic development. Streetcars are not a tourist attraction, a historical throwback or a gimmick. Streetcars are not dressed up busses; they are a modern transportation system designed to stimulate economic growth and eliminate hundreds of car trips, reducing congestion, noise and pollution downtown.

The study estimated between 3,700 to 5,600 daily passengers boarding the initial downtown streetcar loop. The passengers would be residents of the downtown area, employees moving about from worksites, and visitors to the City. The Uptown connection links the region's 2 largest employment centers. Additional studies, route and cost information is being developed. The LWVCA Transportation Committee will continue to follow this issue.



Portland's streetcar

Editor's Note: The LWVCA City Government Committee is currently reviewing a proposed City Charter Amendment for the fall ballot which focuses on streetcars but requires a citizen vote on ALL proposed rail transportation- more info on this in the fall. The LWVCA Transportation Committee will continue to review streetcars and streetcar proposals separate from this ballot issue.

OVER 125 PEOPLE ATTEND FORUM ON THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS TO REFORM PUBLIC EDUCATION IN OHIO

By *Sarah Gideonse*

Earlier this year, Governor Strickland announced cutting-edge proposals he said would prepare our young people to thrive in 21st Century economy and to assure adequate and equitable funding to this end. In so doing, he was addressing the unconstitutionality of current funding of Ohio's public schools. As school districts are dependent on variable local resources and uncertain public generosity, Ohio's children receive inherently unequal educations. The proposals seek to modernize Ohio's classrooms and increase local accountability, requiring schools to use state funds based on an evidence-based model of an adequate education.

Needless to say, controversy ensued. Collaboration partners Woman's City Club, Cincinnati, Citizens for Civic Renewal, the League of Women Voters, and the Urban League sought to address this information gap through a public forum, which took place on April 16 at Woodward High School. (By coincidence, the Ohio House announced proposals to "strengthen" the reform plan the same day.)

At the forum, John Stanford, the Governor's executive assistant for education, offered a rationale for the proposals, with anecdotes about the challenges ahead for 21st Century workers and the skills they will need to compete. He spoke briefly about the legislative changes just put forth: a funding formula that places greater weight on property values rather than concentration of poverty, responding to concerns of rural districts. He said the new legislation also lengthens the phase-in time and allows greater spending flexibility for academically successful districts.

(Continued on page 8)

LWVCA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

By *Marjorie Davies, VP Fund Development*

LWVCA fund raising volunteers have planned several exciting projects for 2009-10. Your help is needed now to make them successful! Fund raising is particularly important for our Education Fund as we try to erase a budgeted \$10,000 operating shortfall.

Sherrie Heyse is building a larger team for grant applications. **Dee Shaffer** is heading up a planned giving program. A low-cost annual report for donors and members will be produced, to highlight our accomplishments and to present our CPA-reviewed financial statements. **Jeane Goings** and **Susan Lehman** are providing leadership for letter-writing parties late in the summer. This will involve many members hand-writing notes to friends and colleagues explaining the importance of the League, and asking for support. Stationery and sample language will be provided for us all to customize.

We are considering a new fall event for the community to benefit the Education Fund timed to coincide with the release of the *Who & What of Elections*. Planning time is short; sponsors and public relations need to be established ASAP.

Next year is the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage and the founding of the LWVCA, which calls for an especially festive celebration! We plan to tie this with our Susan B. Anthony Luncheon in February. The committee also recommends continuing our Visions Luncheon as a spring event geared toward the corporate community, with renewed efforts at securing sponsors.

Be a part of League history – help plan the LWVCA's 90th Anniversary Celebration! Call Marjorie Davies with ideas or to volunteer.

In the nineties many issues commanded our zeal —
For sensible welfare reform we made an appeal.
For campaign finance reform we continued to labor.
And WOW! Did we worry about that ozone layer.
Children-at-risk and diversity were great concern
And to the issue of gun control we did return.

So you see we've been busy and can toot our own horn
About the League's progress ever since it was born.
We need more woman power and sincerely implore you
To sign up (and get a friend) and join us before we do bore you.
To help swell our numbers would certainly please us.
You'll realize in no time what a good cause the League is.
You'll be the winner because you won't shirk
Doing your share to make government work!

NINE DECADES OF LEAGUE ACTIVITY

Adapted from Jane Gralen, LWV of La Grange Area, IL

We're gathered today to praise the longevity
Of the LWV but we'll do it with brevity.
Eighty-nine years ago the League was created
By a group of suffragettes who became elated
With the prospect of giving women a choice
To influence legislation with a united voice.

In the nineteen twenties the League gave attention
To the welfare of children and war prevention.
Jury duty for women became a priority
In gaining the vote we achieved some majority.
Our numbers grew strong, our efforts courageous
We made an impact, but we weren't outrageous.

Our membership numbers fell off in The Depression
But we forged ahead with impressive aggression —
Education and tax reform we pushed for increasingly
and worked for voter registration unceasingly.
We lobbied on labor issues and decried corruption
Studied sanitation and water issues without interruption.

During the forties an essential role was given
To women in the work-force, while our men were driven
To war, — following which the League gained sensation
Endorsing foreign aid, The Marshall Plan and the United Nations.
For better schools in our state and child labor laws we fought
And advances in election procedures we sought.

In the fifties Constitutional issues became the rage
Civil liberties and equal opportunity took center stage.
Environmental protection received our attention
And being anti-McCarthy sure deserves mention!
Welfare of women & kids we remained intrigued in.
And integration was a goal that we all believed in.

In the sixties while League membership reached a new high
Assassinations and the Vietnam War made us all cry.
In a tumultuous decade we found satisfaction
By moving ahead, concentrating on action.
We continued the struggle for equal opportunity;
In housing and jobs we sought for some unity.

For the rest of the decade our voices were strong
Urging ERA passage, for which we all longed.
It wasn't to be, but we fought the good fight.
We studied day-care and workfare with all our might.
We strove to achieve an end to pollution -
For air and water problems we demanded solution.

In the eighties with vigilance we continued to patrol
Efforts for welfare reform and tough arms control.
Reproductive rights were studied with some contention,
But our stand was important and needed attention.
The gender gap phenomena convinced politicians
That women's voting patterns negate standard tradition.



GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION PROPOSAL (cont'd from page 6)

Andy Benson of KnowledgeWorks Foundation focused on what was good about the Governor's original proposals, what could be better, and the extent to which the legislative changes addressed the latter. He acknowledged that some weaknesses are largely "fixed" by the new legislation. A concern remains that the plan's conversion levies and funding formulas may not be effective in addressing property tax problems.

Panelist Ben Fischer, education reporter for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, reflected on what he was hearing about the plan. Kent Cashell, a banker and former Chief Operating Officer of Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), said the mandatory use of designated best practices undermined school accountability. Vanessa White, a CPS parent, described experiences with under-funded pupil services. Scott Inskip, superintendent of Reading Schools, worried about unfunded mandates. Tim Kraus, former teacher's union president, said that teacher organizations are generally in support of the proposals but had concerns. State Senator Bill Seitz, cited numerous objections to the proposals, including mandated best practices and funding formulas.

A lively question period followed. Sadly, time ran out with many questions unanswered. The forum was effective in getting the audience acquainted with the proposals and some of issues they raise. The legislative future is somewhat uncertain, with further changes very likely.

COAL MORATORIUM MEETING

Sierra Club's Nachy Kanfer speaks at an April General Meeting sponsored by the LWVCA's Natural Resources Committee. Over 60 people attended the program. Mr. Kanfer provided an overview of global warming; energy sources used in the US; specific concerns regarding coal; upcoming plants in Ohio; and requests for action. The NR committee also organized a dinner before the event for sponsoring organizations and volunteers. *Photo Credit: Andy Betts.*



NEW MEMBERS

LWVCA is very happy to introduce our new members of 2009, who have joined their voices in league to make a difference in our community. They include:

Gloria Bissler
Denise Driehaus
Ellen Berghamer
Charles & Darlene Kamine
Martha Good
Shirley Jason
Julie Brook
Genevieve Pennington
Francie Schnipke
Deborah Rose-Milavec
Roberta Grant
Mary Wells
Alayna Mattar
Dr. Jan Borcharding
Polly Doran
Jean Salem
Daniel Jahns
Kathleen Rieck
Janice Alvarado
Brittany Ballard
Jennifer Mauch
Betty & Jerry Cavanaugh
Grace Sferra
Melissa Muchmore

Welcome to you all!

NOTE TO UNIT LEADERS

There will be a pot luck dinner at **Mary Kay Gardner's** home on Wednesday August 26 at 6:00 pm for all Unit and Unit Membership Chairs. Please RSVP to **Susan Lehman** by August 21.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS LUNCHEON

A potluck, salad lunch was held for our office volunteers on May 14th. Good conversation, good food, sharing of ideas, and any office-concerns were discussed at this annual event put on by **Rubye Glenn** and assisted by **Mary Kay Gardner**. As always, thank you to the volunteers for their help in the office throughout the year.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: NANCY DAWLEY

Nancy, a member of NE Evening Unit and the Natural Resources Committee, has been a very active organizer; she put together our Vegetated (Green) Roofs Program and Tour; last month she helped organize our meeting to educate people about LWVUS' position asking for a moratorium on building new coal-fired electric plants.



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

A: A Cincinnati native, I grew up in Westwood, attended Western Hills High School and U.C, and was employed until retirement by Proctor and Gamble in Information Technology. Our sons were reared in the Cincinnati area but both now live in California. I frequently travel west to enjoy them and my 3 granddaughters.

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

A: I've known of the League and used its election information since I began voting at age 21 (which of course dates me). I remember going to the Board of Elections on my 21st birthday to register. Voting was a big deal. It wasn't until a few years ago, after I became disenchanted with what was going on in our government, that I decided to join the League and work for change through it.

Q: What units/committees are you currently involved with? What do you enjoy about league membership?

A: Northeast Evening Unit is my home. I find the discussions we have very enlightening. League members are very friendly. They are interested in educating themselves and others about the issues of our region and country, then doing something to bring about improvements. Speakers at the Dinners with the League and other events always broaden my perspective.

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

A: I live in Sycamore Township, just across the street from Madeira. I like being within walking distance of the Madeira and Montgomery Road business areas. I also enjoy the trees and animals living in or visiting my yard. Currently I'm trying to enhance my small wooded area by replacing honeysuckle with native shrubs. So far it's a draw whether I or the deer are more persistent.

Q: What have you been reading lately – OR- what do you do for fun?

A: My favorite hobby is playing the viola with the Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra. I also like to read - either books on CD while knitting kids sweaters, or printed books to make me drowsy. Mysteries are a favorite, but lately I've been rereading the Harry Potter books because they make me laugh! A surprise hit from the library recently was *Playing the Enemy - Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation* chronicling how Mandela did the near-impossible and united the South African tribes and races into a single nation using the 1995 Rugby World Cup.



IN MEMORIAM



The League mourns our own **Ellen Campbell**, active League Leader who died on June 14, in hospice in Columbus, cared for by her beloved daughters. Ellen was chair of the Anderson Unit, active in our quilting project and always willing to help with every kind of League organizing task. Friend and Leaguer Ruth Hardy writes: *"her spirit is so strong that her light will keep shining in each of us."*

The League mourns the passing of life member **Ruth Westheimer** in April. Mrs. Westheimer was a well-respected philanthropist and activist who joined the League in 1946 and helped us structure ourselves as a charitable organization. She leaves behind several philanthropic activities including the Robert and Ruth Westheimer Fund and several children and grandchildren.



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

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Cincinnati, OH Permit No. 1150
--

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SUMMER CALENDAR

LEAGUE OFFICE IS CLOSED MONTH OF JULY. There are no unit meetings in July and August. Most program committees do not meet in July or August. *It is especially hard to schedule committee meetings far enough in advance to make the Voter deadline in summer. Please check the calendar online at www.lwvcincinnati.org or call the office at 281-8683.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Fri July 4 Independence Day!</p> <p>Tues July 6 Deadline for Voter Registration for August
Special Election</p> <p>Tues July 14 6:30 pm LWVCA Board Meeting * (<i>note new day of month</i>)</p> <p>Wed July 15 7:00 pm Transportation Committee Meeting *</p> <p>Mon July 20 1:00 pm Education Committee*</p> <p>Mon July 20 6:30 pm County Government Committee*</p> <p>Sat Aug 1 Deadline for Absentee Ballots for August Special Election</p> <p>Mon Aug 3 Office reopens</p> <p>Tues Aug 4 August Special Election: City of Cincinnati
Mayoral Primary</p> <p>Fri Aug 7 Deadline for copy for September Voter</p> <p>Tues Aug 11 6:00 pm Education Fund Investment Committee *</p> <p>Tues Aug 11 6:30 pm LWVCA Board Meeting *</p> <p>Tues Aug 11 7:00 pm Education Fund Board Meeting *</p> <p>Mon Aug 17 5:30 pm Hilltop Unit Meeting at</p> | <p>Tues Aug 18 11:30 am Steiner Fund Meeting *</p> <p>Thurs Aug 20 10:00 am Voter Collating party *</p> <p>Sat Aug 21 1:00 pm Discussion Leaders Briefing *
(for September topics)</p> <p>Mon Aug 24 6:30 pm County Govt & Housing
Committees joint pizza & salad meal 6:30-7,
then separate forcommittee meetings 7-8.*</p> <p>Tues Aug 25 5:30 pm LWV Clermont County 2009
Suffragist Dinner, Receptions Conference
Center East.</p> <p>Wed Aug 26 6:00 pm Program Development
Committee* (PDC)</p> <p>Wed Aug 26 7:30 pm Discussion Leaders Briefing*
(for September topics)</p> <p>Wed Aug 26 Women's Equality Day, Anniversary of
passage of the 19th Amendment</p> <p>Sat Aug 29 9:00 am LWVCA Board Retreat, First
Unitarian Church, Linton Street.</p> |
|---|--|

Sylvia Mersfelder's

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