The League of Women Voters® of the Cincinnati Area
(513) 281-VOTE (8683) info@lwvcincinnati.org lwvcincinnati.org

September 2015

THE VOTER

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
President’s Letter

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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 wwwlwvcincinnati.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

CONVERSATIONS

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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 volunteers 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.

“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.

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.

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 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!

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.

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.
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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 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.

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Natural Born Citizen

Liz Shockey, Naturalization Ceremony Volunteer

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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).

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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.

MARIJUANA continued from page 1

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 Cincinnatus Association.

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.

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NEWS

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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.

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"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.

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

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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. The 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, say 5 cents, in Cincinnati
- Supporting a more affordable rate structure for MSD (Metropolitan Sewer District) for which a Rate

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
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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.

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.
Natural Resources Committee Seeks New Projects

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- Supporting a plastic bag fee of, say 5 cents, in Cincinnati
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Affordable Task Force is being established.

We will email to set dates and times.

We are grateful for all she does for LWVCA as well as for LWV Ohio.

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Save The Dates!
Meredith Atherley, Vice President of Voter Service

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 Hamilton County Public Defender? How are our values shaped by our foremothers with our giving levels. Each level, we honor a woman who has made a difference in the civil rights of all citizens.

**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.

**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.

**Nancy Dawley**

**Suzanne Richmond**

**Elizabeth Horwitz**

**Nancy Lu Walters**

**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)**
Mary Ellen Addison
Katherine Claybon
Donna Dansker
Marjorie Davies
Pearl Edelstein
Margaret Fanella
P. Jean Goings
Margaret Halberstadt
Judith Harmony
Elizabeth Horwitz
Linnea Lose
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

**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. 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 Harriett 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
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/1SlL8d0

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 ______

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

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   - Between possession and selling marijuana?

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   - In general, do you support the legalization of marijuana for medical use?
   - In general, do you support the legalization of marijuana for recreational use?

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.

Program 2015-16

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

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/1SlL8d0

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 _________

November Ballot Issues

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>420 Contributions</td>
<td>14,577.91</td>
<td>27,000.00</td>
<td>16,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>426 Donation from LWVCA</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>430 Community Shares</td>
<td>4,655.01</td>
<td>32,000.00</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>450 Fund Raising Events</td>
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<td>2,000.00</td>
<td>14,500.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>460 Founders Event (i.e. Susan &amp; Anthony)</td>
<td>8,975.25</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>470 Kroger Rewards/Amazon Smile</td>
<td>306.75</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>485 Misc. Income (i.e. gavel fund)</td>
<td>176.25</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>486 LWV Items/Ware</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>495 Net Unrealized Gain</td>
<td>1,810.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL REVENUE | $57,578.12 | $53,590.00 | $70,060.18 |

| EXPENSES | 505 Supplies | 2,976.72 | 26,700.00 | 2,500.00 |
| 500 VOTER Supplies | 517.59 | 420.00 | 200.00 |
| 510 Postage | 1,660.01 | 2,205.00 | 2,150.00 |
| 520 Telephone | 2,186.98 | 1,880.04 | 1,865.60 |
| 530 Rent | 7,809.57 | 7,400.04 | 7,809.57 |
| 531 Cleaning | 600.00 | 690.00 | 691.20 |
| 540 Payroll Expenses (Office Manager) | 21,810.97 | 19,589.96 | 23,240.00 |
| 550 Insurance | 470.00 | 350.00 | 100.00 |
| 560 Generate Annual Report | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| 572 Equipment Usage/Maintenance Fee | 3,071.15 | 1,999.96 | 1,900.00 |
| 580 Printing & Marketing Fundraising Mail | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| 586 LWV Items | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| 630 Finance Committee | 630.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 650 Annual Fundraisers-Founders Day | 5,859.00 | 0.00 | 6,700.00 |
| 660 Community Regatta | 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 |
| 720 Web Pages/Online Project | 144.25 | 500.00 | 250.00 |
| 740 PayPal or Give Unity Fees | 94.41 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| 741 Give Unity Fee | 41.00 | 20.00 | 0.00 |
| 742 Bank Fees | 30.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 745 PFM Fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 750 PFM @ 273 | 1,496.26 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 751 PFM @ 273 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1500.00 |
| 800 Voter Services Activities-Other | 105.71 | 1,500.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 810 Voter Service Forums | 460.19 | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| 820 Who & What of Elections | 10,400.52 | 20,600.00 | 20,000.00 |
| 850 They Represent Us (TRU) | 1,364.98 | 2,200.00 | 2,400.00 |
| 860 Vote 411 | 1,366.43 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| 950 Community Shares Dues | 475.00 | 450.00 | 475.00 |

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<th>$65,390.00</th>
<th>$78,005.85</th>
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<tr>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>496 Net Unrealized Gain</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
<td>57,878.12</td>
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<td>70,060.59</td>
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<td>$17,900.00</td>
<td>$19,800.00</td>
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| EXPENSES                                |                      |          |          |
| 500 General Supplies                    | 541.06                | 500.00   | 400.00   |
| 505 Voter Newsletter Supplies           | 38.35                 | 225.00   | 0.00     |
| 510 Postage                             | 221                   | 420.00   | 575.00   |
| 520 Telephone                           | 386.80                | 450.00   | 470.40   |
| 530 Rent                                | 1,652.04              | 1,300.00 | 1,954.51 |
| 531 Janitorial                          | 132.48                | 132.48   | 172.80   |
| 540 Payroll Expenses (Office Mgr)       | 3,655.36              | 4,900.00 | 5,510.00 |
| 550 Insurance                           | 100.00                | 100.00   | 100.00   |
| 560 Annual Meeting                       | 551.99                | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 562 Equipment Usage/Maintenance Fee     | 642.72                | 420.00   | 475.00   |
| 564 Printing & Marketing Fundraising Mail| 0.00                  | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 566 LWV Items                            | 0.00                  | 0.00     | 50.00    |
| 568 Board Administration                 | 0.00                  | 0.00     | 50.00    |
| 570 Donations 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                    | 0.00                  | 75.00    | 50.00    |
| 640 Membership Committee                 | 630.72                | 1,040.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 650 Program Committee(s)                | 28.38                 | 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 Coalition, Conferences               | 400.00                | 400.00   | 350.00   |
| 720 Action                               | 366.50                | 100.00   | 100.00   |
| 730 Web Site                             | 448.51                | 0.00     | 220.00   |
| 740 PayPal Fees                          | 50.00                 | 100.00   | 75.00    |
| 745 Bank Fees                            | 475.00                | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| 760 PMP Fees                             | 4.725.01              | 4,850.00 | 7,230.00 |
| 860 PMP - US S32 @ 273                   | 7,812.00              | 6,150.00 | 5,825.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                           | $23,948.96            | $39,263.80| $30,113.71|

TOTAL EXPENSES $65,324.92 $65,390.00 $78,005.85
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@gmail.com to learn more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

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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.

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

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