



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

# THE VOTER

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*December 2008*

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all men and women over 18. For information call 513-281-8683, or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email at info@lwvcincinnati.org.

**LWV DIVERSITY POLICY**

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The LWVCA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.

**LEAGUE MEMBERS SPREADING THE W&W**



**Gail Wick and Pinky Kocoshis** at the Anderson Farmer's Market distributing the *Who & What*. We gave away lots of copies and maybe found a new member. We tried to motivate a lapsed member to return. We talked up League coverage of the issues and educated folks about voting regulations.

*Photo by Joan Honeck*

**NOMINATIONS NEEDED:  
RANSOHOFF AND MARTHA TAFT AWARDS**

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."- Eleanor Roosevelt.*

Nominations are being accepted for the League's two top honors: the Daniel J. Ransohoff Citizen Initiative Award and the Martha B. Taft Service Award. To make a nomination, please call the office for a copy of the forms, which are also available on our website.

**Daniel J. Ransohoff Citizen Initiative Award (NOT A LEAGUE MEMBER)**

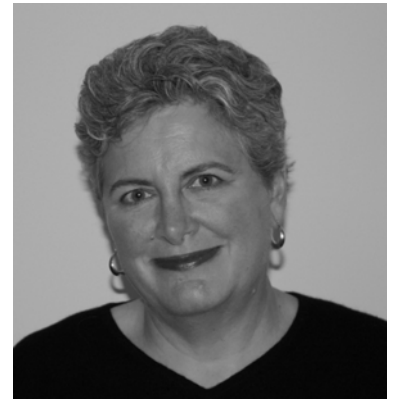
- Recognizes the achievements of an individual or organization for outstanding civic service in our community.
- The activity for which the nominee is being recognized must have been in a **volunteer** capacity.
- Elected officials and League of Women Voters members are not eligible for consideration.
- *Presented at the Visions Luncheon for community and corporate supporters in April.*

*(continued on page 11)*

By *Marjorie Davies, President LWVCA*

Thank you to the many League members active in voter service or political campaigns this fall, and especially our Voter Service Vice President **Melissa Currence**. Our full-featured Smartvoter website had greater candidate participation and more visitors than ever, and we filled orders for 100,000 copies of our nonpartisan *Who & What of Elections*. Let us know what you think of these tools by completing the enclosed paper surveys. We value your comments!

**Carolyn Honkomp** and **Joan Honeck** are planning the 2009 Susan B. Anthony Luncheon at The Phoenix for late February. See full details in the January *Voter* or on the Upcoming Events page of our website. As always, the luncheon will feature a spectacular keynote speaker and a silent auction. Your individual and unit contributions of gift baskets or gift certificates will be much appreciated – call me with any questions. The Anderson unit is making a number of lapquilts and kits for the auction; if you or your unit can participate in this project, contact **Gail Wick** or **Pinky Kocoshis**.



I'm pleased to announce that **Alice Schneider** has been appointed President-elect of the LWVCA. She will succeed me as President after our annual meeting in May 2009. Congratulations, Alice!

Membership director **Carolyn Meyers-Hughes** reports that our membership has grown to 418 by November 1 as the League enjoys high visibility during election season. Her team is sending prospect packets to fill many requests, and following up with phone calls to invite potential members to unit discussion groups. New members also get a phone call to welcome them, answer any questions, and invite them to participate in a variety of ways. She urges us to continue to invite family, friends, and co-workers to become League members, and particularly to invite them to Dinner with the League.

Action director **Gretchen Langdon** is planning a thorough review of League positions by consensus of our membership in January and February. As a new administration prepares to take power in Washington, the League will be planning action on policy initiatives related to our positions. Be part of history, and join the LWVCA action committees of your choice: Health Care, Natural Resources, Housing, Education, Diversity, City Government, and County Government. Meeting dates and times are on our website calendar.

Community Relations director **Rina Saperstein** led a training session at the November board meeting on using the features of our newly-redesigned website to facilitate communications among our members and committees. You'll find opportunities to stay informed and become involved in issues that most interest you. Click on "Email List Sign Up" in the blue "Keep Informed" box on the right side of our homepage.

Fund Development chair **Sherrie Heyse** and her team have applied for several grants to support our Education Fund's ongoing voter service projects. Corporate patrons of our April Visions for Greater Cincinnati Luncheon are the major source of funds for our nonpartisan voter guides. Our corporate advisory board is meeting with our Visions committee in early December to help expand our fundraising base and offer advice for our 2009 event.

As our neighborhood units plan holiday parties, please make our new members and prospective members feel welcome. Remember what it feels like to be a newbie – wear nametags and avoid using too much League jargon! We've seen in our recent elections the power of our younger generations to make change – likewise, our new League members are our future. Best holiday wishes for peace and sustainable prosperity!



## REDISTRICTING AND THE CENSUS: WHY WE CARE

Source: *Ohio ImPACT*

Redistricting and the 2010

Census are intertwined in three important ways:

- Census data are used to determine the size of each state's Congressional representation. (Ohio is likely to lose a seat in 2012, diminishing its influence in Washington.)
- Census data are the fodder for drawing redistricting maps. It is important that every person be counted in the census to insure equal representation.
- Census data are used to calculate the distribution of funds for needed public services such as schools, roads, health care etc...

A *New York Times* editorial of June 23 stated that preparations for the 2010 census were in shambles. It cited problems with mismanagement in the federal Commerce Department, which oversees the census, and problems with underfunding. It went on to say, "The quality of the nation's democracy depends on the census, because the numbers are used to decide the number of Congressional seats from each state and hence the number of votes each state has in the Electoral College." It added that an inaccurate census invariably undercounts out-of-the-mainstream groups.

The "fear factor" is also at work in sabotaging an accurate count. Some people are reluctant to share any information with a government entity, and recent immigrants and other minorities may not understand the purpose of the census. One way to counter these problems is to involve minorities and underrepresented groups in the census-taking process. Making an effort to have community representation will help to build trust and alleviate the apprehension. Local communities are forming "Complete Count Committees" (CCC) now. These are teams of community leaders appointed by a mayor or high-ranking official to develop and implement a locally based census outreach and awareness campaign.

Historically, the very same groups that are undercounted in the census are the same groups that tap in to social and public services. In order to get the resources into the right communities, the count is critical. The Census and Redistricting are important issues of representation of citizens and the ability to respond to their needs.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio continues to work toward a bipartisan redistricting process using nonpartisan criteria that are transparent to the public and with meaningful public involvement. To insure that every vote counts, we must first be sure that every person is counted.



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

## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Source: *LWV Ohio Impact*

While the reports are preliminary, it appears that voter turnout for the nation was near 65%, which is the largest turnout since women gained the right to vote.

After 21 months of campaigning by presidential candidates, the United States of America begins a new chapter. Not only will we usher in a new administration in January 2009, but also we have proven that Americans deeply care about this nation and can engage at a high level.

Our citizens proved that they are not lazy and complacent about our democracy. Men and women all over the country who had never volunteered on political campaigns expressed their joy at making calls, knocking on doors and dropping literature for their preferred candidates and issues. People joined together to register and educate voters about voting options on their states. Families attended rallies in small towns and large cities to hear from candidates and stood in lines for hours to cast their ballots during early voting periods and on Election Day.

We can be proud and should congratulate ourselves on the increased turnout; however, we should continue to strive for full participation. We can do this by continuing to educate people about registration requirements and early voting options. We can encourage people to get involved by providing information and education on key issues that affect our lives.

As League members, we must capitalize on the energy of the election to recruit new people who have discovered that they could make a difference and are looking for an outlet. We must be diligent to focus on our imPACT issues of campaign finance reform, election reform, judicial reform, redistricting and accountability. We must continue to engage the members of our respective communities to discuss these issues and make recommendations for changes.

Ohioans and indeed Americans all win if we maintain a high level of civic engagement. We must work hard to keep the enthusiasm that we witnessed from citizens across political spectrums as we hold our newly elected officials at the federal, state and local levels accountable so that we can have a better future.

Dear League Members:

Along with 100,000 copies of Who & What Election Guide that were distributed, and many speaking engagements in which we informed the public about election issues, I wanted to brief the League on how our internet voter education project, SmartVoter, went this year.

With the help of SmartVoter Central in California, LWV of the Cincinnati Area runs the SmartVoter site for the state of Ohio. To give you a sense of the magnitude of this site, LWV Cincinnati Area maintains all pages for Ohio....so that is a page for each county in the state (88 counties) plus the state of Ohio page. We also maintain a page for each state issue, several local issues, and candidate race pages. Additionally, many candidates have several pages of information to maintain. We provide customized links on lots of these pages to give the voters as much information as they need to make an informed choice. Of course, we focus most of efforts on Hamilton County where, with the help of the Hamilton County Board of Elections, we have the customized ballot and polling place based on address.



The candidate response rate this year was 80%, up from 47% last year, due to the great work of our voter service coordinator Linda Wihl. She also coordinated the candidate information for the Who & What, answers the copious emails from the public received through the SmartVoter 'contact us' pages, and manages the day-to-day operations of the site.

On SmartVoter, not only did we have the candidate responses, we had excellent links to other pertinent websites for election information. I wanted to point out some of the features I am most proud:

1. As you may know, LWVCA did not provide profile information about the presidential candidates because there were many parties on the ballot that did not have the opportunity to respond to the National League. However, we had plenty of links about the presidential race on our race page, including the National League's presidential guide, complete videos of all televised debates, polling and candidate finance information, and a Google News Feed about the Election.
2. **Carolyn Miller** provided additional information about Issue 8 about Proportional Representation that wasn't included in the Who & What because of space. We also had many links about this issue including a Google news feed, archived and upcoming forums, pro/con websites and an essay about history of PR in the US.
3. For all the Hamilton county tax levies, we had a link to the auditor's site where a voter could look up his or her specific address to see how much that tax levy would cost.
4. We were able to ask additional questions of State House and State Senate and local judicial candidates that only appear on SmartVoter. Our extended judicial coverage on SmartVoter and *Who and What* was due to a special grant from the LWVUS and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

These are just a few examples of the great information we had on Smartvoter. The level of candidate participation and the interactivity of our SmartVoter pages made it one of the best sites in Hamilton County and Ohio for comprehensive election information. I hope you are as proud of that as I am. Thanks all of you who helped with voter service activities this season and for being part of a great organization like the League.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Currence*

Melissa Currence, VP Voter Service

*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**.

## ACTION AND THE 2008 ELECTION

By *Gretchen Langdon, Action Chair*

The 2008 election is over and our voter service people did their usual excellent job of getting out great information, both hard copy and online. LWVCA was involved with a number of important debates, which are still one of the best ways to get to know the positions of candidates. Kudos to everyone involved.

LWV Ohio supported Issue 1 (Earlier Filing Deadlines) and Issue 2 (Bond Issue for the Clean Ohio Program), both of which were approved by Ohio voters. LWVO Ohio opposed Issue 3 (Protect Private Property Water Rights) which also passed. LWVO opposed Issue 6 (Casino in Clinton County), and the League position against Issue 6 was used in several TV spots sponsored by the "No on Issue 6 Committee" and played a part in the defeat of the issue.

LWVCA took no positions on Issue 7 (City of Cincinnati Red Light Cameras Charter Amendment, which passed) and Issue 8 (City of Cincinnati Proportional Representation Charter Amendment, which failed). We had no program position that applied to Issue 7, but we do have a long-standing position in support of proportional representation. The City Government Committee, PDC and the Board decided that there was not enough agreement and understanding by the membership to support or oppose Issue 8. It is extremely important that the membership really participate in our January program planning meetings so that the Board is confident that our positions reflect the positions of our membership. The League can only take action on our established positions and there should be no question whether or not the membership still agrees with older positions.

The League is part the Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN). Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage, a member of UHCAN, staged a number of "Fix It Now" demonstrations at candidate rallies for all parties. Demonstrators wore hard hats and carried large inflatable hammers and were well received whenever they appeared. This was an excellent example of how to raise an issue in a non-partisan manner.



Now that the election is over, it is time for all of us to review our national, state and local positions and to use these positions to lobby our new legislators.

## ANOTHER KIND OF ELECTION

By *Ellen Campbell*

On October 15, 2008 the LWVCA was asked to monitor an election for Teamsters Local 1199 at the Sharonville union hall. All together, twelve happy volunteers from our local units took turns directing voters on what to do and where to place their completed ballots. At the end of the day we were responsible for the official count. **Ann Gilton** was our leader, putting in 13.5 hours herself that day. We'd like to thank the following members for their time that day: **Helen Rhoad, Bridgett Pincus, Nancy Dawley, Victoria Castelli, Mary Kercherval Short, Carol Meyers-Hughes, Mary Kay Gardner, Elizabeth Jamison, Dot Christenson and Chris Moran.**



This was a great fundraiser for the League. We had also hoped to do an election for Local 661, but they didn't need to have an election this year. We'd like to thank all of you who volunteered to help with that election even though it didn't take place.

## LEAGUE DEBATE TIMEKEEPERS TELL THEIR STORIES:

By *Ellen Campbell: Timekeeper for Ohio US Representative District 2 Debate*

On October 6, 2008, Channel 9 and the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce hosted a debate among the three candidates for the U. S. Second Congressional District which covers the eastern half of Hamilton County plus six other counties east of Cincinnati. The League was asked to furnish time keepers; **Marjorie Davies** and I volunteered. I had done this one time before for a local debate so I had experience.

Marjorie met me in the parking lot behind the Anderson Center and led me to the biggest trailer I've ever seen - much different than my other experience where I just sat in the front row with my little stop watch. Inside the trailer things were semi-dark and noisy. The producer and director both introduced themselves to me - they actually knew my name - I was impressed. I was shown my very own console and headset. Now I had time to look around; this was an entire TV studio inside a mammoth trailer. There were lots of TV screens, all showing someone different on the stage or from a different angle. Everyone was talking at the same time. I couldn't tell if they were talking to the person sitting next to them or to someone on the stage. It was fascinating to watch this program come together.

While the three candidates, Jean Schmidt, Victoria Wulsin and David Krikorian, were each giving their spiels, there was an ongoing stream of pithy remarks from the people running the equipment in the trailer. There were times I was afraid I'd goof up the timing because I was laughing so much.

This was a really fun experience and I'd do it again in a New York minute. I'm sure the League will be asked to participate again in the future and if you have the chance to be the timekeeper or sign- holder-upper, jump at it.

By *Glenda Cohen: Timekeeper for Ohio US Representative District 1 Debate*

On October 22, I had a fascinating experience (along with **Alice Schneider and Marj Davies**) serving as a timekeeper for the Driehaus-Chabot debate. The event, held at the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, was broadcast live by Channel 9 and taped for rebroadcast. A large "remote" trailer, housing behind-the-scenes technology, equipment and support staff, was parked outside. My assignment was based in the trailer, connected via headset to my two counterparts inside the auditorium. My task was to monitor candidate response time and alert the inside timekeepers so they could provide cues to the candidates to wrap-up responses in the allotted time.

Being there with the candidates, moderator Clyde Gray, all the Channel 9 people and the three local media representatives who posed the questions was exciting. The initial case of nerves I felt quickly dissipated and I really got involved in my role.

The League is a respected and trusted organization, viewed as a reliable source of factual, unbiased information for voters - that is why we are sought out to serve functions such as speakers, timekeepers and moderators. When the opportunity arises again to participate in something like this - why don't you consider volunteering?! I can guarantee you will not be bored, and you might even find it fun!

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## TRACKING CLIMATE CHANGES

By *Nancy Dawley*

NASA has launched a website that provides a dramatic visualization of temperature change, sea level rise, CO<sub>2</sub> emission, and ice melt from the beginning of the industrial revolution to the present. The temperature change map is particularly mind melting.

See for yourself what is happening to the earth. <http://climate.jpl.nasa.gov/ClimateTimeMachine/climateTimeMachine.cfm>



## COMMITTEE PROFILE: CITY GOVERNMENT

By *Carolyn B. Miller, Chair, City Government Committee*

Once it was evident that there would be two City of Cincinnati Charter Amendments on the November 2008 ballot, the League's City Government Committee sprang into action. There was research to do on the issues; summaries and detailed balanced background information to prepare for the *Who & What of Elections*, the Smart Voter website, October unit discussions, and speaker bureau background papers; and recommendations to make to Program Development Committee (PDC) and the League Board for possible action.

**Chris Moran** did most of the research on the red light camera issue (Issue 7) including consulting with the group which collected the signatures on the petitions, following and reviewing City Council discussions on the issue over the past 8 months, researching red light camera programs in other cities, and talking with the city solicitor's office about the specific language of the proposal. Detailed information was prepared and disseminated, but no recommendation was made for League action because the League had no position on which to base any action.

**Carolyn Miller** led the research on the Proportional Representation issue (Issue 8) with the able assistance of **Chris Moran and Jane Anderson**. In the early 1990s the League had studied the specifics of how to elect City Council in response to community concerns about representation issues. We found ample information on Proportional Representation in our League files from the late 1980s and early 1990s when the issue was on the ballot two other times. In fact, we were overwhelmed with information and part of our challenge was to cull the information into that which was most helpful in explaining the issue to the voters and detailing its impact on the city council election system. We also talked to the proponents and opponents of the issue to understand pro and con arguments. We consulted with other civic organizations to share information. Then we invited League members interested in city government issues to meet and review our position as it related to Issue 8. A spirited discussion resulted and the issue was referred to Program Development Committee (PDC). PDC recommended the LWVCA take a "neutral" position on Issue 8, and the Board agreed.

Researching ballot issues can be an exciting process and the resulting information is ultimately helpful not only to our League members, but to those reached through the Speaker's Bureau, and to the general voting public through the *Who & What of Elections* and our great website. Many thanks to all those who took part!



## USEFUL RESOURCES – AND YOU CAN SING ALONG

*From Adrienne E. Katz, LWV Orange County, FL (Orlando.)*

I've rediscovered the "Election Collection" DVD from Schoolhouse Rock. It's available for purchase online, and the kids who have viewed it were enthralled. There's a song and cartoon depiction of various aspects of American History and America as a "Melting Pot," "The Constitution," "Our Government," "Suffragettes," "Electoral College" and "How a Bill Becomes a Law." It's under \$20, and worthwhile for your own family and your League.

When I mentioned it at our League Board meeting, some of our members burst into song, remembering the numbers fondly.

## THE DOROTHY STEINER FUND

By Joan Honeck, Steiner Fund Chair

The Dorothy Steiner Fund has a long and varied history. It is a League Fund that is not tax deductible. Unlike the Education Fund, this fund can support promotion of League membership efforts and action.

Dorothy Steiner had a long history of League and civic involvement. She had been on the League Board for 20 years, president of LWVCA for 4 years and was the editor for a state publication called the *Ohio Woman Voter*. She had also been a member of the Charter Committee, The Good Government League, the Foreign Policy Association and the Council of Jewish Women. After Dorothy Steiner died at age 55 in 1950 her friends contributed money to establish the fund to support and broaden the work of the League. It began with \$5 and \$8 contributions augmented by the Steiner family donations.

In 1951, with the approval of Dorothy's husband, Albert Steiner, the first grant was awarded to a young woman at UC, who received \$100 for her promotion of League on campus. Other past awards included payment in support of a radio show, pamphlets for the public library, support of convention delegates and grants to the League operating budget. Recent grants have included payments for League website revisions, pilot projects for membership recruitment and a new computer for the League office.

Over the years, the investment decisions and the awards have varied. With some assistance from the stock market, prudent investment decisions made by dedicated Trustees over the years, and contributions from League members, the Fund now has a balance in the mid \$30,000 range. No longer is the fund composed of gifted stocks. While we welcome such gifts, the holdings are in mutual funds and most gifts are now checks in memoriam of a deceased League member.

The Steiner Fund Trustees, with oversight of the League's Investment Committee, have a fiduciary responsibility for the investment and expenditure decisions. These decisions are made in accordance with the Mission statement. "*The Steiner Fund was established to 'further and broaden the League's efforts to let the people know, make the people care, help the people act.'*" Requests for funding from the Steiner Fund must come from the LWVCA board and are measured first against this mission statement. It is planned that this Fund should grow for the long-term support of League activities."\*

\*From The LWVCA Financial Investment Policies, 2008

## Year End Donations: DON'T FORGET THE LEAGUE ...

By Sue Gorman and Rina Saperstein

It's the time of year to start looking at your 2007 tax-deductible donations. Have you included the LWVCA Education Fund in your contributions this year? If you haven't, now is the time! Not only can you deduct your gift but you will be supporting our ability to provide important community resources such as our website, featuring *Smart Voter*, the *Who & What of Elections* and *They Represent Us*. Please send a donation today to ensure that the mission of the League continues. Make your check payable to: LWVCA Education Fund and mail to the office, 103 Wm H. Taft Rd., 45219.

Another option is the Charitable IRA Rollover program which permits taxpayers age 70½ and older to contribute to charity directly from their IRA retirement accounts without the distribution being considered taxable income. Contact your broker or the office for more information.

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## MEMBERSHIP. GAINING AND RETAINING MEMBERS

By Carolyn Meyers-Hughes, LWVCA Director of Membership

**As of November 5<sup>th</sup>, LWVCA membership is up to 418. Well done!**

To keep League visibility at a max following the presidential election, we must continue to stress to friends and co-workers the importance of membership in the League of Women Voters to maintain an informed citizenship. The new administration will be proposing new legislation. Should we support or oppose it? Will it fix the current economic problems at the national and state level?

Continue to invite family, friends and co-workers to become League members. Bring them to Dinner with the League. Prospects are sent packets from the LWVCA office and we try to follow-up with a phone call, inviting them to a Unit Discussion group. New members also will be getting a phone call to welcome them, answer any questions and invite them to participate in a variety of ways.

Current members, be sure to send in your dues. **Deadline is DECEMBER 30 or you will be dropped.** Units: Get your attendance sheet to the office. It will find its way to my mailbox. Keep up the good work!

## SHOW ME THE MONEY: QUESTIONS ON LEAGUE FINANCES II

By Marjorie Davies

Here are more questions and answers to help you better understand League finances.

*Q: What are the major expenses for the LWVCA?*

A: In Annual Meeting Workbook I, we budgeted expenses of \$30,000 for 2008-09:

LWVUS and LWVO PMP (per-member payments: dues)	\$ 9,600
Payroll and contracted services	7,200
Rent	4,700
Supplies and Postage	2,400
Convention	1,800
Tax preparation and review	1,100
Telephone and internet access	400
Depreciation and equipment maintenance	600
Newsletter expenses	500

and the rest is mostly incidental expenses for program committees.



*Q: ... and for the LWVCA Education Fund?*

A: In Annual Meeting Workbook II, we budgeted expenses of \$48,500 for 2008-09:

<i>Who &amp; What of Elections</i> printing and delivery	\$10,400
<i>They Represent Us</i> Directory of Elected Officials printing	2,900
Payroll and contracted services	7,200
Website, Telephone and internet access	6,700
LWVUS and LWVO PMP (per-member payments: dues)	6,100
Rent	4,700
Depreciation and equipment maintenance	4,400
Supplies and Postage	2,400
Tax preparation and review	1,100
Newsletter expenses	400

and the rest is mostly incidental expenses for program committees.

Per-Member Payments (dues) to the LWVUS and LWVO, as well as some office expenses, are shared between the LWVCA and the Education Fund, as permitted by IRS regulations, and therefore a portion appears in each organization's budget.

*Q: Where do the LWVCA and the Education Fund get the funds not provided by dues to balance their budgets?*

A: The LWVCA submitted a balanced budget, estimating \$6,500 net from fundraising events (primarily the Susan B Anthony Luncheon), \$4,500 in contributions from members and the community, and \$1,000 from investment income.

The Education Fund submitted a deficit budget of \$9,500 (to be withdrawn from investments). The Education Fund estimated \$9,000 net revenue from the Visions Luncheon, \$9,000 in contributions from members and the community, \$8,000 from grants and foundations, \$7,000 from Community Shares, and \$5,000 from investment income.

Reaching the LWVCA and Education Fund fundraising goals will require tremendous effort from our development committee. The budget targets for investment income, developed last spring, are unlikely to be realized under current market conditions, putting added pressure on our fundraising efforts.

*Q: What assets do the LWVCA and Education Fund have?*

A: At our June 30, 2008 fiscal year-end, the League had cash and cash equivalents balances of \$48,200, not including \$38,800 in the Steiner Fund, which is invested 10% in cash equivalents, 35% in fixed income mutual funds and 55% in diversified stock mutual funds. The Education Fund had a portfolio of \$165,725, also invested 10% in cash, 35% in fixed income mutual funds, and 55% in diversified stock mutual funds. Since June 30, all of our mutual funds have sustained moderate losses. So, while we have sufficient resources to fund our very thrifty operations for the foreseeable future, our goal of growing the Steiner Fund and Education Fund portfolios to provide income for operations will likely not be achieved during the current fiscal year.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ALICE SCHNEIDER

I first joined the League right out of college and was active for about a year before children and a job occupied nearly all of my time. I became reacquainted with the League in 1997 when I was President of Woman's City Club and we often asked the League to co-sponsor programs with us. Then in 1999, I began working on campaign finance for the city of Cincinnati with several other organizations including the League. I worked with members of the League who helped draft the proposal, recruit supporters and handle finances. I was impressed with the knowledge of the members of the League as well as the efficiency and the functionality of the League.

Another thing that impressed me was the respect that the League engendered from citizens. While we were getting signatures to put on this campaign finance proposal on the ballot we would show people the list of co-sponsoring organizations. When people saw that the League had endorsed the proposal, they signed easily because of the League's good reputation. Once campaign finance passed in Cincinnati, I decided that I wanted to join the League to become as knowledgeable about issues as the other women in the League that I met.

Besides volunteering with the League, I have been president of Woman's City Club and continue to work on a committee that brings in well known women speakers. I work full time at Applied Information Resources, a non profit public policy group dedicated to citizen education on public issues.

During my spare time I train for race marathons. I have run 8 marathons (26 miles), including 2 Flying Pig marathons here in Cincinnati, the Air Force marathon in Dayton, and the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Last year I went to China for four weeks and taught English to teenagers in a summer camp. I am currently reading a biography of Joseph Needham who wrote a 7 volume history of science in China. He verified that the Chinese had invented many things, printing, gunpowder, etc. long before Western world produced them. I'm also reading about the last empress of China. Otherwise, I always have a stack of books at my bedside including politics, philosophy, cooking, and a good mystery.

**NOTE: In November, Alice joined the LWVCA Board as "President Elect"**



Long time League member **Herbert F. Curry** died October 20. Dr. Curry was a professor emeritus of history from University of Cincinnati and a great supporter of the Cincinnati Symphony. Our condolences to his family and friends.

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

**Marty Harrington** is our new **webmaster**, keeping our website ([www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org)) fresh and exciting with frequent updated information. She has also taken on the task of assuring that our email list is up to date so that we can email you information and action requests that don't make the Voter. Thank you Marty!

**STILL NEEDED:** We still need a volunteer to serve as **Community Shares Liaison**. This is a daytime opportunity, attending quarterly meetings. You do need access to email. Please help us out! Call the office to volunteer.

## CALENDAR

There are no unit discussions in December. Many units are having holiday parties or dinners. For complete information, contact your unit chair or the League office.

ANDERSON: Holiday party and White Elephant Auction. Wed, Dec 10, Home of **Gail Wick**

CENTRAL EVENING: Holiday Dinner  
Home of **Frances Tojo**

COLLEGE HILL: No meeting.

EASTERN DAY: Holiday Luncheon, Fri, Dec 5,  
12 noon, Marjorie P Lee Activity Room

HAMILTON-FAIRFIELD: No meeting

HILLTOP: Holiday Dinner,  
Home of **Suzanne Joiner**

METRO DAY: Holiday party. Date/Time TBA

NORTH CENTRAL: Tuesday, Dec 9, 12 noon,  
Location TBA

NORTHEAST EVENING: Holiday party  
Ferrari's in Madeira Dec 8, 6:30 pm

WARREN COUNTY: Date/Time TBA

E-UNIT: Discussion throughout the month, Online at:  
[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvca\\_internet](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvca_internet)

*All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!  
Check [lwvcincinnati.org](http://lwvcincinnati.org) for updated dates and locations*

(cont'd from page 1)

### Martha Taft Service Award (*LEAGUE MEMBERS*)

- Named for LWVCA's first president, this award is the highest honor we can bestow on a local League member.
- Criteria: Nominees must be a long-time member of the LWVCA; must be an all-round contributor to the League; and must be a leader in the general community.
- *Presented at the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon for League members and friends in February.*

Busy again! **Pinky Kocoshis** and **Ellen Campbell** are just part of the group involved in Quilting for the Susan B. Will there be an auction? Or a raffle? A really big sale? Only time will tell as the quilting bee continues. If you are in the market for a handmade quilt, watch for future info about the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon. Or if you would like to join the Bee, call Pinky. (Other quilters currently include **Sherrie Heyse, Jan Evans and Gail Wick.**)



photo by **Gail Wick**

## GET YOUR VOTER ONLINE!

By **Rina Saperstein**, Voter Editor

Starting in October, we emailed a digital version of this *LWVCA Voter* newsletter to all our members—that is, all members for whom we have an email address. This has the advantage of providing time-sensitive information more quickly to our members; we've been unable to control how long it takes the *Voter* to arrive by mail. And, with digital, you can forward parts to your friends, click straight to links, and print as many copies as you like.

We can STOP mailing the paper copy for those of you who choose email only. This will save printing and postage costs, and from environmental standpoint saves paper, ink, and electricity and reduces solid waste.

So, it's up to you. First, if you did not receive your Voter by email this month, make sure we have your current email address by emailing [info@lwvcincinnati.org](mailto:info@lwvcincinnati.org). Second, if you'd like to STOP receiving a mailed, paper version, include that specific information in your email. Please include your name, mail address and phone number in the email, so we can match and update records. If you'd prefer, you can call the League office at 281-8683 to let us know.



**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.org](mailto:info@lwvcincinnati.org) [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org)

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LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

**GIFT MEMBERSHIPS:**

League membership is a gift that keeps giving for Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, birthday, or anniversary for that man or woman who has everything. Your gift includes membership in local, state and national League through December 2009. Use the membership form on the back of this newsletter - just indicate that you are making a gift.

**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

- Tues - Dec 2, 6:30 pm, League Board Meeting\*
- Sat - Dec 6, Voter Newsletter Submissions Deadline
- Thurs - Dec 11, 7:00 pm Natural Resources Committee\*
- Wed - Dec 17, 6:00 pm, Program Development Committee (PDC)\*
- Wed - Jan 7, 7:30 pm, Evening Discussion Leaders Briefing\*
- Sat - Jan 10, 1:00 pm, Day Discussion Leaders Briefing\*

Many committee meetings are rescheduled or postponed due to the holidays. Please see our web calendar for December meeting dates.

As always, see our website calendar ([www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org)) for more information on upcoming events.

\* League Conference Room

“A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change”

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!**

Gain a wealth of information for little cost:\*

Individual membership - \$55.00

Household membership - \$75.00

Student membership - \$25.00

**Dues paid now will carry through December 2009.**

Gift Membership FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.  
 Cincinnati, OH 45219