



2017 MAY VOTER

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President's Notes - by Nancy Dawley

By now all members should have received a recent mailing from the League office containing 1) a 2017 Membership Directory, 2) 2017 They Represent Us (TRU), and 3) Workbook I for the May 18, 2017, Annual Meeting. If you haven't yet browsed the workbook, please do so and register to attend LWVCA's Annual Meeting. We will be enjoying each other's company, electing officers and board members, approving a budget, and other important topics.



2016-17 is proving a busy year for the League. To date, 55 *new* members have joined, and we are thrilled to have each member, new or renewed. Some of our newer Board members were surprised to find that our membership dues barely covers the Per Member Payment that LWVCA pays to be a part of LWVUS and LWV Ohio. After those expenses, we have just \$3 per individual member to use for local League work. It's no longer enough for the work we want to accomplish. After much discussion, the Board voted to ask our members to approve raising dues by \$10 for both individual and household memberships. But, please remember, we *never* want to prevent people from joining LWVCA for financial reasons; thus, we have a "pay-what-you-can" membership to cover such situations.

Anticipated expenses are also greater than expected income in the proposed budgets printed in Workbook I. After more debate the Board decided *not* to cut our work, but to bring these to you as well. We feel that the League needs to be *growing* its program at this time when more education and advocacy are needed in our democracy. We hope, upon discussion, that you will agree. A committee is being set up to review ways of improving our financial position. If you have some ideas, please forward them to president@lwvcincinnati.org or call [513-281-8683](tel:513-281-8683). You are also most welcome to

join the committee to help develop a plan for our League growth. Please make your interest known to me.

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” – Abraham Lincoln.

Each year we have the opportunity to develop the League’s plan for the next year. Please join us in this work at the **LWVCA Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 5:15 pm registration and social; 6:00 dinner; 6:30 pm speaker Carrie Davis, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio; 7:15 Annual Meeting.** The dinner is \$20 or pay-what-you-can. RSVP for the Annual Meeting at info@lwwcincinnati.org or 513-281 VOTE (8683).

In League,
Nancy Dawley

Board Assesses Budget, Proposes Dues Increase

~ Elizabeth Zak, Action Director

At its April 5 meeting, the LWVCA Board voted to request a dues increase for both individual and household member dues. At this same meeting, the Board also reviewed the proposed 2017-2018 budget, which was created by the Budget Committee. The decision to request a dues increase for LWVCA members was made in the context of budget discussions.

The last increase for individual dues was in 2010 with an increase of \$5. Household dues were increased to \$90 in 2016. The **current** individual and household dues memberships are as follows:

	Current Dues	
	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Household</i>
Current LWVCA Dues	\$60	\$90
LWV Ohio per member payment	\$25	\$37.50
LWV U.S. per member payment	\$32	\$48
Remainder for LWVCA	\$3	\$4.50

As shown, the “per member payments” LWVCA must pay to the Ohio and National Leagues for each member leave only \$3 and \$4.50 of an individual’s and a household’s dues, respectively, for the LWVCA.

The Board discussed a number of ways to appropriately balance the needs of the LWVCA office, publications, and initiatives with the LWVCA’s limited income. The Board is confident that the LWVCA’s financial needs can be met by increasing dues **and** expanding and innovating its fund development activities. The **proposed** individual and

household dues memberships are as follows:

	Proposed 2017-2018 Dues	
	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Household</i>
Proposed LWVCA Dues	\$70	\$100
LWV Ohio per member payment	\$25	\$37.50
LWV U.S. per member payment	\$32	\$48
Remainder for LWVCA	\$13	\$14.50

Dues increases are subject to a vote by the membership. A motion for a dues increase is expected to be made at the May 18th Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Speaker Announced

Carrie Davis, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, is coming from Columbus to speak at our Annual Meeting on May 18. Her topic is "How to Take Effective Action." She also will be bringing the latest on the campaign for fair Congressional districts and how we can be involved in ending gerrymandering in Ohio.



Prior to joining the League as Executive Director in 2012, Carrie served as staff counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, where she worked on a variety of issues including voting rights, free speech, criminal justice, racial justice, LGBT rights, reproductive freedom, and government accountability. As LWV Ohio Executive Director she led the successful referendum campaign for state redistricting reform in 2015 (Issue 1).

Congressional Redistricting News

You are invited to join a redistricting [Google Group](#), initiated by Amy Hjerstedt of the LWVUS Board.

Want to read ***Ratf**ked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy?*** Author David Daley spoke at Statehouse Day about the redistricting plan called REDMAP, which was launched by the GOP after the 2008 election to flip state legislatures in preparation for the redistricting after the 2010 census. There is a copy in the LWVCA office that you can borrow or check out one at the Hamilton County Library. Call the office if you want to reserve our copy.

Speaker training - We'll be identifying additional training sessions for members and friends to educate the community on redistricting - the April 29 session quickly filled up so interest is high. If you want to be notified personally, please send your name to info@lwwcincinnati.org or call 513-281-VOTE. New sessions will also be posted on our [website](#).

Come to Annual Meeting and learn how you can get involved in the petition-signing effort to get Congressional Redistricting on the ballot. Carrie Davis will have the latest information and petitions to begin signing.

Next opportunity to vote is coming soon!

May 2 is Election Day in Hamilton County. The ballot is short and includes only local issues.

Cincinnati residents have a primary election for mayor. Three candidates are running: Yvette Simpson, John Cranley, and Rob Richardson, Jr. The two candidates with the most votes will have a run-off election in November 2017. This is a non-partisan election. Any qualified voter living in the City of Cincinnati can cast a vote for any of the candidates; no one will ask whether you are Democrat or Republican.

Harrison and Norwood have City Council elections. Several jurisdictions have tax levies on the ballot including Wyoming, Northwest, and Oak Hills school districts. You can see a customized sample ballot by entering your address on the [Hamilton County Board of Elections website](#).



Early voting began on April 4 at the new Board of Elections office in Norwood, 4700 Smith Road. *It is no longer possible to vote downtown.* You must go to the new BOE office in Norwood in April or wait until Election Day, May 2, and vote at the polling place in your neighborhood. It is also possible to vote by mail by requesting an absentee ballot from the Board of Elections.

Voter turnout is usually very low in primary elections, less than 15% of eligible voters. Let's change that sad statistic in Hamilton County. Remember, every election is determined by those who show up. League members spread the word - May 2 is Election Day in Hamilton County.

League Tour of the New Board of Election Office

The Hamilton County Board of Elections (BOE) has moved from downtown Cincinnati to 4700 Smith Road in Norwood. On June 8 at 10:00 AM, League members have the opportunity to tour the new office and learn more about current registration and voting procedures.

The BOE is the site for early voting. Early voting has increased significantly over the



BOE New Location: 4700 Smith Road 45212-9002

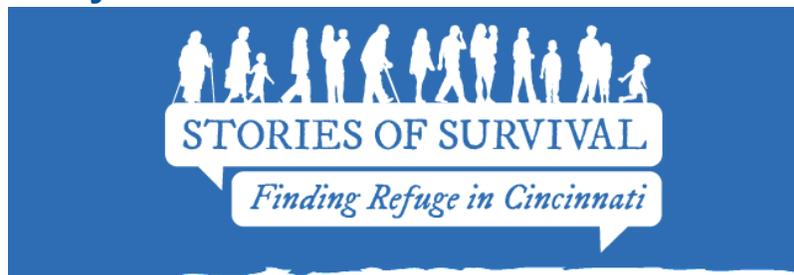
last several years. There is concern that moving the BOE office out of downtown Cincinnati will discourage voters and reduce overall participation. Let's see for ourselves where the new early voting site is so we can provide

accurate information as we encourage voting. There is free parking at the Norwood office, but some League members may want to take the bus to see how accessible it is for voters without cars.

During the tour on June 8, Board of Elections officials will update us on voting procedures. Here is your chance to get your questions answered by the experts who administer the system. League members are encouraged to promote voter participation. Some members register voters at events, some produce Voter Service publications, and others answer the phone in the office when people call with questions. In addition, every League member should be knowledgeable and encourage voting among family and friends. The June 8 tour is your chance to learn and gain the confidence to be the go-to person for basic voting information.

Please call (513-281-8683) or email (info@lwvcincinnati.org) the League office to let us know if you plan to attend the tour of the Board of Elections on June 8. Feel free to invite family or friends to join you.

What has brought refugees to our community and how to they fare here?



Learn about refugees in Cincinnati – how they arrived here and how they are settling in – with local activists and change agents Sheryl Rajbhandari from Heartfelt Tidbits and Robyn Lamont from Refugee Connect. They will discuss

refugee presence and support efforts in the Cincinnati region. ActOne, League members, Woman's City Club, and guests will be in the Geier Room at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, May 10th, 6:30 pm.

Are you interested in reading more about the Stories of Survival and Finding Refuge in Cincinnati? Several refugees will share their life stories. Click on the [link](#) to find speakers and dates.

LWV Healthcare Town Hall Draws Overflow Crowd

~ by Kat Lyons, Moderator

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, Anderson Unit, held a successful Ohio District 2 Town Hall meeting focused on healthcare - two days after the American Healthcare Act "Repeal and Replace" legislation was declared dead on arrival.



Months in the planning, the March 26th event was intended to give Representative Brad Wenstrup input from constituents on the pending legislation. Representative Wenstrup was offered a variety of dates and times for a Town Hall, but he was unable to attend.

All of this, amazingly, did not stop 135 people from turning out on a Sunday afternoon to hear one another and a panel of experts who assembled to shed some light on the issue. Attendees were polite and respectful, demonstrating that legislators need not avoid public discourse with their constituents.

The panel consisted of: Autumn McKinley, Molina Healthcare of Ohio Community Engagement Specialist; Richard C. Bozian, M.D., F.A.C.P. Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and advisor to Smart Recovery, a cognitive behavioral program for addiction to drugs; Donald Rucknagel, M.D., Ph.D. Emeritus Prof. of Medicine, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, research specialist in the Adult Sickle Cell Center, and advocate with the Single Payer Action Network of Ohio; and Janet Everhard, M.D., a retired OB-Gyn, who received her M.D. from the University of Cincinnati and whose private practice was focused on

women's healthcare delivery & gynecological surgery. Karen Swedersky, although not on the panel, was a resource from the hospital administration point of view.

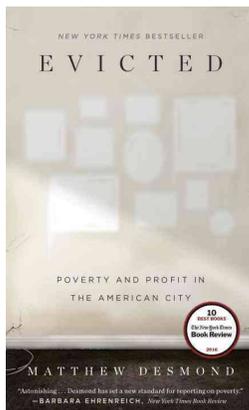
Ruth Hardy & Pinky Kocoshis, Event Co-Chairs, Anderson Unit
[513-232-6206](tel:513-232-6206) or [513-233-0972](tel:513-233-0972)



Left Photo: (L-R): Donald Rucknagel, M.D., Pinky Kocoshis, Kat Lyons, Ruth Hardy, Autumn McKinley, Janet Everhard, M.D. Not pictured: Richard Bozian, M.D. **Right Photo:** (L-R): Sr Jean Miller, Sister of Charity, Sr Mary Wendeln, Precious Blood Sister, Nancy Dawley, Pinky Kocoshis, Ruth Hardy

Author of *Evicted* to speak May 15

~ by Elizabeth Brown



Matthew Desmond, the author of the best-selling book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* will speak on Monday, May 15 at 7:00 PM at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Cincinnati. The talk is free, but tickets are required. For more information and to register for free tickets [click here](#).

Evicted was named one of the Ten Best Books of 2016 by the New York Times. “After reading *Evicted*, you’ll realize you cannot have a serious conversation about poverty without talking about housing. You will also have the mad urge to press it into the hands of every elected official you meet. The book is that good, and it’s that unignorable. Nothing else this year came close.”— The New York Times

The book was the basis of League unit discussions in March. Study pages developed for the discussions are available at [March Study](#) Pages.

Monthly Discussion Unit will resume in September

MAY & JUNE EVENTS

- **Tuesday, May 2,** **Hamilton County Election Day**, at neighborhood polling place
- **Wednesday, May 3** **LWVCA Board Meeting, 6:00 pm**, LWVCA Conference Room
- **May 5 - 7** **State Convention**, Sheraton Suites, Cuyahoga Falls
- **Wednesday, May 10** **Refugee presence and support effort in Cincinnati**, 6:30 pm, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, Geier Room
- **Friday, May 12** **RSVP for Annual Meeting dinner, (513) 281-(VOTE) 8683**
- **Monday, May 15** **Author of Evicted, Matthew Desmond speak**, 7 pm, Christ Church Cathedral
- **Thursday, May 18** **LWVCA Annual Meeting, 5:15 pm**, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, Geier Room
- **Thursday, June 8** **New Board of Election League tour, 10 am**

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- Nancy Dawley, President
- Melissa Currence, VP Fund Development
- Meredith Atherley, VP Voter Service
- Elizabeth Brown, VP Program
- Maggie McNerney, Secretary
- Dee Shaffer, Treasurer

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- Marlene Muse, Membership
- Desirae Futel, Outreach
- Elizabeth Zak, Action
- Liz Shockey, Vote411
- Emily Thobe, Outreach
- Pinky Kocoshis, Meetings, BOE Liason

Lisa Williams-Nelson, Office Manager



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**MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in government. Membership is open to women and men at least 16 years old. Call (513) 281-VOTE (8683) and [join us](#).