



League of Women Voters® of the Cincinnati Area

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September 2015

THE VOTER

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LWVCA Education Fund is a member of



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

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

November 3 Election
Features Municipal
Judges, More

*Meredith Atherley, Vice
President of Voter Service*

Two Hamilton County Municipal
Court Judges will be elected.

Cincinnati School Board will elect three board members. Other school board elections will take place in Deer Park, Indian Hill, Loveland, Madeira, Mariemont, Milford, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, Norwood, Princeton, Reading, St Bernard-Elmwood Place, Sycamore, Winton Woods, Wyoming, Hamilton County Education Service Center Governing Board, Finneytown, Forest Hills, Lockland, Northwest, Oak Hills, Southwest, and Three Rivers.

Mayoral races will take place in Cheviot, Deer Park, Harrison, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, Norwood, Reading, Sharonville, Springdale, Addyston, Arlington Heights, Cleves, Elmwood Place, Evendale, Fairfax, Glendale, Golf Manor, NOVEMBER continued on page 5

September Units
Discuss Marijuana
Legalization

*Elizabeth Brown, Vice President
of Program*

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area's (LWVCA) seven small group discussion units organize in September after a summer break and begin the program year with a discussion of the legalization of marijuana. In October, units will review all the issues on the ballot this year.

But before we get to the merits of any specific proposals, do you think marijuana should be legalized at all or should it stay an illegal drug with criminal penalties for use? Should the law make a distinction between medical and recreational use of marijuana?

These are the questions LWVCA members will have the opportunity to discuss with one another at the September units.

We are not seeking to reach MARIJUANA continued on page 7



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CONVERSATIONS President's Letter



It might still be summer, but League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) members are organizing for the 2015 November election. It's not too late to join the various activities that make the LWVCA valued in our community. Each *Who & What of Elections* may look similar, but all the candidate information is newly gathered. That's more than 400 Hamilton County government candidates to contact. On Vote411.org, citizens are mapped to the correct precinct for their own personalized ballot. Just stop by a Hamilton County public library in October and see piles of *Who & What of Elections* disappear as voters prepare themselves for their trip to the polls.

Plans are also underway for candidate and issues forums. State Redistricting Issue 1 will be on the ballot, and the LWVCA Speakers Bureau is gearing up to educate voters on why a "Yes" is in their best interest. If you like to share LWVCA information with others, come join our Speakers Bureau.

Discussion units begin meeting again this month. In September discussions, we'll evaluate marijuana issues on the state ballot. Compare the nuances of the issues to decide how to vote.

LWV United States has undertaken two studies since the last national convention to decide if new positions are warranted — "Constitutional Amendment" and "Money in Politics" studies. Study pages are available for your review, discussion and consensus. You'll find links to them on www.lwvcincinnati.org so you can begin thinking through the complexities of these issues. If you wish to investigate one or both of these topics and help lead some November discussion groups, please call the office or Elizabeth Brown, vice president of program.

Busy, busy! It's the election season, when the LWVCA best displays its mission to encourage informed and active participation in government through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. You are invited to participate with us as you are able.

Three members — Felicity Hill, Lucia Hudson and Melissa Rowland — have resigned from the LWVCA Board of Directors due to personal needs. We will miss them and their contributions! If being on the board intrigues you, give me a call to talk about what is involved.

In League,
Nancy Dawley

League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Urges for More Supervision in State-Funded Charter Schools

This letter to the editor was written by the LWVCA Education Committee and sent to the Cincinnati Enquirer and Cox Media on July 20, 2015.

In April, the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area and eight cosponsors held a forum in Cincinnati titled "Charter Schools: Are They Accountable?." Approximately 90 people heard panelists reveal the promise of charters offering innovation, competition, and choice, as well as the problems that have risen over the past 15 to 20 years, including charter schools' financial skullduggery, fraud and failure to meet commitments.

This summer, both the Ohio House (HB 2) and Senate (SB148) agreed on legislation to begin the regulation, so badly needed. Yet, Ohio's legislature again postponed, delayed and avoided taking action on charter schools reform when the bill was tabled in early July.

Ohio has around 400 of these publicly supported, tuition-free, independent, and non-sectarian schools. One billion dollars of Ohio taxpayers' money supports them each year. In Cincinnati, almost 20 percent of public school students attend a charter school.

Common charter school issues include:

- low performance on standardized tests, compared to other public school students
- many inexperienced teachers
- inept financial management by too many operators
- weak oversight by the state of Ohio, including nepotism, fraud, and charter school sponsors' lack of control over charter school operators

The bill could be proposed again, after the summer recess ends in September. The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area urges citizens to contact their Ohio legislators and insist on action to provide the necessary supervision to ensure charter schools' commitments to students are kept.

Tell our elected officials:

1) to enact effective provisions to improve charter school performance, as well as accountability and transparency to the taxpayers, who pay for them, and the parents, who have entrusted their children with them.

2) to monitor, more closely, the spending of tax dollars by charter schools.

Sincerely,
Burton Roehr
Education Committee Chair
League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

LWVCA Hires New Office Manager

This press release appeared on Cincinnati.com on August 5, 2015.

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) welcomes Hayley Day as its new office manager. Day will support the League's volunteer-based operations, in areas such as accounting, communications, development, membership, voter services, and general office administration.

"I've always been passionate about government participation and freedom of information," said Day. "Working for an organization that promotes both is the perfect fit."

Before this position, Day wrote articles for local and national publications, managed volun-



"The League's work is so inspiring, I don't just want to be an employee, I want to be a member," said Day.

The 293 members of the LWVCA learn and shape issues that affect local, state and national policies through community breakout sessions, all-member meetings and LWVCA-sponsored events, like forums and debates.

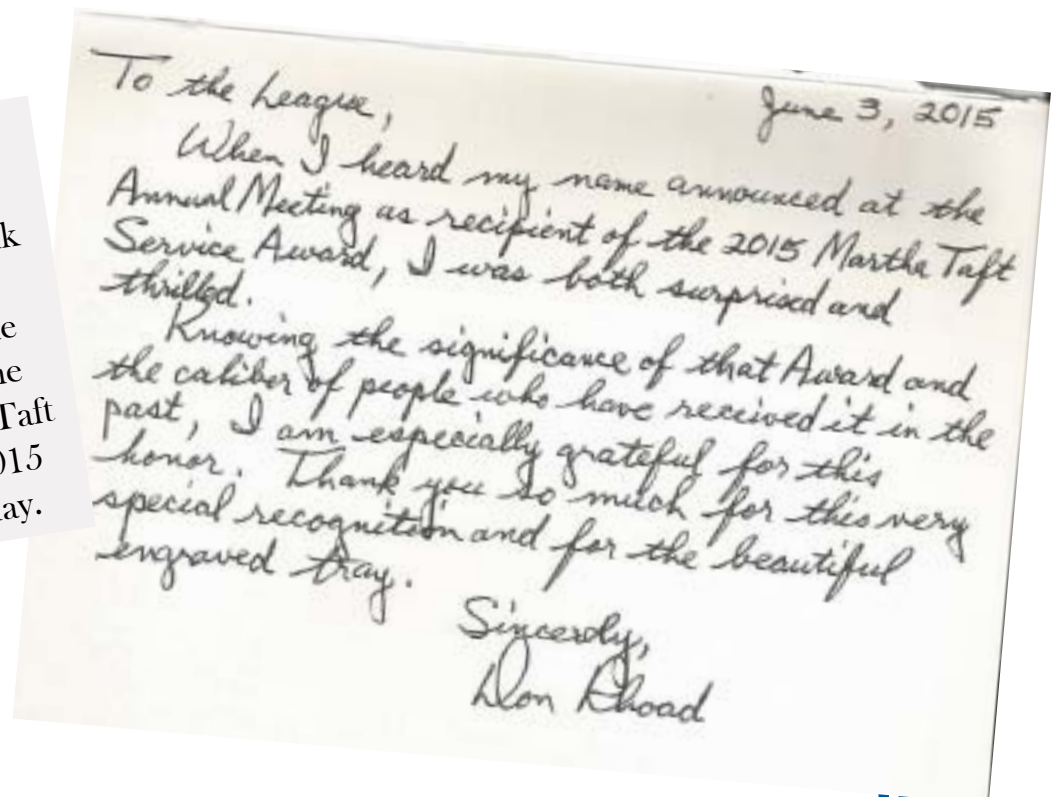
The LWVCA members look forward to working with the Cincinnati native.

"Hayley is experienced in volunteer coordination, graphic design, event planning, and general office management duties," said outgoing Copresident Donald Rhoad.

teers at a local nonprofit, and was a volunteer ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor. She also has served on the board of the Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists. Day earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and women's studies from Miami University and a certificate in Web and graphic design from the University of Cincinnati.

Thank You

Don Rhoad sent this thank you card to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, after he received the Martha B. Taft Service award at the 2015 Annual Meeting in May.



November

NOVEMBER continued from page 1

Mariemont, Newtown, North Bend, St. Bernard, Terrace Park and Woodlawn.

Township Trustees and Fiscal Officers will be elected in Anderson, Colerain, Columbia, Crosby, Delhi, Green, Harrison, Miami, Springfield, Sycamore, Symmes, and Whitewater townships.

Council races will take place in the cities of Blue Ash, Cheviot, Deer Park, Forest Park, Harrison, Indian Hill, Loveland, Madeira, Milford, Montgomery, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, Norwood, Reading, Sharonville, Springdale, and Wyoming, as well as in the villages of Addyston, Amberley, Arlington Heights, Cleves, Elmwood Place, Evendale, Fairfax, Glendale, Golf Manor, Green Hills, Lincoln Heights, Lockland, Mariemont, Newtown, North Bend, St. Bernard, Silverton, Terrace Park and Woodlawn.

Additional races taking place include Auditors in Cheviot, Deer Park, Norwood, Reading and Sharonville; Presidents of Council in Deer Park, Norwood, Reading, St. Bernard and Sharonville; Directors of Law in Cheviot, Deer Park, Norwood, Reading, St. Bernard and Sharonville; Clerk/Treasurers in Fairfax, Glendale, Golf Manor and Elmwood Place; Clerk/ Finance Director in Springdale; and in Addyston, both Clerk and Treasurer positions as well as two Board of Trustee Public Affairs positions.



Action Alert



LWVCA Endorses Issue 1

This November, Ohio voters will have the opportunity to pass much-needed state redistricting reform by voting YES on Issue 1! You can read more about Issue 1 and the Fair Districts for Ohio campaign by visiting the campaign website at fairdistrictsforohio.com.

We need your help to spread the message of support! The Fair Districts for Ohio campaign is trying to collect a broad range of organizational endorsements, representing all facets of Ohio life. The LWV Ohio board voted to endorse Issue 1 back in January. LWVCA board endorsed it in August. We know League members tend to be heavily involved in their communities, so we are asking you to think about all the organizations you belong to and ask them to endorse Issue 1.

Together, we can finally make redistricting reform a reality!



EPA Announces Final Carbon Regulation

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and President Obama unveiled the final regulation limiting carbon from coal fired power plants on August 3. The Clean Power Plan will improve public health while saving lives, creating jobs and protecting our environment.

League supporters have generated over 90,000 comments and letters in support of this historic regulation.



LWVCA Helped to Save Ohio Housing Trust Fund

LWVCA worked with hundreds of groups throughout the state to save funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. In June we sent letters to our state senators and in July signed a petition to the governor. The Ohio Housing Trust Fund supports emergency shelter, construction, rehab and repair, rental assistance, and financial counseling for formerly homeless families.

Natural Born Citizen

Liz Shockey, Naturalization Ceremony Volunteer

In a room of foreign-born Americans from more than 30 different countries, it is easy to appreciate that the United States is still a country of immigrants. On Friday July 31, I had the opportunity to meet more than 100 new citizens and share voting information and congratulations on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) at two naturalization ceremonies.

The LWVCA participates as one of several civic guests including Daughters of the American Revolution, representatives from both state senators' offices, the American Red Cross, and the Hamilton County



Board of Elections (BOE). Civic guests were seated in the jury box. There, a new citizen from Mexico remarked that, in studying for her citizenship test, her American-born friend said that now she, a new citizen, knew more about American history than her American-born friend had learned in school.

Before the close of the ceremony, letters of congratulations are read and civic guests introduced. I read a new short message on behalf of the LWVCA. I had a hand in crafting the short congratulatory script, which can be read at future naturalization ceremonies and explains the role of the organization and the importance of democratic participation. Naturalized citizens, contrary to popular belief, register to vote and participate in elections at a lower rate than U.S.-born citizens. The presence of LWVCA at events is important to encourage voter literacy and participation.

The ceremony ends with the Pledge of Allegiance, and photos are taken as the judge issues new citizens their certificates of citizenship. As the new Americans exit the courtroom, they receive literature and can register to vote with the Hamilton County BOE at an outside table. I stood across from the voter registration table and congratulated the new citizens on their way out. I distributed pamphlets (*They Represent Us* and *Voting Tips for Hamilton County*).

It is exciting to have seen, firsthand, that these Americans are recognized and celebrated for their attainment of citizenship, beyond simply receiving a piece of paper.

If you are interested in volunteering with the LWVCA at future naturalization ceremonies, contact Janice Alvarado.



Marijuana

MARIJUANA continued from page 1 consensus as an organization. The discussions will help each of us be more thoughtful, knowledgeable voters. The enclosed study page, on page 14 and 15, provides background information and discussion questions.

In addition to unit discussions, the LWVCA is cosponsoring a public forum on the legalization of marijuana on September 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Building, 2111 Dana Avenue. The forum is cosponsored by LWVCA, Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, Citizens for Civic Renewal, and the Cincinnati Association.

Act One Continues for Another Year

Melissa Currence, Act One

Act One — a joint membership initiative between the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) and Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati — continues this year. Apply by September 22 to join this program for young women and men aged 18-40 at lwvcincinnati.org. The program features free membership, mentoring, civic engagement, and networking events.

Attend an Act One happy hour at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday September 15 at the Mecklenburg Gardens in Clifton.

L League Lifers

Celebrate LWVCA's seven newest life members. We wanted to know — why did they join?

Doris Bergen, 1955

"As a young mother with children, the League was a window to keeping my cognitive knowledge in place. The studies I did made me feel attached to the world of ideas."

Dot Christenson, 1962

"I joined in the early 1960s, when my husband was in graduate school, so I could learn more about the community."

Mary Kay Gardner, 1963

"I didn't want to hear only about soap operas and peoples' children, as you do at some meetings. I wanted intelligent conversation! So only one year out of college, I joined up in Wisconsin."

Sue Gorman, 1964

"My grandmother was a charter member and my mother was a president. Sue was always interested in political and civic events, so she joined." - Quote by husband Robert Gorman, due to Sue's health

Gerry Kraus, 1956

"I joined when I finished college, as a political science major. There were few outlets for women to pursue political and social action, and I think many other women felt the same. During the 1960s, I was the chair for the Avondale units, and we'd have 35 to 50 people at a meeting."

Burton Roehr, 1965

"I had an untraditional mother, who always said, 'if I'd join anything it'd be the League of Women Voters.' When I went to my first meeting, I was hooked. I sort of have it in my DNA."

Dee Stegman, 1965, is also a life member this year.

LWVCA Anna Louise Inn Tour Draws Dozens

Hayley Day, Office Manager

About 25 guests toured the new Anna Louise Inn on Wednesday, July 15 on Reading Road in Mount Auburn in a League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area-sponsored event. The facility, operated by Cincinnati Union Bethel since 1909, offers 85 efficiency and one-room apartments.

"We want to prevent barriers for women to obtain housing," said Mary Carol Melton, Cincinnati Union Bethel Executive Vice President in an introduction to tour participants.

Apartments range from 450 to 500 square-feet, and include personal kitchens and bathrooms. The original



Anna Louise Inn, in Lytle Park, offered 200 dormitory rooms, at its height, with communal bathrooms and kitchens.

The new location also offers 12 dormitory rooms in the Cincinnati Union Bethel's Off the Streets program.

The original Anna Louise Inn was built on land donated by Charles P. Taft and his wife, Anna Sinton, and named after their daughter. It was purchased by Western & Southern Financial Group in 2013.

A speaker from the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition spoke to tour participants at the United Way of Greater Cincinnati after the tour. To continue work with the Anna Louise Inn, contact LWVCA.

Bridges to Cross

LWVCA members marched across the Roebling Bridge on August 8 as part of the Bridges to Cross event commemorating the signing of the Voting Rights Act, 50 years ago. Pictured (from left): Ernie Mowell, Vice President of Program Elizabeth Brown, Sandra Mowell, President Nancy Dawley, and Burton Roehr.

- Meredith Atherley, Voter Service Vice President



Constitution Amendment Study Parallels Constitution Day

Sandra Mowell, Membership Committee

Constitution Day is September 17-- LWV United States's study on amending our nation's Constitution is ongoing!

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. This year, the LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Committee is conducting a study and member agreement process on mending our nation's Constitution.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides two ways to propose amendments to the nation's fundamental charter:

1. Congress, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose a constitutional amendment to the states for ratification *OR*

2. The legislatures of two-thirds of the states may ask Congress to call a constitutional convention.

The League study will explore the process for proposing an Article V Convention to determine whether LWVUS would support such a convention and, if so, under what circumstances.

There are study materials, including the consensus questions, available at lwv.org, including several articles from authors with strong and opposite views of the process. For members who might need

help accessing this information, please call the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) office for help.

LWVCA will discuss this study at the November unit meetings. The study questions are in three parts, comprised of:

3. Considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals

4. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states

5. Balancing questions

LWVCA Participates in National "Money in Politics" Review

Elizabeth Brown, Vice President of Program

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) joins Leagues from across the nation to take part in the "Money in Politics" review and update. Adopted at the 2014 LWV United States Convention, this involves a member study and consensus to update the League's position on campaign finance to obtain member understanding and agreement on the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider:

- The rights of individuals

and organizations to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and

- How those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the League's current position on campaign finance.

The current position states that methods of financing political campaigns should:

- Ensure the public's right to know
- Combat corruption and undue influence
- Enable candidates to compete more equitably
- Allow maximum citizen participation in the political process

This position was adopted in 1974 and revised in 1982. The League actively used the position to work for campaign finance reform over the years. Things changed radically with the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010 and the rise of Super PACs.

LWVCA members will have the chance to weigh-in on the campaign finance consensus at unit meetings in November. We will provide additional information in *The Voter* and on the lwvcincinnati.org in the upcoming months. There is detailed information on lwv.org, including a reading list and the opportunity to join a Google Group discussion forum on "Money in Politics."

Natural Resources Committee Seeks New Projects

*Pinky Kocoshis, Natural Resources
Committee Cochair*

The Natural Resources Committee (NRC) is looking at local environmental initiatives to see where we might best put our efforts. There are two cochairs of the NRC this year — Jeanne Nightingale and me, Pinky Kocoshis.

There are a couple ongoing projects, with support from other local environmental organizations. There may be ways to cooperate with other groups and these projects, which we will present at the next committee meeting and establish the committee's priorities.

The following are project examples, but there are, of course, many other ideas:

- Supporting a plastic bag fee of, say 5 cents, in Cincinnati
- Supporting a more affordable rate structure for MSD (Metropolitan Sewer District) for which a Rate Affordable Task Force is being appointed and will meet soon.

We will meet on September 15 or 17. To maximize attendance, we will email to set dates and times.

Hope to see you there. Call me for questions at (513) 233-0972.

Dues are Due

*Sandra Mowell, Membership
Committee*

It is that time of year again, when we renew our commitment to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA)! Our dues are due!

When you renew your membership to LWVCA you also renew your support for LWV Ohio (our state League) and LWV United States (our national League). Our per member payment obligation to LWVO is \$25. Our per member payment to LWVUS is going up again and will be \$32 for individual members. Local membership dues are determined by LWVCA members through the budget adoption at the LWVCA Annual Meeting. Currently, individual member dues are \$60, while household members (two or more members with the same

mailing address) can join for \$80.

You will receive a notice in your mailbox to renew your dues and also share your interests with us, so we may contact you if there is a particular project you would like to help with. And we have many, many projects as always!

We can always use your support both financially and/or your time, as your schedule allows. If you can send your renewal in as you receive it, you will save our resources in following up with you. Then, we, in turn, can use those resources for our voter service and program projects that are dear to our hearts and a big part of why we are all members of this most trusted and respected organization.

From shaping important issues in our communities to educating as many voters as possible through our Speakers Bureau, voter guides, meetings and forums, the League has never been more needed. We need YOU to continue safeguarding our democracy!

All-Member LWV Ohio Conference Calls

Join members from all over the state to discuss important LWVO topics each month.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Date: Every first Tuesday of the month (Next call is Sept. 1 on Voter Service)

Call-In Number: 1-866-740-1260

Pin: Call the LWVCA office at (513) 281-8683 for the pin

Can't Call In? Find each month's call recordings on lwvo.org through the end of the month. Recordings are intended for LWV members and are not to be shared outside the League.

ePoll Books Work Well in August 4 Election, says BOE

Pinky Kocoshis, Board of Elections Observer

The August 17 Hamilton County Board of Elections (BOE) meeting focused on the recent two smaller elections and the results of the levies at Mt. Healthy and St. Bernard.

After reviewing the eight provisional ballots cast in August 4, 2015 election, it was determined that only six counted, as the other two voters were not registered to vote in Ohio.

It was announced at the end of the meeting that both levies were certified (after BOE employees prepared the final counts).

The electronic poll books

were used for the first time in Hamilton County in the August 4 election. BOE employees said they performed well. Printing receipts, which voters receive, was a slow process and will be investigated with the manufacturer to make changes.

The signature poll books were printed as back up, and that will be done in November 3, 2015 election also.

That election and the presidential election in 2016 will have a much larger turnout than at the August 4 Special Election. Therefore, this is a precaution.

The next BOE meeting is at 8 a.m., Tuesday, September 8. All filing dates will be past, so they can be certified at that meeting.

Meet Judicial Candidates and Issue 1 Discussion

Pinky Kocoshis, Anderson Unit

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area's Anderson Unit presents a discussion on Issue 1 (the redistricting reform proposal), the parks levy and other ballot issues. Afterwards, there will be a meet-and-greet with candidates running for District 4 judicial office, Anderson Township Trustee and other candidates for local office.

The event is free and open to the public. It will be televised live and rebroadcasted on AC-TV.

When: 7 p.m., Wednesday October 14

Where: Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Rd., Anderson, 45230



Three Cheers to Melissa Currence!

Nancy Dawley, President

We are pleased and proud that our own Melissa Currence, League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) vice president of development, is a recipient of the **Cincinnati Business Courier's Forty Under 40 award**. We all know that Melissa is special, and are grateful for all she does for LWVCA as well as for LWV Ohio and LWV United States. Thank you, Melissa!

If you'd like to join other Leaguers to celebrate with Melissa at a luncheon on Tuesday, September 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., call the office to register. We will arrange for a table together, which will cost \$60 per person.



Side by Side Series: Faces of our Criminal Justice System

Beyond Civility



The justice system is shaped by leaders. What paths led Ken Parker to become Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Criminal Division, and Ray Faller to become the Hamilton County Public Defender? How are our values shaped by our experiences?

When: Monday, Sept. 21
Reception: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Program: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Where: St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church
320 Resor Ave
Cincinnati 45220

Reservations (free, but space is limited):
beyondcivility.org/reservations/

Save The Dates!

Meredith Atherley, Vice President of Voter Service



LWVCA Issues Forum will be held on Monday, October 5 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 in the Huenefeld Tower Room of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, downtown. Speakers will present both pro and con positions on each ballot issue facing voters this fall. This event is free and open to the public, so spread the word!



National Voter Registration Day is September 22 — remind friends and family to register and to update personal information such as name or address changes. Failure to update this information can cause problems at the polls. Deadline to register or make changes is October 5. Voter registration forms are on Ohio Secretary of State's website and the Hamilton County Board of Elections website.



Early Voting starts October 6. You may vote in person at the Hamilton County Board of Elections (BOE) at 824 Broadway from October 6 until election day November 3. To vote by mail you must request a ballot by submitting a completed Vote by Mail application; the application can be obtained on the Secretary of State or Hamilton County BOE websites, at the Hamilton County BOE, or any Hamilton County public library.



Hayley Day, Office Manager

Welcome guests from the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program at 11 a.m., Sept. 16, and 9 a.m., Oct. 5 at the Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church. Topics include: election administration, city government, grassroots organizing, and voting rights. Contact Janice Alvarado to join. This event is for LWVCA members, only, and not open to the public.

DONOR ROLL

LWVCA Donor Roll Recognition Levels

Melissa Currence, Vice President of Development

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) remembers the hard work and dedication of our foremothers with our giving levels. With each level, we honor a woman who has made a difference in the civil rights of all citizens.

Our highest level (\$5,000 and above) is named for Lydia Chapin Taft, the first woman to vote in Colonial America in 1756. Our next level (\$1,000 - \$4,999) is named for Celia Lazarus, LWVCA president from 1950-1952, who was well-known for her fundraising abilities for our local League.

Agnes Hilton (\$500-\$999) was the second president of LWVCA from 1922-24. She was a suffragist and one of the founders of the Cincinnati Charter Committee and later served as LWV Ohio president. The Mary Gorman McManus Level (\$250-\$499) is named for our LWVCA president from 1946-1948, who served as director of Ohio Public Welfare, now known as Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The next level (\$100-\$249) is named in honor of Harriet Iglauer, who was LWVCA president from 1964-1966 and was past president of the LWV of Grand Rapids, Michigan. She also served on both the Michigan and Ohio State LWV Boards. The following level (\$99

and below) is named for Gloria Walker, who served as LWVCA president from 1989-1991, remembered for her passion for growing our League's membership ranks.

Our planned giving society, the Martha B. Taft Society, is named for LWVCA's first president, who served from 1920-1922 and again in 1932-1934.

We take much inspiration from those who came before us. Thank you for your continued support of the League of Women Voters!

Making Democracy Work®:
LWVCA DONOR HONOR ROLL
We thank the following donors to the LWVCA and/or the LWVCA Education Fund for their contributions to LWVCA from July 1 - August 10, 2015. Every effort is made to keep this list accurate. Please contact Hayley Day at (513) 281-8683 or hayley@lwvcincinnati.org to notify us of any errors or omissions.

Lydia Chapin Taft Level (\$5,000 and above)
Seasongood Good Government Foundation

Agnes Hilton Level (\$500 - \$999)

Nancy Dawley
Doreen Quinn
Helen and Donald Rhoad

Mary Gorman McManus Level (\$250-\$499)
Nancy Forbriger

Harriett Iglauer Level (\$100 - \$249)

Meredith Atherley
Elizabeth Brown
Clever Crazes for Kids
John Cranley for Cincinnati
Melissa Currence
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
Helen and John Hunter
Howard Mayer
Karen McGuirk
Mary Ronan

Gloria Walker Level (\$99 and below)

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Edward Merkes
Suzanne Pontius
Barry Porter
Suzanne Richmond
Elaine Roth-Beecher
Alice Stadler
Margaret Straub
Barbara Varland
Nancy Lu Walters

Martha B. Taft Planned Giving Society

Anonymous
Melissa Currence
Mary Kay Gardner
Carolyn Miller
Burton Roehr

In Memory Of

Melissa Currence
In memory of Elizabeth Joseph Currence

Program 2015-16

Month	Program
July	Tour of women and homelessness at the new Anna Louis Inn
September	The pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana through a public forum and unit discussions
October	Elections issues briefing with speakers bureau and unit discussions
November	LWV United States consensus on studies "Constitutional Amendment" and "Money in Politics" at unit discussions
January	State and national Program planning as a general meeting with small group discussions
February	Dinner with the League with a Green Umbrella speaker
March	Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) including renewal of city/county contract and rate issues
April	Education and the Preschool Promise at unit discussions

Should Marijuana be Legal in Ohio?

November Ballot Issues

Petitions were signed to put an amendment to the Ohio Constitution on the November ballot that would legalize marijuana use in the state. Initiated by a group called Responsible Ohio the proposal would:

- Allow marijuana use by adults over the age of 21.
- Legalize medical marijuana for minors, with parental consent.
- Limit the commercial growth of marijuana to 10 sites owned by the investors that are paying for the ballot campaign. Adults, over the age of 21, would be able to obtain a license to grow up to four marijuana plants for their personal use only, but not to sell.
- Set up a Control Commission and tax the sale of marijuana.

Much of the controversy around the ballot issue involves whether it is appropriate to name specific sites in the Constitution to the benefit of a limited number of investors. Because of these concerns, the General Assembly has placed a Constitutional amendment on the November ballot to limit the possibility of monopolies becoming part of the Constitution.

Regardless of the details of specific proposals, however, there is the basic question of whether or not legalizing marijuana is good public policy.

Pros and Cons of Legalizing Marijuana

Advocates of legalization of marijuana believe it will eliminate the illegal trade and associated crime, yield a valuable tax-source and reduce policing costs. They point out that, although there is no racial difference in the use of marijuana, the laws are enforced much more often against African Americans giving them criminal records which limit their ability to get jobs and housing. Approximately 16 percent of Americans say they've used marijuana in the past year.

Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska have legalized the recreational use of marijuana. However, any use of the substance is still illegal under federal law.

Those opposed to legalization argue that marijuana is a gateway drug into the use of hard drugs that are much more devastating to individuals and communities. There are also concerns about the health effects of marijuana on children and the danger of driving under the influence.

Some states and cities have legalized only the medical use of marijuana. Studies have long shown the usefulness of marijuana in treating pain. Doctors also prescribe medical marijuana to treat muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis, nausea from cancer chemotherapy, poor appetite and weight loss caused by chronic illness, and seizure disorders.

References

Much has been written about the legalization of marijuana, pro and con.

A recent column in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* details the case against legalization: cin.ci/1SIL8d0

The website for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws presents the case in favor of legalization: www.norml.org

Discussion questions

1. What was our country's experience with the Prohibition of alcohol? Are there parallels to the current debate about the criminalization of marijuana?
2. What do you think are the strongest arguments in favor of keeping marijuana illegal?
3. What do you think are the strongest arguments in favor of legalization of marijuana?
4. Should distinctions be made in the law:
 - Between medical and recreational use of marijuana?
 - Between possession and selling marijuana?
5. Take a poll of those present:
 - In general, do you support the legalization of marijuana for medical use?
YES _____ NO _____ Not Sure _____
 - In general, do you support the legalization of marijuana for recreational use?
YES _____ NO _____ Not Sure _____

BUDGET

EDUCATION FUND		Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	2014-2015 Annual Budget	2015-2016 Budget
<u>REVENUE</u>				
420	Contributions	14,577.91	27,000.00	16,000.00
426	Donation from LWVCA	0.00	12,000.00	0.00
430	Community Shares	4,655.01	32,000.00	3,500.00
440	Foundation/Grants/Project Funding	26,126.99	10,000.00	12,000.00
441	Voter Service Grants			10,810.58
450	Fund Raising Events	160.10	2,000.00	14,500.00
460	Founders Event (i.e. Susan B Anthony)	8,975.25	3,000.00	500.00
470	Kroger Rewards/Amazon Smile	388.75	300.00	350.00
485	Misc. Income (i.e. Iglauer Fund)	179.25	8,000.00	4,000.00
486	LWV Items/Ware	0.00	0.00	400.00
490	Net Unrealized Gain	1,810.86	0.00	0.00
	FROM RESERVES (Max 3.5% of Reserves)	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
	TO RESERVES	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE		\$57,678.12	\$53,500.00	\$70,060.58
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
505	Supplies	2,976.72	26,700.00	2,500.00
900	VOTER Supplies	517.90	420.00	600.00
510	Postage	1,660.01	2,205.00	2,150.00
520	Telephone	2,186.96	1,880.04	1,881.60
530	Rent	7,887.84	7,400.04	7,818.05
531	Cleaning	600.83	690.00	691.20
540	Payroll Expenses (Office Manager)	21,810.97	19,599.96	23,240.00
550	Insurance	475.00	350.00	600.00
560	Generate Annual Report	0.00	0.00	500.00
572	Equipment Usage/Maintenance Fee	3,077.15	2,199.96	1,900.00
580	Printing & Marketing Fundraising Matl	0.00	0.00	100.00
586	LWV Items	0.00	0.00	200.00
630	Finance Committee	0.00	75.00	0.00
650	Annual Fundraiser-Founders Day	5,859.93	0.00	6,700.00
660	Community Relations	64.00	100.00	100.00
670	Tax Preparation & Review	725.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
710	Conferences/Coalitions	215.00	100.00	100.00
730	Web Page/Online Project	144.25	500.00	250.00
740	PayPal or Give Unity Fees	94.41	50.00	50.00
741	GiveUnity Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00
742	Bank Fees	50.00	0.00	0.00
795	PMP Fees			0.00
	795-PMP US \$32 @ 273	1,496.26	0.00	1,000.00
	795-PMP Ohio \$25 @ 273	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
800	Voter Services Activities-Other	105.21	1,500.00	1,000.00
810	Voter Service Forums	469.19		750.00
825	Who & What of Elections	10,400.52	20,500.00	20,000.00
850	They Represent Us (TRU)	1,384.00	2,200.00	2,400.00
880	Vote 411	1,396.43	1,200.00	1,200.00
950	Community Shares Dues	475.00	450.00	475.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$65,324.92	\$65,390.00	\$79,005.85

BUDGET

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Cincinnati Area

July 2014 - June 2015	2014-2015 Budget	2015-2016 Budget
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REVENUE

400 Dues	13,590.83		15,000.00
420 Contributions	4341.62	12,000.00	4,800.00
450 Fund Raising/Foundations/Proj/Events	40	0	0.00
460 Annual Meeting	757	0	0.00
485 Miscellaneous Income	58.76	700	0.00
495 Donations to Ed Fund	20		0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$18,928.91	\$17,900.00	\$19,800.00

EXPENSES

500 General Supplies	541.06	580	400.00
900 Voter Newsletter Supplies	38.35	225.00	0.00
510 Postage-General	221	420.00	575.00
520 Telephone	398.80	460.00	470.40
530 Rent	1,652.04	1,900.00	1,954.51
531 Janitorial	132.48	132.48	172.80
540 Payroll Expenses (Office Mgr)	3,659.36	4,900.00	5,810.00
550 Insurance	100.00	100.00	100.00
560 Annual Meeting	531.99	0.00	0.00
570 Equipment Usage/Maintenance Fee	642.72	420	475.00
574 Voter Services Publication Expense	0	250	200.00
600 Presidents' Expense	0	50	50.00
610 Board Administration	0	50	50.00
620 Donation to Ed Fund	20.00	12,000.00	0.00
625 Transfer to LWV Fidelity Account	12,000.00	0.00	0.00
630 Finance Committee	0	75	50.00
640 Membership Committee	638.72	1,040.00	1,600.00
650 Program Committee(s)	29.38	400.00	400.00
660 Community Relations	277.03	200.00	200.00
670 Tax Preparation & Review	725.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
700 Convention (National or State)	809	1,000.00	2,500.00
710 Coalitions, Conferences		400.00	350.00
720 Action	368.50	100.00	100.00
730 Web Site	449.51	0.00	220.00
740 PayPal Fees	59.90	100.00	75.00
745 Bank Fees	75	0.00	0.00
800 PMP Fees			
800-PMP - US \$32 @ 273= \$8736	4,725.01	4,866.00	7,236.00
800-PMP - Ohio \$25 @ 273= \$6825.	7,812.00	8,150.00	5,825.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,948.96	\$39,283.80	\$30,113.71

ANNOUNCEMENTS

gmail.com to learn more.

Volunteer

LWVCA Needs Office Volunteers

Mary Kay Gardner, Office Volunteer Chair

Leaguers respond to a challenge or need always. And we have one! Needed are several people for the League office! We've had some retirements and have a real need for regulars and substitutes for the office.

Set the day to suit your schedule. Volunteers usually work one day a month, choosing a convenient three hours between 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please call the office or Mary Kay at (513) 681-2794 to set up a time.

Local Language Arts Program Needs Tutors

Burton Roehr, Education Committee Chair

Looking for a way to make a difference in a young person's life? Making Sense of Language Arts needs tutors at Winton Hills Academy, Rothenberg Preparatory Academy and South Avondale School, once a week, for an hour or so.

Training and material provided. An hour a week could make a difference in a child's learning experience!

Contact Linda Wihl at (513) 477-3428 or makingsenseoflanguagearts@

Volunteers Needed for Electing the President – an education project with the Cincinnati Public Schools

Nancy Dawley, President

Are you interested in educating children and youth on the presidential election process? LWVUS will publish *Electing the President* again for the 2016 election.

LWVCA wants to make it available as classroom materials to teachers of the Cincinnati Public Schools (and others, if possible).

Would you like to help? We want to have the materials to teachers in time for the Primary Elections in March, so it's a short-term project.

Send me an email to president@lwvcincinnati.org and I'll give you a call to see how you would like to participate.

Found Items

Lose something?

Nancy Forbriger, Office Volunteer

Maybe it's in the LWVCA office lost and found:

- Blue tote bag from recycled material
- Black gloves
- Taupe gloves with cuff buttons
- Umbrella, left by Rookwood Group
- Black sweater with ruffled collar
- Black and gray plaid scarf
- UC Health Alliance water bottle
- Earring
- Small key

Library Corner

Nancy Dawley, President

Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much By Sendhil Mullainathan and Eldar Shafir

Take a look at this book if you want to better understand the dynamics and psychology of scarcity.

Scarcity includes not enough money, time, friends, food, and other "lacks." The authors explain how all of these diverse problems create a similar psychology as people struggle to manage with less than they need. Why is it so difficult to get out of poverty?

Love to read? Share a book recommendation with the League by emailing a description to newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015-16 Collating Schedule

Units volunteer to attach mailing labels to *The Voter*, when it's printed, in-house.

The following dates may change. Contact Pinky Kocoshis for up-to-date times.

9/17/2015

October / Hilltop North

12/17/2015

January / Metro Day

1/21/2016

February / Northeast Evening

2/18/2016

March / Warren/Butler

4/21/2016

Workbook I/ Anderson

LWVCA 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.



Join the League of Women Voters!

Making

Democracy Work ®

All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement. Dues cover the cost to join as a member of the League of Women Voters at the local, state and national levels.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Individual - \$60

Household - \$80

Student - \$25

Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____

Donation (optional): _____

Checks made payable to LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft Road, Cincinnati, OH 45219 or pay online at lwvcincinnati.org.

Questions? Call us at (513) 281-8683 or email sinfo@lwvcincinnati.org.



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 OF THE CINCINNATI AREA
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League Calendar

For more current dates, visit lwvcincinnati.org/google_calendar.html

Noon, Tues. September 1	All-Member LWVO Conference Call	
6 p.m. to 8, Tues. September 1	Voter Service Committee meeting	LWVCA Conference Room
Noon, Tues. September 8	Hilltop North unit discussion	Friendship United Methodist Church, Wyoming
7 p.m., Tues. September 8	Anderson unit discussion	Anderson Center, Anderson
7:30 p.m., Tues. September 8	Warren/ Butler County unit discussion	Mason United Methodist Church
2:30 p.m., Wed. September 9	Education Committee meeting	LWVCA Conference Room
6:15 p.m., Wed. September 9	Central Evening unit discussion	LWVCA Conference Room
6 p.m. to 8, Thurs. September 10	Board of Directors meeting	LWVCA Conference Room
7 p.m., Mon. September 14	Northeast Evening unit discussion	Maderia Library, Maderia
6:30 p.m., Tues. September 15	Act One Happy Hour	Mecklenburg Gardens, Clifton
11 a.m. Wed. September 16	U.S. Dept. of State International Visitor Program	MAPC Social Hall
Noon, Wed. September 16	Eastern Day unit discussion	Marjorie P. Lee, Hyde Park
Noon, Wed. September 16	Metro Day unit discussion	LWVCA Conference Room
4 p.m. to 6, Wed. September 23	Program Development Committee meeting	LWVCA Conference Room
6:30 p.m. to 8:30, Mon. September 28	"Legalizing Marijuana—Is it Responsible for Ohio?" featuring four experts	Red Cross Auditorium, 2111 Dana Ave. (near Dana Exit on I-71)
9 a.m., Mon. October 5	U.S. Dept. of State International Visitor Program	MAPC Geirer Room
7 p.m. to 8:30, Mon. October 5	2015 November election issues forum	Huenefeld Room of library main branch, downtown
6 p.m. to 8, Thurs. October 8	Board of Directors meeting	LWVCA Conference Room
7 p.m., Wed. October 14	Anderson unit judicial candidates and ballot issues discussion	Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Rd., Anderson

