



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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Summer 2008

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MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan 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

by Marjorie Davies

Thank you to **Rina Saperstein** and all our past presidents. Due to their strong leadership, we have a well-respected name, our membership is stable, we're financially solvent, our services are valued by our community, and we're well positioned to meet the demands of this important presidential election year.



Marjorie Davies

Program: The 2008-09 program year begins with our annual summer bus tour (please see insert). The September program, in collaboration with the Cincinnati Association, will profile twenty thriving, racially-integrated Cincinnati communities. See page 11 for the entire LWVCA 2008-09 program schedule.

Strategic planning retreat: LWVCA incoming and outgoing board members met on May 31 to plan work for 2008-09. With survey input from members attending our annual meeting, we updated last year's analysis of our SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) and identified five priority areas: Voter Services, Action/Program, Technology, Membership Recruitment, and Fundraising, all to be addressed with attention to collaboration and diversity.

Specific opportunities we'll work on, with your support:

- Expanding the reach of our Voter Services materials through electronic and print media.
- Prioritizing the most important issues on which to focus our action.
- Educating the public, including candidates and elected officials, on our mission, process, and values.
- Utilizing technology to improve internal and external communication.
- Identifying outlying areas to target for service expansion.
- Reaching out to potential members and integrating diversity in membership.
- Mentoring new LWVCA members and recruiting and training new volunteers.
- Developing new sources of funding and educating members about LWVCA finances..
- Updating our image.

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If you didn't attend annual meeting and want to offer strategic planning input to the board, surveys will be available at September unit meetings, or please call or email me with your comments.

Volunteer opportunities: Important volunteer positions are available at the LWVCA this year. Help your community, build personal skills, and enjoy the company of knowledgeable people at the same time. Join with a friend — he or she does not have to be a member — for any of the following projects. Your service will be appreciated!

- **Voter Services:** For our non-partisian voter guides, SmartVoter.com and the Who & What of Elections, in August to help with mailings to candidates and in September to review candidate responses and proofread. For our directory of public officials, *They Represent Us*, in December/January for copy preparation and in February for distribution. Contact **Melissa Currence**.
- **Program Committees:** For the most important civic issues facing Cincinnati, there are LWVCA committees studying possible solutions and working collaboratively for change. Join us in our work. A list of committees and their chairs is on page 11.
- **Office Volunteer/Voter Hotline:** Staff the office 9:30 – 12:30 one day per month. Answer common questions on voting and elections; training and support materials provided. Contact **Mary Kay Gardner** or **Ruby Glenn**.
- **Start Up New Units:** Providing our services at universities and retirement centers requires special supports. Help us reach these important populations beginning this summer. Contact **Marjorie Davies**.
- **Speakers' Bureau:** Training and shadowing with experienced LWVCA speakers is provided. Opportunities available on a variety of topics year-round, especially near election time, at dates and times to suit your schedule. Voter registration volunteers also needed. Contact **Doña Neihsel**.
- **Membership Committee:** Develop and implement recruitment strategies to increase our diversity and serve existing members. Work begins this summer. Contact **Carolyn Meyers-Hughes**.
- **Dinner with the League:** Help with reservations or staff the registration table, September – April. Contact **Don Rhoad**.
- **Ransohoff Award:** Solicit and evaluate nominations for the Education Fund's annual civic award, beginning in September. Contact **Marjorie Davies**.
- **Budget Committee:** Learn about LWVCA finances, January - February. Contact **Marjorie Davies**.
- **Fund Development:** Your creative ideas and assistance are needed for our community appeals and major fundraising events (*Susan B. Anthony Luncheon*, *Visions for Greater Cincinnati Luncheon*, and *PowerPledge* phonathon). Contact **Dee Shaffer**.
- **Writing and photography:** Put your skills to use in our newsletter, website, or in public relations. Contact **Rina Saperstein**.

Website: Our redesigned website will be unveiled this summer. You'll see enhanced navigation, homepage feature of upcoming events, an interactive calendar, and the ability to make online reservations, contributions, and payments through Paypal.

National Convention: Our delegates **Melissa Currence, Mary Kay Gardner, and Helen and John Hunter** represented the LWVCA in Portland, Oregon June 13-17. In addition to approving the national program, convention was a great opportunity to network with League members from other cities and to participate in workshops to build leadership skills. Look for their report in the next Voter.

Summer Quiz Question: "How many women have ever served as U.S. senator?" Answer in the next issue; check the President's column.

VOTERS WIN: ANTI VOTER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DIES IN MISSOURI SENATE

Excerpted from a LWVUS Press Release - May 19, 2008

The Missouri Legislature ended their legislative session for the year without a vote on a proposed constitutional amendment that would have required all citizens to have photo identification and proof of citizenship as a prerequisite to voting. The bill, HJR 48, was considered one of the most restrictive Voter ID bills of its kind in the nation. The legislation would have prevented up to 240,000 Missourians from voting.

“The death of this bill is the rebirth of hope that all Missouri voters will have their voices heard this November,” said national League of Women Voters president Mary G. Wilson. “Thanks to the hard work of the Missouri League, and the efforts of a broad coalition of organizations, hundreds of thousands of Missouri voters will be protected from a discriminatory requirement that would do nothing to actually improve the voting process. This is a clear signal to lawmakers nationwide that they should be in the business of protecting voters and encouraging participation, not denying us our most fundamental rights.”

The League of Women Voters helped create Missourians for Fair Elections, a coalition of organizations and individuals that worked diligently to educate the legislators and voters of Missouri about the negative ramifications of the proposed constitutional amendment. Because of the coalition’s hard work, thousands of contacts were made with lawmakers. The League joined the AARP, labor organizations, disability advocates and other community organizations in the effort to ensure that every citizen’s voting rights were protected by making sure this bill did not become law.

Missourians for Fair Elections released a statement that included the following thoughts from individuals that would have been directly affected by HJR 48. “I am relieved that I will be able to vote this fall,” said Lillie Lewis, a St. Louis city resident, “I’ve been voting in every election since I can remember, but if I needed my birth certificate, that would be the end of that. I hope this is the last we hear of this nonsense.” Lillie Lewis was born in Mississippi, but the state sent her a letter stating they have no record of her birth. Birdell Owen, a Missouri resident who was displaced by hurricane Katrina, also voiced her relief. “I should be able to participate in my democracy,” she said, “even if Louisiana can’t get me a copy of my birth certificate. I’m glad Missouri politicians had the sense to protect my right to vote.”

To learn more about the League’s efforts to protect voters all over the country, visit the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project at www.lwv.org/pavp.

WHAT IS A SUPERDELEGATE?

“Superdelegate” is an informal term for some of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Unlike most convention delegates, superdelegates are not selected based on the party primaries and caucuses held in each state. Instead, they are seated automatically, based solely on their position in the party as current or former elected officeholders and/or party leaders. About half of the superdelegates are current Democratic elected officials — governors, U.S. senators and representatives, the other half are party leaders. Superdelegates are free to support any candidate for the nomination unlike pledged delegates who are committed to vote for one particular candidate. Each one has one vote at the convention, the same as those delegates chosen by primaries or caucuses.

The Republican Party also seats some party officials as delegates without regard to primary or caucus results, however, the term “superdelegate” is most commonly applied only in the Democratic Party.

HISTORY

After the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the Democratic Party made changes in its delegate selection process, based on the work of the McGovern-Fraser Commission. The purpose of the changes was to make the composition of the convention less subject to control by party leaders and more responsive to the votes cast during the campaign for the nomination.

Some Democrats believed that these changes unduly diminished the role of party leaders and elected officials. The party appointed a commission chaired by Jim Hunt, then Governor of North Carolina, to address this issue. In 1982, the Hunt Commission recommended and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) adopted a rule that set aside some the DNC, all former Democratic Presidents and Vice Presidents, all former Democratic



(Continued page 4)

STATEHOUSE DAY

By Carl Schmidt

I traveled to Columbus with delegates **Rina Saperstein** and **Alice Schneider**. The program handout included "League of Women Voters of Ohio Positions on Education", 23 points beginning in 1983; and "LWVO Action Alert, Ohio Senate Bill 57 - Special Education Vouchers" (opposed by LWVO).

At the morning session, the principal speaker was Paolo De Maria, ODE Center for School Options and Finance responsibility, who emphasized that although Education Funding is the number one topic at "Town meetings" presently being held across the state, there is absolutely no consensus on solutions. He presented extensive information on how the State broke down with regard to various zones differentiating education resources and needs. Mr. De Maria is cognizant of the Cincinnati Levy success.

The afternoon Education session, coordinated by LWVO education lobbyist Joan Platz, was attended by four state Representatives (Tracy Heard, Ted Celeste, Steve Dyer, and Mark Okey) who confirmed state-wide concern that Ohio is on the edge with regard to Education Funding, and that the legislature is nowhere close to consensus. At least two of them had proposed plans, which were in disagreement. All agreed that resolution depended on the Governor. (Note: The Ohio Constitution assigns that responsibility to the General Assembly.)

SUPERDELEGATES *(Continued from page 3)*

delegate slots for Democratic members of Congress and for state party chairs and vice chairs. When it was implemented for the 1984 election, superdelegates were 14% of all delegates. The number has steadily increased. Today they are approximately 23% of all delegates and include: all Democratic members of Congress, Democratic governors, members of Leaders of the U.S. Senate, all former Democratic Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives and Democratic Minority Leaders, as applicable, and all former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee. As of May 15, 2008 the number of superdelegates was 796, although the number can continue to change until the beginning of the convention.

Sources: www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Superdelegate; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superdelegate>
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23147072/#storyContinued>

LWVO INTRODUCES NEW DIRECTOR

Deidra Reese is the new Executive Director for the League of Women Voters of Ohio as of May 19, 2008. With nearly twenty years of public policy experience, including her latest role as Director of Governmental Services for a statewide membership based association, she brings a strong understanding of the policy issues that are important to our League Members. Ms. Reese has extensive policy experience in several areas including education, health care, election reform, redistricting and reapportionment and campaign finance reform. She is a certified organizational development consultant, holding certifications in process management, and looks forward to putting those skills to work on behalf of the League to continue to encourage civic engagement. Ms. Reese can be reached at the League of Women Voters of Ohio, 17 South High Street, Suite 650, Columbus, OH 43215

LWVCA imPACT TOWN MEETING: JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

On May 18, 2008, LWVOhio's Impact Manager Ann Nelson; Bill Woods, Chair of Common Cause Ohio; and University of Cincinnati students from **Jane Anderson's** Political Science Course discussed how judges are selected in Ohio. Speakers included UC Professor Michael Solomine as well as Hamilton County Magistrate Kathy King. About 30 students and League members participated in this lively forum, cosponsored by UC, LWVO and Common Cause. Special thanks to Richard Harknett, Director of the Taft Research Center and **Alice Schneider** who organized the event.



A project sponsored by the
League of Women Voters of Ohio
Education Fund.

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ACTIVITIES - SPRING 2008

By Nancy Forbriger

As a result of actions at its June 5, 2008 meeting, the following leadership team will direct the activities of the Hamilton County November 2008 presidential election: Alex Triantafilou, former Common Pleas Judge and current chairman of the Republican Party in Hamilton County will serve as Board Chairman; Tim Burke (Chair of Hamilton County Democratic Party); Charles H. Gerhardt, III, (Republican); and V. Daniel Radford (Democrat) will continue as Board members.

Sally J. Krisel, Democrat, was appointed as the new Director of the Board. John Williams, a Republican and previously Director since 2002 will be Deputy Director. Sally Curran, Republican, will be secretary to the Board. The Ohio Revised Code requires that the Election Board Chairman and the Director be of opposite political parties. The Deputy Director must be of the opposite party from the Director. Changes are commonly made in even-numbered years if a Secretary of State of a different party is elected. (See *Know Your Ohio Government*, p.130, 2004 edition)

John Williams described new equipment which the staff is examining for handling absentee ballots. They expect 100,000 absentee votes to be cast. The equipment would open and sort by precinct. Cost is \$1 Million. The County Commissioners will need to appropriate funds. Williams was also concerned about the BOE budget as \$700,000 was cut by the Commissioners. The BOE is already over budget. The BOE anticipates using the warehouse at 934 Dalton Street to handle storage of the large number of ballots needed for the fall election.

At a three hour-long meeting on March 31, the Board examined and voted on appropriate handling of special problem absentee and provisional ballots.

At its April 8 meeting, the Board accepted a Public Records Policy which will be posted on the 2nd and 3rd Floors of the BOE Headquarters. LWVCA has a copy which will be filed in the Volunteer desk side drawer at our office.

They also certified Mr. Chris Dole, as Independent Candidate for County Commissioner (term 1/3/08); Mr. David H. Krikorian, Independent Candidate for the 2nd Congressional District, and Mr. James J. Condit, Jr., Write-in Candidate for the 2nd Congressional Dist. Jonathan Morris was later certified as a write-in candidate for the 35th state district. The latest web address for the Board - www.votehamiltoncounty.org.

CINCINNATI SEEKS IMPROVEMENTS IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING

By Pinky Kocoshis of the Natural Resources Committee

The City of Cincinnati contracts with Rumpke for weekly curbside recycling collection and processing. The program cost of \$2.1 million per year must be defended at budget time every fall, when City Council is looking for cuts to balance the budget. The Environmental Advisory Council – which advises the City Manager, City Council, and all city departments on matters related to the environmental quality of the City – wrote a report in October 2007 which called for renegotiating the contract to get a better deal for the City relative to the city's finances and the health and environment of our city and its residents.

There were many other recommendations for improving participation and increasing waste diversion percentage (including returning coordination of the recycling program and contract oversight to the Office of Environmental Quality; and requiring recycling as a condition to obtain a permit for public events like the Taste of Cincinnati). On May 21, Cincinnati City Council passed a motion with almost unanimous support to renegotiate the contract for 2009. The goals will be: to increase waste diverted (now only 10.22%), to increase household participation (now 30%), and to include the contract workers doing the processing under the City's Living Wage Ordinance.



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND CINCINNATI'S RESPONSE

By Larry Falkin, Director of the Office of Environmental Quality

Good news...The City of Cincinnati is actively and aggressively on the path to tackling the issue of Global Climate Change locally. As part of his *Green Cincinnati* initiative, last November Mayor Mark Mallory appointed a Climate Protection Steering Committee, chaired by Vice Mayor David Crowley, to develop a regional Climate Protection Action Plan to help limit the damage caused by global climate change.

On April 24th, the Steering Committee voted unanimously to endorse the proposed plan and its recommendations. That plan is now before City Council's Health, Environment, and Education Committee for review.* The Climate Protection Action Plan provides an aggressive roadmap for how Cincinnati can become a national leader in addressing global climate change and make Cincinnati a healthier place to live. It does the following:

- Establishes green house gas emission reduction goals of 8% within 4 years, 40% within 20 years, and 84% by 2050 (42 years).
- Quantifies annual contributions to global climate change at 8.5 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) for the City of Cincinnati, and 432,000 tons of CO₂e for Cincinnati City Government. At 25.5 tons per person, Cincinnati is slightly above the national average of 24.5 tons per person.

Identifies 80 specific recommendations for how to reduce contributions to global climate change. The recommended actions generally share several characteristics:

1. Effectively reduce green house gas emissions
2. Reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources
3. Save more money than the recommended actions cost
4. Support local job creation and the local economy
5. Help clean Cincinnati's air, land, and water
6. Improve public health
7. Rely on voluntary rather than regulatory approaches



Supported by the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ), during the last 6 months over 150 Cincinnati professionals and concerned citizen volunteers developed the Climate Protection Action Plan. Steering Committee Members include leaders representing business, government, environmental, community, civic, labor and academic organizations. Five Task Teams in the areas of land use, waste, energy, transportation and advocacy developed recommendations for the plan with the goal of changing citizen behavior for a more sustainable lifestyle in Cincinnati. The full text of the Climate Protection Action Plan can be viewed on the City's website at: http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cmgr/downloads/cmgr_pdf18280.pdf

For questions, please contact Larry Falkin, Director of the OEQ at 513-352-5325 or larry.falkin@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Note: LWVCA members serving on the task teams include Pinky Kokoshis, Chris Moran and Jeff Davis

* Approved by City Council on June 18, 2008.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND FERNALD UPDATES

By Chris Moran, Natural Resources Committee

Climate Protection

As a follow-up to the December VOTER article “Climate Protection Planning Process” and the March ‘08 discussion material “Global Climate Change” is the note that Cincinnati’s Climate Protection Action Plan was approved by City Council on June 18. There is a link to the long document including more than 80 recommendations on the City’s home page: www.cincinnati-oh.gov.

Fernald

Last summer League members toured Fernald, once a Department of Energy Feed Material Production Center. From 1951 to 1989, this was the site of a uranium processing facility where uranium ore was converted into high purity uranium metal products or feed material via chemical processes and a uranium metal refinery. Of the 1051 acres of land, 136 acres were developed as plants and administrative and service facilities.

Reduced demand for uranium feed material coupled with environmental compliance and waste management issues led to the shut down of plant operations. A long investigation process was followed by an innovative and precedent setting public participation in the remediation of the site which will require on-going management. The land has been cleared except for a new Visitors Center and the area has become the Fernald Preserve. On August 20, 2008, a community meeting will be held and begin five days of community based activities at the nature preserve. It would be well worth the visit to witness the transformation and gain an understanding of events that occurred here in this western Hamilton County Crosby Township, 7400 Wiley Road.

LAUGHING BROOK WETLAND

By John Hunter

A storm sends water pouring across the parking lot into an adjoining stream. On its way the water becomes laden with dirt, debris, and pollutants and the stream receives it all and becomes degraded as well. That scenario happens simultaneously in multiple locations along urban streams such as Mill Creek.

Wetlands are nature’s way of cleaning storm runoff so that streams and rivers remain clear and clean. We can simulate nature by passing storm water through constructed wetlands and rain gardens which retain the water for slow release after aquatic plants and rock layers have performed their cleansing action.

The Mill Creek Restoration Project has just completed the Laughing Brook wetland to cleanse the storm water runoff from the Salway Park parking lots and adjacent ball fields opposite the Spring Grove Cemetery. Salway Park is a heavily used recreational facility serving over half of the City’s neighborhoods. Laughing Brook is an exceptional combination of wetland, public art and environmental education that is part of Cincinnati’s Mill Creek Greenway Program.

Visitors are welcomed to follow the boardwalk and pathways winding over and around the wetland and enjoy the hundred biosculptures created by New-York-based artist, Jackie Brookner. The sculptured hands, fish, and salamanders will eventually be covered by mosses and liverworts to help in the cleansing process. Water is gathered in surrounding rain gardens, retained in an underground holding tank and pumped by solar energy to flow through the wetland before slowly discharging into the Mill Creek.



TWO EASY WAYS YOU CAN RAISE MONEY FOR LEAGUE AT WORK

By Sherrie Heyse

Community Shares

Last year the LWVCA Education Fund received over \$6,000 from Community Shares workplace giving campaigns. You can help us raise even more this year. If your employer offers Community Shares as a giving option in your workplace, please make a contribution and designate League as your recipient. Encourage your fellow workers to choose League for their donations. Some of our members e-mail their friends at work during their Community Shares campaign and ask them to consider League. This has been very successful. Others just “talk us up.” If Community Shares is not offered where you work, see if your company would be willing to listen to a presentation by Community Shares representatives about starting a giving campaign in your workplace. It is easy, and provides a great choice to employees who want to help with worthy local causes.

Community Shares is the only local giving campaign that allows employees to choose the nonprofit organization they want their money to go to. To contact Greater Cincinnati Community Shares about beginning a giving campaign in your workplace, call Jenice Jones at 475-0475. You can also visit the Community Shares website at www.cintishares.org for more information.

Corporate Donations

Some of the larger corporations in Cincinnati give money to non-profits that their employees volunteer for and some corporations match contributions that their employees make to nonprofits. Check with your employer to see if they offer either of these programs. If so, let them know about us.

VISIONS LUNCHEON WRAP UP

By Sherrie Heyse

Many thanks to all who made Visions a success! It is a wonderful feeling to look out over a room filled with League members and supporters. Special thanks to our sponsors: Cincinnati Bell, Duke Energy, Knowledge Works, Procter and Gamble, Macy's, and US Bank.

Dr. Nancy Zimpher, President of UC, and Jeff Edmundson, Executive Director of STRIVE, gave an interesting and challenging talk about what is happening with education in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. They challenged our ideas of how the community can work together to pool resources to make high school graduation really happen and some form of higher education a reality for all. Data suggests that only 70% of students graduate from high school in Ohio on time and only 38% immediately enroll in college. In Kentucky only 66% of high school students graduate on time and only 36% immediately enroll in college. The figures for graduating from college on time are even less. Only 17% of students graduate from college on time in Ohio and 11% graduate from college on time in Kentucky. The goal of STRIVE is *Every* student graduates, no exceptions! STRIVE is a coalition of many partners including post-secondary education, public and parochial schools, corporations, civic and faith based organizations, parents, and children's intervention groups. STRIVE is working to use people and organizations already in place and coordinate these efforts with post-secondary and community based programs. The effort is to improve students' readiness for school, proficiency through lower grades, graduation from high school, culminating in entrance and retention in post secondary education. For more information, go to www.strivetogether.org.

LWVCA gives special thanks to **Dee Shaffer** for the table centerpieces, our Host/Hostess volunteers, **Marjorie Davies and Doña Neiheisel** for handling registration, and our mailing team.

Our Ransohoff committee deserves a round of applause. The members of the committee were **Marjorie Davies, Sylvia Mersfelder, Carolyn Miller, Burt Roehr, Rose Kearney and Bette Evanshine**.

RANSOHOFF CIVIC AWARDEE

Kent Friel was awarded the Daniel J. Ransohoff Civic Award at the 2008 Visions Luncheon. He is currently a Community Fellow with KnowledgeWorks Foundation. Mr. Friel's recent accomplishments include: Leading development of a new \$42 million Woodward Career Technical High School; Initiating a Principal mentoring program for CPS Principals; Leading recruitment of 25 African-American students for a special program at UC's College of Education; Serving as Chairman of the Better Business Bureau and Vice-Chairman of the Lighthouse Community School Board.

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WHY DOUBLE FUNDRAISING?

By Rina Saperstein

When I joined the League, I quickly came to understand its purpose and good works. But I admit the financials really puzzled me. One issue is particularly confusing - why do we ask for money in so many different ways?

INCOME

The Cincinnati Area League has two separate funds with separate purposes. In League jargon, we call them “League side” and “Ed Fund.” The LWVCA, to which you pay membership dues, is a membership organization recognized as a 501(c)4 organization under the tax code. 501(c)4 organizations engage in advocacy and in member services; they are tax exempt but NOT tax deductible. Income for the “League side” comes from our membership dues as well as non tax-deductible contributions from members. As a 501(c)4 organization, the League side is not eligible for foundation grants. Also the League side rarely sees donations from the outside community, although we can occasionally receive corporate sponsorships. In recent years, the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon has become an important fundraiser for the League side.

The LWVCA Education Fund, on the other hand, is a 501(3)c fund, which is both tax-exempt and fully tax deductible. It is designed specifically for education purposes. Foundation grants, corporate, and individual donations can all be used. We run a variety of fundraisers for the Education Fund, which support our major public communications such as the Who and What of Elections, They Represent Us, Know Hamilton County, SmartVoter, etc. Our Visions luncheon is the primary fundraiser for the Education Fund.

EXPENSE

The League side and Ed Fund share operating expenses proportionately. Regular expenses include paying an annual assessed per member payment (PMP) to the League of Women Voters of Ohio, about \$23.50 per member, and to the League of Women Voters of the US, about \$27 per member. That leaves \$4.50 from your membership dues for LWVCA’s use. In addition, we pay for operations such as rent and phones in our office, postage, paper and copying of this VOTER and other mailings, office secretary’s salary, equipment needs, etc. Outside of operations, we try to make our membership activities pay for themselves - so, for example we charge a fee for Annual Meeting, summer bus tours, etc. to cover the costs.

THE GAP

The League’s income from dues (\$55 times 400 members) is insufficient to cover the League side share of PMP and operating expenses. So you’ll see League fundraising two different ways, externally for the Education Fund to pay our public education work and publications; and internally for the League side to pay for our operating expenses. Both are important. You may also see donation requests from the LWVOhio (PowerPledge) and the LWVUS, again to fill the gap between their costs and the dues payments they receive from the local leagues.

The Cincinnati League is very fortunate to have members who are willing to support us financially. We thank you all for your most needed and generous contributions that allow us to continue our mission.



The Voter is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area.
The Voter Editor and Office staff: **Susan Gorman**. Proofer: **Rina Saperstein**. layout and Design: **Kit Berger**.

RUMPKE TOUR

Mary Kay Gardner recently took a tour of the main Rumpke facility, here's what she learned.

Originally the land was a pig farm started in 1932, where the Rumpke brothers fed their pigs the garbage. The area was all farm land then. In the 50's, when it became illegal to feed garbage to the pigs, the dump (now called a methane gas recovery site) was started. Jeff Rumpke is the fourth generation to run the operation.

The main Rumpke facility today covers 202 acres, employs 2,300 people, (1,000 of them from Colerain Township), has over 900 trucks a day using it, operates nine landfills, and takes in garbage from a 60 miles radius. It is 1,064 ft. at the highest point, and at that high, windy point they go through 3 or 4 flags a year. There is no aquifer under this spot, one reason why they are here. Rumpke is rated as the second or third best-run privately-run dumping facility and thirteenth or fourteenth in the country over-all. Their "Slow Down-Go Around" program is setting safety standards. They employ non-union, hourly paid drivers who work 12 hr. shifts starting at 3 a.m. Depending on their route some are done by noon. They use three types of trucks - the rearloader, which is the most common, the rollover and the frontloader. All trucks are washed either every day or every second day.

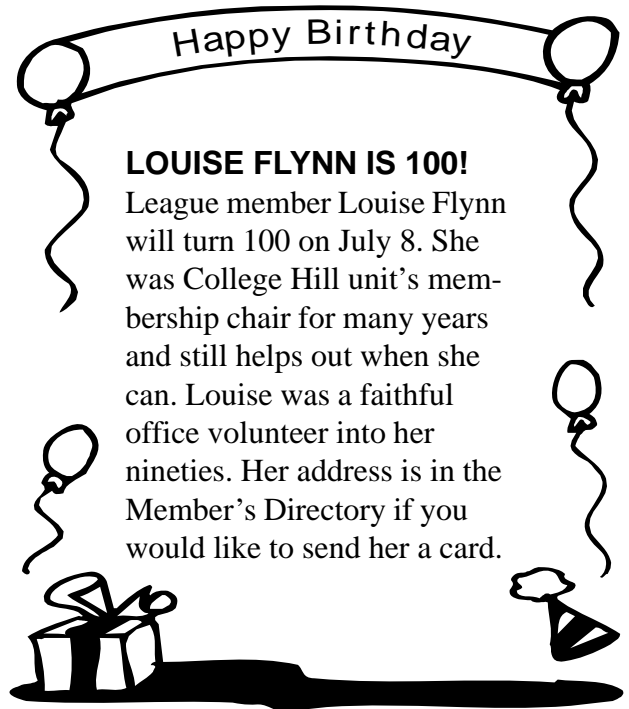
The tour started at the Scale House where all the trucks drive through and are weighed. The trucks are weighted for three reasons: Ohio sets limits by area – here 10,000 lbs. a day; provides an opportunity for drivers to communicate with operators in the house; and, to register the tipping fee. These fees are used for the county drop boxes, education, and provide money to several schools.

Construction of the landfill cell (all new pits are called "cells") takes two and a half years to prepare and is filled within three months. The cells are at least three feet of compacted clay with a heavy plastic liner and a thick three-ply foam mat with drainage parts in-between the two layers. This is all put down over the "working face" of the pit, rolled over by a 120,000 lb. compacter and covered when done. Odor control units are put in; if you smell anything it may be the gas.

Two large buildings collect the leachate and it goes right to MSD from 200 wells that are checked every day. The methane gas that is collected is sent to Duke Energy and is enough to power 2,500 homes a day! By law, tires must be shredded to go into a landfill. They shred them on site.

To keep the dust down the roads are watered down daily. Birds are a big problem, especially in winter, when they are looking for food and warmth.

Currently the site is 202 acres. It has 15 yrs. left at present: not long if it takes two and a half yrs. to ready a cell which is filled in three months. They hope to expand to 332 acres and are waiting on the permit now.



LOUISE FLYNN IS 100!

League member Louise Flynn will turn 100 on July 8. She was College Hill unit's membership chair for many years and still helps out when she can. Louise was a faithful office volunteer into her nineties. Her address is in the Member's Directory if you would like to send her a card.

WHERE IS OUR HISTORY?

by Mary Kay Gardner

Did you know that the League sold nylons in its early day... that we had a wonderful member who voted in the first election that women were able to vote in... League members were only listed under their married names? All this information and more is kept in the League's scrapbooks located in the Conference room in the glass-fronted bookcases. These are really fun to look at. Come in and look at them sometime when you are at the office, but please put them back on the shelves when done. Thanks.
Editor's Note - Mary Kay is our historian who keeps these scrapbooks up-to-date. If you have pictures or something of interest that would be an addition please contact her.

2008-2009 LWVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Marjorie Davies (2008-09)

President-Elect

Open

VP Fund Development

Dee Shaffer (2008-09)

VP Organization

Pinky Kocoshis (2008-10)

VP Program

Don Rhoad (2008-10)

VP Voter Service

Melissa Currence (2007-09)

Secretary

Glenda Bernstein (2007-09)

Treasurer

Kim Thompson (2008-10)

DIRECTORS

Action

Gretchen Langdon (2008-10)

Membership

Carolyn Meyers-Hughes (2008-10)

Unit Coordinator

Mary Kay Gardner (2007-09)

Community Relations

Rina Saperstein (2008-09)

Many thanks to the
2007-08 Nominating
Committee:

Elizabeth Jamison,
chair; **Ellen**

Campbell, Dee

Hazlebeck, Sheila

Lynch and Mary

Kercherval Short

who worked so hard
to put together an
excellent slate of
officers and directors
for the upcoming
year.

2008-09 PROGRAM

September - Hot Topics: Home
Foreclosure, Recycling and
LWVCA Forecast

October - Election Issues

November - Hidden Treasures:
Hamilton County's Stable
Integrated Communities
Follow-up discussion on the
public forum presented in
September

December - Units' Choice/Holiday
parties

January - State Program Planning

February - Legislative Interviews /
Units' Choice

Susan B. Anthony Luncheon

March - Education Issues

April - Hamilton County and
Regional Issues

May - Annual Meeting



LWVCA New Officers:

*L - R: Don Rhoad, Marjorie Davies,
Glenda Bernstein, Kim Thompson,
Gretchen Langdon, Pinky Kocoshis,
Rina Saperstein, Mary Kay Gardner,
Dee Shaffer, Bridgett Pincus (Nominat-
ing Chair), and Melissa Currence.
Absent: Carolyn Meyers-Hughes.*

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Kent is a member of the Cincinnati Association, where he served on the Executive Committee and as Chair of Education Panel. He is presently on the Board of Trustees and is a Past Board Chairman of Cincinnati Works; and a member and past chairman of the Leadership Cincinnati Alumni Association. He celebrated his 70th birthday by completing the 26-mile Chicago Marathon.



League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area
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LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

Note: OFFICE CLOSED IN JULY

Monday, July 7, 2 p.m. Education Committee*

Guest Speaker: Tim Kraus, President,
 Cinc. Federation of Teachers

Tuesday July 8, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting*

Tuesday, July 22, 6:30 p.m., Health Care*

Monday, Aug. 4, 9:30 a.m. Office Reopens

Tuesday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m., Board Meeting*

Tuesday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m., Education Fund

Annual Mtg.*

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 11:30 a.m., Steiner Fund Mtg.*

Tuesday, Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m., Health Care*

* League Conference Room

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Day

Evening

Email _____

**These dues include membership to LWVCA, LWV Ohio,
 and LWV United States.*

Just clip and mail to: LWVCA
 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd.
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