



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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May 2009

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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.



COMMUNITY SHARES
of Greater Cincinnati
LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

LWVCA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 19

Crowne Plaza Hotel

5901 Pfeiffer Rd, Blue Ash

5:15 pm Registration & Social Time

6:00 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Speaker: Georgine Getty, Executive Director, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati will speak about *Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Families in Cincinnati*.

7:00 pm Business Meeting, Election of Officers

Dinner & Meeting: \$25

Meeting Only: \$5

This is a time when we look back on our year, celebrate our accomplishments, meet our future leaders and plan for a very busy fall. By now you should have received Workbook I containing the schedule, slate of officers and 2009-10 League budget. We will be voting on the budget and new officers. Join us for this important League meeting — the food's good also! Reservation deadline Tuesday, May 12. (See registration form on last page in Workbook I or call the League office to RSVP.)

NOTE: There are no Unit meetings this month. See you at the Annual Meeting!

NEW BUDGET PRESENTATION AT ANNUAL MEETING

Members reviewing their Workbook I will see a new kind of budget presentation. The numbers haven't changed much, but we now present both the League 501(c)4 Membership and Advocacy budget and the Education Fund 501(c)3 Voter Education budget in columns on the same page. Many of our expenses are divided between the two funding sources. The new budget presentation allows our members to see the full picture of what it costs for all League activities. Members who want to understand where our money comes from and where it goes should attend the Annual Meeting on May 19 and *ask questions!* We thank our League and Ed Fund budget committees along with President **Marj Davies** for work on this informative document.

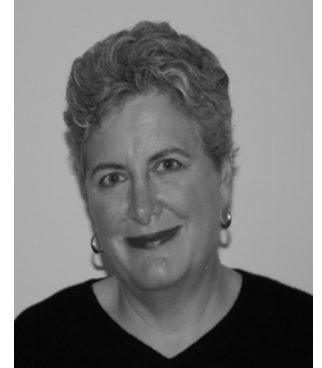
MAY 5 - PRIMARY ELECTION!

May 5 is Primary Day in Hamilton County. Seats that are uncontested may not appear on the ballot. As of mid-April, several races and issues are posed to the electorate. Please see details on page 5 for those races and issues that will concern you. Also check the LWVCA's SmartVoter website for more information on election issues in your district.



By *Marjorie Davies, President, LWVCA*

Only two weeks until our LWVCA Annual Meeting! Plan now to attend this gala dinner, celebrate our accomplishments, participate in our business meeting, and hear keynote speaker Georgine Getty's informative discussion of family homelessness. Date is Tuesday, May 19; location is the Crowne Plaza at Pfeiffer Rd and I-71; registration begins at 5:30 and the dinner starts at 6:00. Do reserve by May 14 via the enclosed flyer, or by phone or email to the League office. Please review your copy of Workbook I (mailed in mid-April) in preparation for the business meeting; Workbook II will be available at the event.



It has been a great privilege to serve as your President-elect, and then President, the past two years. You have an enthusiastic, capable, hard-working, and collegial board representing you, and our Nominating Committee has recruited new talent to fill expiring terms. Leadership of all important League action projects, nonpartisan voter services, and support functions is planned to transition smoothly and to continue productive and efficient operations.

On May 19, I turn the gavel over to my worthy successor, **Alice Schneider**, who is already leading several projects as President-elect, and is scheduling a strategic-planning retreat for new and continuing board members. The LWVCA is strong and has a firm foundation for continued growth – structurally, financially, and in membership – and for that I thank you all.

Although our neighborhood unit meeting schedule is winding down for the summer, our action committees – Housing, Natural Resources, Health Care, City Government, County Government, Education, Transportation, and Diversity – are active throughout the year promoting League positions and monitoring government policies and performance. Your participation is needed and encouraged – no experience needed.

There are important and fascinating volunteer opportunities in our Voter Services area – for speakers as well as for our nonpartisan print and on-line voter guides and directories. Fundraising, event planning, neighborhood unit leadership, membership development, public relations, newsletter writing and photography, and office support functions also offer fulfilling opportunities to use your talents. Free training and mentoring are provided. So, whether you're a student or working person looking to network or build your resume, a stay-at-home caregiver seeking a creative or social outlet, or a retiree with job skills to share, please call or email the League office to explore the many options we have for service.

Former LWVCA President **Rina Saperstein** is chairing an ad hoc committee to better define under what conditions we will co-sponsor as speaker a declared candidate for public office. LWVCA member and Cincinnati Art Museum docent **Carolyn Honkomp** is offering a special tour, *The Adventures of Surrealism*, Thursday, May 7 at 1:00 at CAM; participation is limited to the first 25 guests and is free of charge; call the League office to reserve. Look for news of our annual summer go-see tour on the Upcoming Events page of our website. *Dinner with the League* will resume monthly presentations of speakers of note in September at its new location, the Crowne Plaza in Blue Ash. Best wishes for a happy summer!

NEW SUBCOMMITTEE: HEARING FROM CANDIDATES AND LEGISLATORS

In order to maintain our reputation for nonpartisanship, LWVCA has a policy that we do not allow candidates for office to speak at League events and will not sponsor events at which a candidate is a speaker (except forums where all candidates for office are invited). Many incumbents begin raising money immediately after their election, so they are technically always a candidate, yet we do not want to lose the opportunity to hear from our government officials. A short-term committee has formed to review LWVCA's policies for member, advocacy and Education Fund events and to develop criteria that will help us maintain both our nonpartisan reputation and our excellent advocacy and education on government issues. We'll seek advice from tax attorneys, national League activists and our membership. Contact **Rina Saperstein** if you want to participate.

LWVUS NEWS AND INFORMATION THROUGH THE INTERNET

Without a *National Voter*, League members are finding other ways to communicate with league members and staff throughout the country. One way to learn about national activities is through the LWV website; another is through email lists. Different interest groups include The LeagueE-Voice Newsletter; e-Activist List / Grassroots Lobby Corps, Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, Climate Change, Death Penalty Abolition, Health Care, Public Education, United Nations, Development and Fundraising, League Leaders, Leaders Update, League Webmasters, Membership and Outreach, National Popular Vote Study, Nominating Committee, and Voters Service.

Barbara Klein, LWV Arizona, provided these instructions on how to join a group:

- Go to the website www.lwv.org
- Then click on 'For Members'
- Scroll down the page and you will see "Join the Conversation" and there will be a live link for "Join a new list or manage your account" if you scroll over it
- That will bring you to a 'log in page.' Direct link: <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>
- If you are already registered you can just 'log in' - if not, do the registration for new members. [HINT: as with all sites write down your info somewhere convenient so you don't forget it in case you don't come to the site again for a while.]
- If you are new you will probably have to WAIT for an email telling you that you have been 'accepted.' [This is generally almost immediate.]
- After that return to this page and log in. You will be brought to a list of all different topics that the League sponsors a listserv for. You have to pick one (or more than one - or all if you are interested). The list you have chosen may also have to accept you via email. Then you are ready to go in and write a posting OR respond to others.

Barbara writes: "This is EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS. Sorry I can't make it 'sound' easy but it is just a few clicks and a bit of logging in. Good luck."

LWVO and Midwest Reform Groups Urge President Obama to Support Federal Public Financing Legislation *Make Elections about Voters and Volunteers, Not Big Money Donors*

In a letter sent to President Obama, Midwest Democracy Network partner organizations called on President Obama to "use the full powers of the White House" to make much-needed public financing reforms of congressional and presidential elections a reality.

"From our vantage point in America's heartland," the letter states, the groups "strongly believe the two most important steps that can be taken to reform Washington, D.C.," are enactment of the bipartisan:

- **Fair Elections Now Act**, sponsored by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), which reforms congressional elections with a mix of public financing and incentives for small donations, and
- **Presidential Funding Act**, sponsored by Senators Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), which revamps the antiquated presidential public financing system and fixes a currently ineffective program.

When President Obama served in the U.S. Senate, he co-sponsored both bills. According to the letter, "The pivotal role that these massive campaign contributions played in creating the national financial crisis represents just one more example of the enormous costs to citizens and taxpayers that come from federal candidates being dependent on special interest groups, lobbyists, bundlers and big campaign donors."

The signing groups ask President Obama to "make these common sense bills a priority" and "make our elections about voters and volunteers instead of big money donors." The Midwest Democracy Network is a nonpartisan alliance of more than 20 civic and public interest groups based in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, including the LWVO. Learn more at www.midwestdemocracynetwork.org.

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

HOW NONPROFITS HELPED AMERICA VOTE: 2008

Source: LWV Leaders List

An OMB Watch report demonstrates the continued importance of nonprofit voter engagement in the United States and documents the various ways that nonprofit organizations helped to register, inform, mobilize, and protect voters during the 2008 election season.

The report describes the various issues surrounding voting rights, from voter fraud to a range of deceptive practices, then tracks how nonprofits protected election integrity by recruiting poll workers and helping to implement new voting technologies. The report describes a variety of tactics nonprofits used to get out the vote and concludes with several recommendations and electoral resources for nonprofits to help America vote.

According to Lee Mason, OMB Watch Director of Nonprofit Speech Rights, "This report showcases just how important it is for nonprofit organizations of all stripes to continue to increase their nonpartisan voter engagement activities." Mason also noted that these activities are part of our civic responsibility. The online-only publication can be found at www.ombwatch.org/node/9803.

LWVO ANNOUNCES OHIO REDISTRICTING COMPETITION

Our congressional and state legislators are elected from districts that will be redrawn, block by block, in 2011. Redistricting—the way the lines are drawn can determine who wins (and loses) elections. And that determines who controls the legislature and Congress and what laws are passed. In the past, the process has been highly politicized with the result that fewer and fewer districts are competitive; representational fairness is lacking; many districts' geographic boundaries bear no relation to real communities—or to geographic compactness.

The Ohio Redistricting Competition represents the culmination of over nine months of planning among the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO), Ohio Citizen Action, Common Cause, Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, former State Representative Joan Lawrence, and State Representative Dan Stewart. The goal is to demonstrate that an open process based on objective criteria can produce fair legislative districts in Ohio. It is our belief that a robust public conversation can lead to the development of the best possible redistricting recommendations for the Ohio General Assembly.

Competition partners paid special attention to the need for balance between traditional redistricting principles recognized by courts and modern principles that can help achieve fairer districts. Each plan must design 18 Districts and will be scored and rank-ordered by the judging criteria. Before a plan can be considered, three legal thresholds must be met: population equality; contiguity; and National Voting Rights Act. All plans must provide for at least one majority-minority congressional district, in keeping with federal law and case law.

The competition is administered by an independent consultant contracted to the office of the Ohio Secretary of State. For information or to sign up, visit the League of Ohio Website at www.lwvohio.org.

LWVO STATEHOUSE DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

By Diedra Reese, LWVO Director

Statehouse Day 2009 brought out more than 23 Legislators or their staff members to join more than 80 League members from across the state to become better informed on key issues and to network with each other as we continue to identify the League of Women Voters of Ohio as a key resource to the community and Ohio Legislators.

The day was kicked off by a lively session entitled *Anatomy of a Budget Crisis* by Dr. Howard Fleeter. Dr. Fleeter provided an informative and entertaining perspective on the current state budget crisis and offered opinions on how we arrived at our current woes. Dr. Fleeter even provided insight on the impact of the Obama administration's Stimulus package and how it might bolster the Ohio Economy.

League members participated in lively discussion on *Regionalism* by panelists Larry Wolpert, Chester Jourdan, Jr. and Michael Cochran. Regionalism has become a topic of interests to many local Leagues across the state. Witnessing the discussion between the panelists provided great insight to the variety of views regarding the pros and cons of such concepts.

The Statehouse Day Agenda included four concurrent workshops on: *Health Care Reform*, *Education Funding Reform*, *Sunshine Law and Government Transparency* and *Election Reform*. Each session featured expert presenters including our own League member Peg Rosenfield who is recognized nationally as an election reform expert. The legislators and staff members who attended these sessions came away well informed and eager to build relationships with League members as we work for meaningful reform in the topic areas. (continued page 8)

STEERING COMMITTEE RECEIVES REGIONAL AWARD

Submitted by Marie Kocoshis

The Cincinnati Climate Protection Steering Committee, chaired by Vice Mayor David Crowley, is the recipient of the Frank F. Ferris II Community Planning Award for its "Green Cincinnati Plan." The award honors local planning commissions and committees that demonstrate excellence in the development and implementation of plans.

City administration, through the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ), developed the Green Cincinnati Plan (a Climate Protection Action Plan) back in June 2008, with significant input from the community to implement its goals.

The Climate Protection Steering Committee, composed of representatives of Cincinnati business, government, environmental, academic, and civic organizations, created 5 task teams made up of more the 150 subject matter experts and concerned citizens in the areas of energy, transportation, land use, waste management, and advocacy. League members participating in the process included **Jeff Davis, Debbie Clark, Chris Moran and Pinky Kocoshis**, to name a few.

The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission presented the award to the Cincinnati Climate Protection Steering Committee on March 30, 2009. Cincinnati is very honored to have been recognized for its development and implementation of the Green Cincinnati Plan and is proud of its commitment to reducing its contribution to global climate change.

PRIMARY ELECTION *(Cont'd from page 1)*

City of Blue Ash

Council Member; Ward 5; Republican Party

City of Sharonville

President of Council; Republican Party

Treasurer; Republican Party

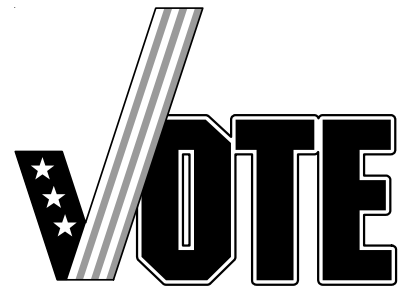
Council Member; Republican Party (3 Elected)

Council Member; Ward 1; Republican Party

Council Member; Ward 2; Republican Party

Council Member; Ward 3; Republican Party

Council Member; Ward 4; Republican Party



Local Issues

Issue 1 Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) — City of Silverton for CURRENT EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding five mills (5.0), for four years commencing in 2009.

Issue 2 Advisory Election — Village of Mariemont: Should the Village of Mariemont join the Little Miami Joint Fire District to provide emergency fire and paramedic services effective January 1, 2010; and if joining is approved, the Village would enact appropriate legislation to reduce the currently existing levies imposed on the Village residents, effective January 1, 2010.

Issue 3 Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) — Springfield Township For PROVIDING POLICE PROTECTION at a rate not exceeding two and five-tenths (2.5) mills for a continuing period commencing in 2009.

Issue 4 Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) — Sycamore Community School District for CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding five and five-tenths (5.5) mills for a continuing period commencing in 2009.

Issue 5 Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) — Winton Woods City School District for the purpose of CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding seven and ninety-five hundredths (7.95) mills for a continuing period commencing in 2009.

Issue 6 Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) — Forest Hills Local School District For CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding six and nine-tenths (6.9) mills for a continuing period commencing in 2009.

Issue 7 Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) — Columbia Township for GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING AND REPAIR OF STREETS, ROADS AND BRIDGES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP AND FOR CONSTRUCTING, REHABILITATING, REPAIRING, OR MAINTAINING SIDEWALKS, WALKWAYS, TRAILS, BICYCLE PATHWAYS OR SIMILAR IMPROVEMENTS, OR ACQUIRING OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN LAND NECESSARY FOR THE FOREGOING IMPROVEMENTS at a rate not exceeding three and twenty-five hundredths (3.25) mills for a continuing period commencing in 2009.



A documentary video by Andrea Torrice

THE NEW NEIGHBORS: HOW ONE TOWN CREATED A VIBRANT, INTEGRATED SUBURB

June 5, 5:30-7:30 at UC

The Greater Cincinnati Commitment Alliance, an Agenda 360 initiative, invites you to “commit2” a different kind of date night. Begin the evening with the Cincinnati premiere of award-winning documentary filmmaker (and Clifton resident) Andrea Torrice’s “*The New Neighbors - How one town created a vibrant, integrated suburb.*” This emotionally powerful film provides a roadmap for how communities in Greater Cincinnati can revitalize themselves through stable integration.

After the film, you will be invited to participate in small group dialogs about strengthening and promoting intentionally integrated communities in our region. Finally, take the opportunity to “walk the talk” of integration by having dinner at one of the great ethnic restaurants in the neighborhoods that surround UC.

To register for this event please contact Steve Johns at ccrcinn@juno.com or 513-458-6736. Cost for this event is \$10. This fee is waived for UC faculty, staff and students. For more information on the Greater Cincinnati Commitment, visit www.commit2.org.

TAX CREDITS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

By Nancy Dawley

Since energy avoidance is the best way to reduce global warming, you may be wondering what you can do personally. The recent Stimulus bill has identified tax credits for certain energy efficiency improvements. Tax credits may make the up-front costs something you can afford, so that you and the planet can take advantage of long-term savings in the future.

Question: *How has the new Stimulus bill affected the tax credits for energy efficient home improvements?*

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the “Stimulus Bill” (*The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*) that made significant changes to the energy efficiency tax credits.

These changes apply to products “placed in service” in 2009. The highlights are:

- The tax credits that were previously effective for 2009 have been extended to 2010 as well.
- The tax credit has been raised from 10% to 30%.
- The tax credits that were for a specific dollar amount have been converted to 30% of the cost.
- The maximum credit has been raised from \$500 to \$1,500 total for the two year period (2009-2010). However, some improvements such as geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, and solar panels are not subject to the \$1,500 maximum.
- The \$200 cap on windows has been removed, but the requirement for windows has been increased significantly. Not all ENERGY STAR qualified windows will qualify.



Specific information on what is covered by the tax credits can be found at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits

LIGHTING THE WAY TO A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

It's on every *Top Ten* list of things-to-do to save energy and help fight global climate change: **Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).** CFLs use roughly one-quarter of the electricity of an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light. This means savings for consumers through reduced electric bills. And by reducing the demand for electricity, it means less global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.



About one-third of global warming pollution in the United States is caused by coal plants generating electricity. And lighting accounts for 20 percent of the electricity used. For consumers whose electricity is produced from coal, replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep over half a ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb.

Is Mercury a Problem?

CFLs do contain a very small amount of mercury—about 5 milligrams, enough to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. The mercury is safe while the bulb is intact or in use, and even if the CFL should break, it poses little risk.

Far more serious are the 50 tons of mercury emitted annually from coal-burning power plants in the United States. To generate the average 10,660 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity used by the typical household each year, a power plant will emit about 245 mg of mercury (roughly 0.023 mg of mercury/kWh of electricity produced). By using CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs, homeowners will reduce their electrical demand and cut mercury emissions as well.

Assessing the Impact

Let's compare a 23-watt CFL with an incandescent bulb that produces the same amount of light, namely a 100-watt bulb. Since ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs last five to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs, this example compares one 23-watt CFL with five 100-watt incandescents, equivalent to the expected lifetime of the 23-watt CFL.

	1 23-watt CFL	5 100-watt incandescents
Cost of bulbs (Home Depot prices)	\$4.00	\$3.15
Lifespan of bulbs	5,000 hours	5 x 1,000 hours
Electricity used over bulbs' lifetime	115 kWh	500 kWh
Cost of electricity (at 10¢/kWh)	\$11.50	\$50.00
CO ₂ produced	230 lb	1,000 lb
Mercury (electrical generation)	2.6 mg	11.5 mg
Mercury (in the bulb) *	5.0 mg	0

* With proper disposal, the mercury in the CFL will not enter the environment.

Making the Switch

For those who haven't made the switch to CFLs yet or who were unhappy with fluorescent lights in the past, it's time to check out the nearest lighting display.

CFLs now come in a variety of shapes and sizes and can replace incandescent bulbs in almost any fixture. Some are specifically designed for use with dimmers or in three-way fixtures. CFLs are available in a range of color temperatures from soft white to daylight.

The amount of light that any bulb will put out is measured in lumens. A 100-watt incandescent bulb will put out about 1,600 lumens. Replacing that bulb with a 23-watt CFL will also produce 1,600 lumens, but it will require much less power. Look for ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs. These have been tested to meet stringent performance criteria; they will use 75 percent less energy than an incandescent bulb and last up to ten times longer.

(continued page 9)

2009 RANSOHOFF AWARD WINNER: Dr. Carl F. Evert

By *Burt Roehr and Sylvia Mersfelder, Ransohoff Nominating Committee*



Carl Evert, a long-time resident of Pleasant Ridge, dedicated environmentalist, and energetic supporter of his neighborhood public school, was presented with the League's Daniel J. Ransohoff Citizen Initiative Award at the annual Visions luncheon. This award recognizes "the achievements of an individual or organization for outstanding civic service in our community." Criteria include having some influence on public policy, implementing innovative change, and having an impact on our community....all in a **volunteer** capacity.

For at least twenty years, Dr. Evert and his wife Marjorie have worked tirelessly to get Hilton-Davis to clean up its facility on Langdon Farm Road. Among other activities, this effort has involved studying countless EPA regulations to ensure that the chemical company was adhering to federal environmental law. On a smaller level, he has had his back yard authorized as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat.

Dr. Evert also has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to his Pleasant Ridge School community. When plans called for moving the school to another neighborhood, he rallied community support to keep that school in Pleasant Ridge. When Cincinnati Public Schools' Facilities Plan included a new building for Pleasant Ridge, Dr. Evert advocated successfully to have it built "green," i.e. LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). He worked closely with architects, he researched "green" design, and he visited the construction site frequently to be sure the work was done correctly. Because of his leadership on this issue, CPS has incorporated "green" standards in many of their new buildings, and Ohio has also adopted green building standards for all new Ohio schools.

Having worked diligently to get Pleasant Ridge designed and built "green," Dr. Evert became president of the school's Local Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) which advocated for and gained a public neighborhood Montessori program at the school. He now works at the district level to suggest how LSDMCs might operate more effectively.

Finally, with the school built and an excellent learning program in use, Dr. Evert determined that he would help the kids who are students there. He created a project to get refurbished computers to youngsters, and to give them the software to help them learn. This program, Computers Aiding Kids Education (C.A.K.E.), supplies the equipment to students and trains their families on how to use them.

We were pleased to present the 2009 Daniel J. Ransohoff Citizen Initiative Award to Dr. Carl Evert.

Statehouse Day *(continued from Page 4)*

The day culminated with a presentation by Ohio House Speaker Armond Budish who shared *Legislative Priorities and Economic Realities*. Speaker Budish answered questions regarding rail service, the budget process and potential election reforms to be considered in this General Assembly. LWVCA members **Mary Kercherval Short, Rose Kearney, and Sherrie Heyse** attended.



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**.

DINNER WITH THE LEAGUE

Trey Devey, President of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, was featured speaker at Dinner with the League (DWL) on March 23. Mr. Devey is shown here with LWVCA President **Marjorie Davies** and Program Vice President **Don Rhoad**. Mr. Devey spoke about the long, proud history of Cincinnati's symphony, discussed current financial challenges, and described the future season and goals to improve the Music Hall experience. This was the last DWL for the season, and the last ever at the Vernon Manor Hotel. DWL has been a great addition to Cincinnati League.



(Photo by Gail Wick)

FAREWELL, VERNON MANOR

The Vernon Manor Hotel closed this spring, ending an 80 year history. The hotel was home to many League events including our Dinner with the League and Annual Meetings. As an in-city comfortable meeting spot with affordable pricing and union represented staff, the Vernon Manor will be deeply missed by many organizations in our community.

WAYS TO HELP LWVCA -

By Sherrie Heyse

Shop for a Cause

Many thanks to all who participated in the Kroger Community Card Program for the LWVCA Education Fund. We have received \$237.62 so far this fiscal year. The Kroger Community Card can be used at the gas pump, for groceries and even in the pharmacy; LWVCA Ed Fund gets 2% rebate of your expenditures. This source of income is easy for members to do even if you are using a Community Card for another organization: just use the LWVCA Ed Fund card once a quarter. Every little bit counts. If you would like a specially coded LWVCA Education Fund card sent to you, please call the office or ask your unit chair to get one for you.

Stimulate civic engagement!

If you are getting a little extra money in your paycheck through stimulus tax cuts, why not make a gift to the League? Gifts to the LWVCA Education Fund support our voter service activities and are tax deductible. Gifts to LWVCA support our membership and advocacy activities and are not tax deductible.

Disposing of CFLs *(continued from page 7)*

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, and proper disposal of CFLs is a must. The U.S. EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and major retailers to expand recycling and disposal options. Some hardware stores already accept used CFLs, and many states and municipalities sponsor regular household hazardous waste collection programs that include CFLs. State and local recycling options can be found online at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling/ and at www.earth911.org.

If a CFL should break, scoop up the glass fragments and fine particles with stiff paper or cardboard and put them in a plastic bag. Do not use a vacuum or broom. Wipe the area with a damp paper towel and place that in the bag, too. Seal the bag, place it in a second plastic bag, and dispose of it properly. If weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: VENUS MOOSE

Venus is the nominee for VP Voter Service for the 2009-2011.

Venus writes: I'm happily married to my best friend and partner. I'm also happily employed as a librarian at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library. In this role, I plan adult and family programs, facilitate a writers' group, host two monthly film programs, and work at our reference desk. My husband John and I currently live in Camp Washington in the Machine Flats (an interesting example of urban redevelopment) but we hope to buy our first home within the next year. We're now actively narrowing down neighborhoods and house dreaming.

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

A: I first joined the League of Women Voters around the time I was hired as coordinator of the LWVCA's Regional Citizen Education Center in 1999. At the time, I was an undergraduate political science student at Xavier University and was very impressed with the League's voter education activities. I stayed a member for a few years until I moved out of the area. My husband and I rejoined the LWVCA after rediscovering the League's helpful Smart Voter and the Who and What of Elections during the last election.

Q: *What units/committees are you currently involved with?*

A: I just rejoined the League last November, and thus am not yet actively involved with any units or committees. I was planning to gradually increase my participation, but with the nomination for VP of Voter Service, I'm looking forward to a more active role.

Q: *What do you enjoy about League membership?*

A: I appreciate many elements of League membership, but am especially pleased to be a member of an organization that strongly supports voter education and civic engagement. In the past ten years, while living in Louisville, Lexington, and Northern Kentucky, I've come to further recognize the importance and value of voter education resources. I think the LWVCA's excellent voter education resources such as Smart Voter, The Who and What of Elections and They Represent Us are unmatched in our region.

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

A: As a librarian, of course, I love to read. I just recently finished two wonderfully interesting books: "All the Way Home: Building a Family in a Falling-Down House" by David Giffels and "Birth: The Surprising History of How We Are Born" by Tina Cassidy.



CONGRATULATIONS!

League member **Christen Browne** graduates on May 16 from Xavier University with a Master of Education, Human Resource Development from Xavier University. It has been a long hard work; Christen used her classroom projects to help League grow. Congratulations Christen!

CORRECTION to April's Voter:

Jeane Goings and Marianne Rash Rowe were awarded the *Cincinnati Enquirer Women of the Year Award* (— not the Leading Women Award). I apologize for the mistake.—Ed.



Unit Profile: NorthEast Evening

NorthEast Evening Unit meets the second Monday of each month at the Madeira Public Library. Current Unit Chair is **Kit Berger**; Membership Chair is **Nancy Dawley**. We always have a snack to eat and a friendly discussion; we often disagree and we learn by doing so. Pictured are some (not all) of the members at our March discussion on schools: (L-R) Back row - **Corinne Gutjahr, Ella Brown Jordan, Ruth Hubbard, Ann Applegate-Katz, Kit Berger, Helen Rhoad, Mary Friel, Kent Friel**. Front Row - **Treon Cristine, Rina Saperstein, Anne Guinan, Don Rhoad**. (photo by Jeff Davis)

Note: There are no Unit meetings in May, June, July or August. And the League office is closed the entire month of July. But there are several ways to stay involved and have fun this summer.

Got a Topic?

The Program Development Committee (PDC) is currently engaged in developing next year’s program - the 7-8 topics we’ll discuss in our units each month from September 2009-May 2010. Program Topics are chosen based on whether we feel there is member interest, and whether we have the capacity to perform excellent research and summarize information on the subject well. Then we try to balance between local, regional, state, national and international issues. If you have a suggestion for a subject, contact Program Vice President **Don Rhoad**.

Program Committee News:

On May 14, at 7:00 pm, the **Natural Resources Committee** is hosting special guest Bill Ostrander, who will give a presentation U.S. National Energy Policy. This meeting is free and open to the public at Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church, League office. We also thank NR committee members Jeff Davis, Nancy Dawley and John Hunter for leading a successful public discussion on the Coal Moratorium and green economy in Ohio.

The LWVCA and its **Education Committee** thanks **Sarah Gideonse, Burt Roehr and Alice Schneider** for all their work on the April 16 forum on the future of Ohio Schools. Sarah, especially, worked hard to put this blue-ribbon event together on behalf of five civic organizations: LWVCA, Woman’s City Club, Cincinnatus, CCR and Urban League.

The **Housing Committee** is planning a summer go-see tour to visit shelters and other services for homeless families and individuals. This ties in well with our Annual Meeting Speaker, Georgine Getty, who will speak about Family Homelessness. Many League members are involved with Interfaith Hospitality Network through their churches and religious assemblies. The tour will be a chance to get a look at the bigger picture in Cincinnati.

**ART MUSEUM TRIP:
“Adventures in Surrealism”**

Carolyn Honkomp has graciously agreed to mentor us on a tour of the exhibit, “Adventures in Surrealism,” at the Cincinnati Art Museum. This is a once in a lifetime exhibit that would be very enhanced by Carolyn’s experience and knowledge as a Cincinnati Art Museum docent. Even if you have viewed the exhibit, let Carolyn explain it to you so you can really understand it. The tour date is Thursday May 7, 2009 at 1:00 in the afternoon. Please meet in the entrance lobby of the Cincinnati Art Museum. The tour should take about one hour.



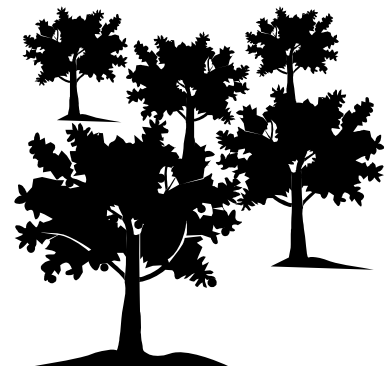
Participation is limited to 25 people, so please call the League Office to pre-register.

**WOMAN’S CITY CLUB
Annual Spring Grove Tours**

Join Woman’s City Club for tours highlighting past WCC leaders and other individuals who served the city in areas of social justice, civic reform, improved housing and the arts. Choose from two tours, both led by volunteer docent Diana Brake.

Tram Tour on
Friday, May 8 at
3pm. The Walking
Tour on Saturday,
May 9 at 11 am.

Call WCC at 751-0100 for your reservation.





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MAY/JUNE CALENDAR

- May 1-3 LWVO State Convention in Dublin, OH
- Mon May 4 7 pm Housing Committee*
- Tues May 5 Ohio Primary Election, (see p. 5 for details)
- Tues May 5 6:30 pm LWVCA Board Meeting*
- Thurs May 7 1 pm Art Museum Surrealism Exhibit Tour Meet in Art Museum lobby.
- May 8-May 9 Womans City Club Spring Grove Tours. See p. 11 for details
- Thurs May 14 7 pm Natural Resources Committee (guest speaker Bill Ostrander)*
- Mon May 18 5:30 pm County Government Committee*
- Tues May 19 6 pm LWVCA Annual Meeting Crowne Plaza Hotel See p.1 for details.
- Tues May 26 6:30 pm Health Care Committee*
- Wed May 27 6 pm Program Development Committee (PDC)*
- Fri June 5 Deadline for copy for Summer Voter covering July and August.
- Fri June 5 5:30 pm Commit2/CCR Movie "The New Neighbors" See p. 6 for details.
- Thurs June 11 7 pm Natural Resources Committee*
- Thurs June 25 10 am Voter Collating party

LEAGUE OFFICE IS CLOSED MONTH OF JULY. There are no unit meetings in May, June, July and August. As always, see our website (www.lwvcincinnati.org) for more information on upcoming events.

All meetings are open to the public.

** League Conference Room*

Not a member yet? Between now and May 31, new members can **join the LWVCA** for half price. Gift memberships are included in the promotion. All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement.*

- Individual - \$27.50
- Household - \$37.50
- Student - \$12.50

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to LWVCA at 103 W H Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219

*This introductory membership is valid until December 2009.