



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

January, 2014

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BE PART OF THE GRASSROOTS: JOIN THE UNITS FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

By Carolyn B. Miller, Vice President, Program

During January Unit Meetings, League members will participate in a biennial review of our existing local and national program positions to ensure that we are keeping current with evolving realities and issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization.

League positions are our springboard for action. They provide the rationale by which we determine whether or not to support or oppose local, state and national political actions and legislation.



Photo by LWV of Massachusetts

"From its inception, the advocacy work of the League of Women Voters has been directed at issues on which action by a branch of government will have an impact on the lives of individuals and on our democracy. We use our advocacy voice to spur government to take action that will have a positive effect on the issues about which we care. In other words, the advocacy work of the League focuses on "making a difference" on public policymaking." (Remarks by former LWVUS President Mary Wilson - May 2009)

Our program planning meetings are a time to educate our members about the background studies that went into our positions and to re-assess our support for these positions. A unit may decide that a position should be dropped, or restudied, or that a new study should be considered for an unaddressed issue.

The Planning process is also our opportunity to review any legislative or educational activities that we have undertaken in the last two years based on our League positions.

Use the Study Pages in this Voter to begin this interesting and important work and to prepare for your January unit meeting!

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

LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

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

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



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY
LUNCHEON**
Saturday, February 8, 2014
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Santa J. Ono
See page 14



CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

This month we'd like to tell a story about one of our members.

The hero in our story had a burning desire to share her concerns about the growing effects of fracking on our environment.



One day, she learned of another Cincinnati organization's interest in collaborating with LWVCA to present a forum on the subject. As a leader of the Natural Resources Committee and the current Action Director, she attended some initial planning meetings and realized that the other group seemed to be focused on presenting a one-sided, pro-fracking forum. She sought advice within LWVCA and was reassured that her belief that the forum should be structured to ensure that it would provide a balanced perspective on the subject was quite appropriate. In addition, she was confronted by other issues during the planning meetings, such as whether to pay one of the speakers to get that non-local "expert" person to come to Cincinnati to participate. There were other issues as well.



Our hero met numerous times with the representatives of the other organization and gradually saw their viewpoints change to support the balanced approach and eliminate the out-of-town speaker. She recruited an experienced League moderator to manage the program.

Her own knowledge of detailed forum planning contributed to a highly successful event. It was well-attended and smoothly run, and received accolades from those who were there.

We're so proud of what our hero, **Nancy Dawley**, accomplished. She had help, of course, but from the beginning she was the driving force behind LWVCA's successful collaboration with the American Jewish Committee as well as with the Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier University.

Thanks, Nancy, for what you've accomplished! And thanks, **Carolyn Miller**, for your super moderating job, and all those who also contributed to the success of this event!

In League,

Helen and Don Rhoad

2013-14 Co-Presidents

VOTER SERVICE: REFLECTING ON 2013, LOOKING TOWARDS 2014

By Sandra Mowell, Vice President, Voter Service

As we start 2014, you can be sure LWVCA is already planning our voter service efforts for what will be another interesting election cycle. I am never sure what to expect, but know it will keep us on our toes. There are a number of voting related bills making their ways through the state legislature that will affect voters and keeping the public alert and informed remains a priority. Visit LWVOhio.org for information on how the state league is monitoring and responding to bills that have the potential to change the rules for ballot petitions, online voter registration and database management, third party ballot access and most importantly early voting.

As we prepare for another year of service to voters in our community, I asked two voter service volunteers from our last election efforts if they would share their experiences with our membership. Their observations follow on the next page.

VOTER SERVICE: REFLECTING ON 2013, LOOKING TOWARDS 2014

By Sandra Mowell, Vice President, Voter Service
Continued from page 2

My experience with the Voter Service Efforts by Eleonora Fusco, PhD

I joined the League a couple of years ago, but was not a very active member due - as often happens - to other pulls in my life. When I found a message from the League about volunteer opportunities during this election year on my answering machine - I felt a bit guilty and a bit overwhelmed about what was already on my plate. The message was so kind that I decided to call back and inquire about the opportunities. I did not want to ignore it; in case it was too much, I could politely decline it. I believe that everyone needs to pull a little to make our community and democracy work so - to remain true to my belief - I called to do my part.

I asked for an activity that was a one-day event and did not require too much prep work. It was suggested I could be a timekeeper for one of the mayoral debates. The date and time fit my calendar, so I accepted. This volunteer opportunity required me to attend some general training. The "speakers bureau" training was a great reason to finally visit the League headquarters in Cincinnati and meet members other than my neighbor - who suggested I join the group. The training was very useful and well done and I definitely enjoyed meeting several active and longtime members. A very engaging bunch!

The mayoral debates were extremely well organized and interesting. My job was very easy; just raise a paddle "30 seconds" or "Stop" when cued. Meanwhile the experience was just a-m-a-z-i-n-g! I had the opportunity: to meet the candidates in person; carefully listen to their points; really "feel" their personalities. During the debate - the candidate looks often at his/her timekeeper, especially because there wasn't an audience but just cameras in a television studio. Since their gaze is so much on you, you can feel their emotions and personalities.

What I learned from my experience as timekeeper:

1. I really hope to be invited again to be a timekeeper in following elections! It is a chance to meet the candidates, to see history being made and to focus on the issues without distractions.
2. I would be a timekeeper for candidates for which I am neutral or intend to vote for. I would refuse myself to be a timekeeper if I have already decided that I will not vote for the candidate. The timekeeper position could be influential during a debate. The candidate looks at you, you do feel their emotions and I believe that they feel a bit your emotional reaction to their statements.

I thank the League for involving me in such a meaningful opportunity!



LWCA Voter Service Experience by Jan Evans

Over the years I have had pleasurable experiences in working with Voter Service projects. There have been several outdoor events in Eden Park registering voters, an eye-opening registration event in the Macy's Corporate Offices where I came to realize how many young adults work and live in the downtown, and helping staff voter registration tables with my former unit, North Central, at Wyoming Fall Festival events.



Recently, a high school student from Wyoming contacted the League asking if she could volunteer to fulfill a requirement in her Government class. Chloe needed to do eight hours of volunteer effort during the election period. Since her grandparents are members of the League in Michigan, she called our offices to see what was available. Her call coincided with the distribution of the "Who and What of Elections". Sandra Mowell emailed me asking if I could work with Chloe. On a cool, brisk afternoon on October 18th, Chloe and I headed downtown with a car trunk load of several bundles to drop off at the Hamilton County Board of Elections, The Mercantile Library and an office near the Carew Tower. Then we headed off to distribute the rest of the bundles to people crossing the square at quitting time. The majority of folks graciously accepted our proffered tabloid, and many expressed pleasure at receiving it prior to the election. Chloe and I felt proud to be

representing the LWVCA. As evening began to fall and a scheduled band cranked up the music on the square, Chloe and I quit for pizza. I benefitted in having met a young person in my community that I did not know previously, and we both had the pleasure of our effort. We were two hours short of the eight she was required, so Chloe worked at a community polling location distributing flyers in support of the library levy.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LWVCA PROGRAM FOR 2014

By Carolyn B. Miller, Vice President, Program

We hope you are looking forward to the following League Program events:

JANUARY - Program Planning: National & Local (Unit Meetings)

APRIL - Affordable Housing (Unit Meetings)

FEBRUARY - Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, Saturday, Feb. 8

MAY - Annual Meeting

MARCH - Agriculture Update (Unit Meetings)

Note: Programs and topics are subject to change. Every effort will be made to give as much notice as possible for any changes.

IN MEMORIAM...

The League offers its condolences to members **Mary Ellen and Kathleen Addison** on the loss of their brother, Thomas G. Addison, on October 25, 2013. Thomas was a retiree from the Cincinnati Public Library, where he had worked for 30 years.

It is with regret we note the recent passing of League member **Bill Gutjahr**, spouse of League Member **Corinne Gutjahr**. Bill passed November 17, 2013. Bill had joined the League in 2010. He was an active member at his church and a long-term volunteer at the College Hill Branch Library. A Memorial service is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., December 28, 2013, at Clifton United Methodist Church, 3416 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220.

We are sorry to report that **Margaret "Peg" Collins** passed Dec. 2, 2013. Peg was a Life Member of the LWVCA and was well known for her civic-mindedness with the City of Fairfield (Butler County). She helped write the city's charter and served on the planning commission for 25 years.



UPDATE ON LOCAL HOMELESSNESS

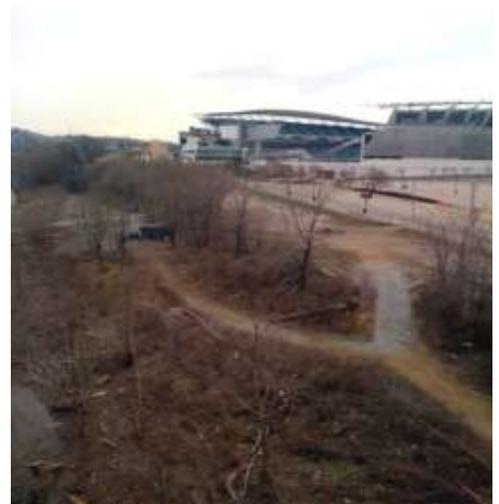
By Elizabeth Brown, Housing Committee Chair

Increase in Homeless Families. Hamilton County experienced a sharp increase in family homelessness this summer compared with the same period a year ago. In July, 423 separate families contacted a hotline, known as the Central Access Point (CAP), and asked for emergency shelter. That number is up 31 percent from the 322 families that called in July 2012. The county's Family Housing Partnership – five shelters that serve families – is able to provide shelter for only about 15 percent of families seeking help.

In 2012, 30 percent of Hamilton County's homeless were children, 10 percent of them under age 5. The number of children identified as experiencing homelessness in Cincinnati Public Schools rose by 42% in the last five years.

Homeless Individuals Sleeping at the Courthouse. For years homeless people have slept on the Hamilton County courthouse steps because they consider the wide-open, well-lit area safe. Earlier this year when public restrooms in the area were closed, sanitation became an issue, and the sheriff announced the intention to clear the area at night. "No trespass" signs went up and the homeless were threatened with arrest if they did not leave. Homeless advocates are concerned that if people are scattered, they will end up in far less safe situations -- under bridges, in alleys, in abandoned buildings -- and will be far less likely to engage services, leaving more chance for people to remain outside during winter. Four homeless men have filed a Federal lawsuit against the sheriff's actions.

LWVCA is a member of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless and the Affordable Housing Advocates coalition. We work to address policy issues related to housing and homelessness through these coalitions. Unit meetings in April 2014 will look at the face of affordable housing in our region, using a short educational video produced by Affordable Housing Advocates. The League Housing Committee meets the second Monday of the month at noon in the League office.



Homeless encampment on banks of Ohio River near Suspension Bridge at Cincinnati. Photo by Joe Wessels.

EASTERN DAY UNIT SCHEDULE CHANGE

The Eastern Day Unit meeting is now the *Third Wednesday* of each month.

Same start time (Noon)

Same location:
(Marjorie P. Lee dining hall).

Contact Unit Chair Dottie Cowan with any questions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING QUALIFIED BOARD MEMBERS

By Melissa Currence, Nominating Committee Chair

We all know how powerful the League can be in impacting our personal lives, how important it can be to strengthening our leadership skills and how vital it is in making a genuine difference in our communities on the issues we care about! It is with that spirit and pride, that the Nominating Committee is offering the opportunities for leadership service within the League to candidates for board positions!

As a League board member, you will:

- Gain great leadership skills
- Learn in-depth about issues affecting our community
- Get hands-on experience with advocacy
- Make democracy work in the Cincinnati Area

If you or someone you know in the League would be a great fit for an LWVCA board position, please contact the League office or Melissa Currence, Nominating Committee Chair

ACT ONE LAUNCHES A NEW INITIATIVE BETWEEN WOMAN'S CITY CLUB AND LWVCA

By Jeanne Nightingale, Act One Mentor

The Woman's City Club has joined forces with the LWVCA to launch a one-year joint membership for young women and men 18- to 35-years old. Introducing a new generation of members to the work of our venerable organizations will help sustain both groups' future with a surge of fresh young energy. In return, the new young members will benefit from nearly two centuries of experience as represented by both

organizations, broader opportunities for peer and intergenerational networking, access to community leaders, a chance to study and develop a point of view on city issues, and a solid platform upon which to become active participants in civic affairs.

The new ACT ONE members have been chosen based on essay submissions from a diversity of active young professionals, students and interns, social workers, assistants to council members, all who are deeply committed and already involved in securing a more just and livable community and influencing public policy.

Working collaboratively, the planners from the Membership committees of both organizations – Melissa Currence, Susan Steele, Mary Wells, Joy Haupt, and Jeanne Nightingale -- invited ACT ONE members to convene immediately after the November election to share concerns and organize new projects and programs around these concerns. WCC and LWVCA are assigning "partners" to our new members so we can share our experiences and aspirations on a personal level and, side-by-side, translate our dreams into action. We welcome volunteers from both organizations to become partners in this exciting new initiative.

We will be meeting with the new ACT ONE members January 6, 2014. Members from both organizations are welcome to participate. Check the LWVCA calendar to confirm the date and time, or contact Melissa Currence or Susan Steele for more information.

ACT ONE

HANDS-ON CIVICS
IN CINCINNATI



GREAT DECISIONS SERIES IS COMING: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2014

By Helen Rhoad, Co-President

The Great Decisions series of discussions for 2014 is prepared and published by the World Policy Organization. Groups usually discuss the eight topics over the course of January and February, preparing in advance and sharing the leadership of discussion, although the timing can be adjusted to fit the groups' schedules.

Eight half-hour, in-studio interviews on a DVD, each tackling a different challenge facing America today may be used as an introduction for each of the topics and as a jump start for discussion. Each episode of the 2014 series features a single one-on-one interview (non-documentary) with host David Rohde.

The following topics will be included in the discussion booklet for 2014: Defense Technology, Israel and the U.S., Turkey's Challenges; Islamic Awakening; Energy Independence; Food and Climate; China's Foreign Policy; and U.S. Trade Policy.

Please call the League office at 281-8683 with questions or to indicate your interest.

UPDATES TO MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

By LWVCA Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is developing a plan to change the way we produce and distribute the League newsletter, *The Voter*, for our 2014-15 year. As technology changes and people change the way they receive information, we are researching ways we might be more efficient and timely with the information we share with our members. The ideas being considered include going to fewer printed newsletters (currently we publish 9 times a year) and incorporating a digital newsletter that would be shorter but delivered more frequently during the year.

The Communications Committee will be surveying members this month to receive input into this process. As the study pages (aka "buff pages") for units are distributed via the *Voter* the Program Development Committee would like to receive member input concerning unit meetings. The survey will cover questions in both these areas.

Please look for your member survey to arrive in your email or mailbox between January 1-10. If you can fill out and return at your earliest convenience it would be most appreciated. **If you forget to fill out your survey our friendly office volunteers will be giving you a call to remind you!** They will also be able to take your responses over the phone if you are unable to fill out the mailed/mailed survey for any reason. Thank you in advance for your cooperation! LWVCA is constantly looking for better ways to serve our membership and your answers to the survey questions will be tremendously helpful.

JOIN US FOR THE "RISE OF THE MODERATES"

By League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton

Has hyper-partisanship gone too far? Join the LWV of Greater Dayton for a discussion with guest speaker Lloyd Bokman of the nonpartisan national group, NO LABELS, on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The program will be held in the Miami Township Branch of Dayton Public Library at 2718 Lyons Road in Miamisburg. This event is FREE and open to the public.



TEES, SWEATS, STICKERS

By Nancy Dawley

Just a reminder, we now have tee shirts, sweatshirts, pins, and stickers for your comfort and enjoyment.

Take a look, and see if there is something you want for yourself or a friend. The League gets a small amount from each purchase. The address is:

www.cafepress.com/lwvcincinnati

DINNER TRAIN!

League Members and new friends enjoyed an evening of good food and conversation on the Cincinnati Dinner Train in November. Carolyn Miller captured these photos....



Chris Moran & Ann Gilton



Phyllis & Jay Nesselroad



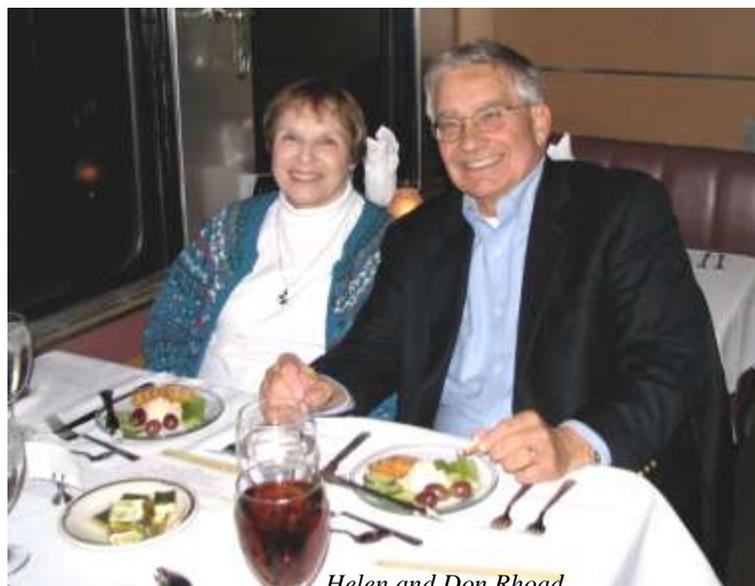
Nancy Dawley & Sara Johnson



Dorothy Reed and Linda Burton



Dick & Burt Roehr



Helen and Don Rhoad



Sandra and Ernie Mowell

UPDATE ON GUN LEGISLATION IN THE OHIO LEGISLATURE

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

You may be surprised to know that 19 bills have been introduced this year in Ohio Legislative Committees pertaining to gun legislation. Most of the bills will be reviewed in Committee in January, so there is some time to research them and write letters or testify in person before the committees. As you know, only League Presidents can testify for the League, but anyone can testify as a personal citizen. The bills fall into a number of categories. We currently have 4 information sheets on the more prominent bills. **To see all the current Legislation Bills documents, visit lwvcincinnati.org/action.html.** Other information sheets will be added as they become available.

Bills to Reduce Gun Violence (7 such bills submitted)

- H.B. 31 prohibits a person from storing or leaving a firearm in the person's residence if they know or reasonably should know that a minor could gain access to the firearm, unless the firearm is secured or rendered inoperable, or unless the minor gains access to the firearm as the result of another person's unlawful entry into the residence.

Bill to Increase Punishment. 1 bill submitted

Bill to let current or retired Law Enforcement Officers to contract with schools to for voluntary patrol service. 1 bill submitted

- H.B. 215 would allow public and nonpublic schools to use current or retired law enforcement officers to provide volunteer patrol services.

Bills that will make it easier for gun access, use, secrecy and to prohibit enforcement. 10 such bills submitted

- H.B. 203 is a "Stand Your Ground Law" along with other provisions. **It has already passed the General Assembly, and awaits assignment to a committee in the Senate.**
- H.B. 8 establishes a protocol for a school district, community school, STEM school, or chartered nonpublic school board or governing authority that must be incorporated into its school safety plan. The protocol determines the qualifications for employees who may carry concealed handguns in a school safety zone.

Usually the committees of the Ohio General Assembly do not announce testimony schedules until the Thursday of the week before hearings, so if a bill interests you, you will want to be flexible providing your testimony.

The Oberlin League has been active in this effort. Go to their website at www.lwvoberlinarea.org to see testimonies on H.B. 31 and H.B. 215 (found on the mid-home page). We can put you in touch with members of other Leagues in Ohio working on gun legislation, if you want support in your efforts by calling the LWVCA office at 513.231.8683 or emailing action@lwvcincinnati.org.



On Oct. 29, LWV of the Oberlin Area president Linda Slocum testifies in Columbus in support of HB 31: Safe Storage to Secure Firearms from Minors. Photo courtesy of LWVOA.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND SAFETY

By Nancy Dawley, Action Chair

The 2010 Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was the first upgrade in federal food safety laws since 1938. The Food and Drug Administration has now released its proposed (draft) Produce Rule and Preventive Controls Rule under FSMA and is seeking public comments. The deadline for comments is November 15; comments may be made online or by mail.

To read more background about the FSMA, see:

www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm
sustainableagriculture.net/fsma/overview-and-background/



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE NEWS

GET READY FOR AGRICULTURE POSITION UPDATE IN MARCH

By Ernie Mowell, Natural Resources Committee

In March, our units will be discussing the proposed update to the League of Women Voters national position on Agriculture. This update will bring into focus issues and questions that were inconceivable when the current position was approved.

But, that's two months away, so why worry right now? The simple reason is we need to do our homework. The Agriculture Position is so important and impacts on so many facets of our daily lives that we can't just read the study pages the night before our unit meeting and expect to have a worthwhile discussion of the topics. And there are lots of topics. The committee has done a good job of focusing the critical issues for discussion but as of press time, the issues are still spread across a broad spectrum.

From the Agriculture Committee's webpage: **"The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process."** That's a lot to take in.

While we still don't have the specific questions to be answered at our unit meetings, we can start looking at background information important to all the issues and agriculture in general. The Agriculture Committee has produced three documents that highlight the government's role in assisting, regulating and safeguarding the entire agriculture process. These present a broad overview of the numerous departments, various agencies and countless offices and programs involved at the federal level:

www.lwv.org/content/overview-key-agencies-supporting-and-regulating-food-and-agriculture

www.lwv.org/content/environmental-protection-agency-epa

www.lwv.org/content/united-states-department-agriculture

Additionally, the Agriculture Committee has set up a webpage with suggested reading to give all League members a basic

education in current farming and agriculture issues. Check it out at www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-reading.

This reading includes agency-based websites as well as independent reporting relating to specific issues. While some of it is highly technical, it will help us better understand the updates needed for our position.

Again, it's not the kind of topic where we can just read the study pages the night before our unit meeting.

Our unit meetings are the core of our grassroots activism. Our positions, whether local, state or national, are based on educated League members participating in lively discussions and making solid recommendations based on our own research and thinking. As more information comes out, the LWVCA Natural Resources Committee will work to get it to you, so our March Unit meetings will be useful tools to update our position.



From the Agricultural Update's Multimedia Resources: see a tour of Mote Aquaculture Farm in Sarasota, Florida, which uses environmentally friendly techniques.

LWVCA JOINS GREEN UMBRELLA

By Nancy Dawley, Natural Resources Committee Chair



The LWVCA Board has approved the League's 2014 membership in the Green Umbrella. Check out the various Action Teams involved in making Cincinnati a more sustainable place to live by visiting greenumbrella.org/action-teams.

One of LWV of Ohio's priorities for 2014 is water. How is Cincinnati working to maintain its watershed? Also, the Local Food task team is discussing a local food hub. What interests you?

It's easy to stay informed of Green Umbrella events by getting their email newsletter at www.greenumbrella.org/news-and-events/enews-sign-up.

CINCINNATI FRACKING FORUM A HUGE SUCCESS

By Pinky Kocoshis, Natural Resources Committee

The Fracking Forum held at Rockdale Temple on December 4 was a huge success with more than 125 in attendance. The evening was informational and the audience was engaged with lots of questions.

The panel of 4 was balanced and presented opposing views on wide-ranging topics. The proponents stressed energy independence and positive effect of fracking on climate change as benefits. The opponents put forth water usage and contamination, disposal of waste and chemical secrecy as some major problems, which could have future environmental impacts.

Other topics included jobs and economic impact, safety, impact on development of renewable energy; panel members expressed differing views on these points. The event was a collaborative effort of American Jewish Committee, LWVCA and the Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier University.

Special thanks go to the planning committee, moderator **Carolyn Miller**; and panelists George Ten Eyck, Michael Miller, Benjamin Schlesinger and Jim O'Reilly.



Pictured from the left: George Ten Eyck, panelist; Trip Wolf, American Jewish Committee; Carolyn Miller, moderator, LWVCA; Michael Miller, panelist; Benjamin Schlesinger, panelist; and Jim O'Reilly, panelist. **Photo by Barbara Glueck.**

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

By John Hunter, Natural Resources Committee

Globally, climate change and energy production and consumption are closely linked. Dependence on carbon-based fuels has led to the accumulation of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that impact global climate. Demand for energy is projected to increase by more than half over the next 30 years and choices for energy sources to meet that demand will have large impacts on our climate. Climate scientists warn that continuing to use carbon-based fuels could lead to catastrophic warming.

For many, renewable solar and wind energy coupled with dramatic improvements in energy efficiency are the answer. For others, carbon-free nuclear energy is the most likely solution. Currently, coal and natural gas continue to win out as the low cost solution to energy needs, especially in developing nations (NYT 12/4/13 0 27). Since the Fukushima disaster, world-wide consumption of nuclear energy has actually declined by 7% while coal has increased by 4%.

Future energy costs will drive decisions for much of the world. The U.S. Energy Information Agency estimates that in 5 years natural gas will cost \$65/MWh, coal \$100 to \$135 (including a projected \$15/ton carbon tax), nuclear \$108, solar \$144, wind \$86. The lack of transmission lines and energy storage are expected to limit renewables to 18 % of energy supplies by 2035.

Faced with these projections, there is renewed interest in nuclear energy with supporters arguing that its dangers have been overstated. One climate scientist estimates that nuclear has already saved 1.8 million lives by lowering air pollution related deaths.

Researchers continue to look for new alternative strategies such as a proposal to create a market for captured carbon dioxide to harvest methane and geothermal energy in deep brines (*Scientific American*, Nov. 2013 pg 73) or geothermal fracking (*Scientific American*, Aug. 2013).

Hopefully, a solution to the world's climate change dilemma will emerge in time.



CHANGING CO₂URSE SERIES: LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO A GLOBAL CRISIS

By Nancy Dawley, Natural Resources Committee Chair

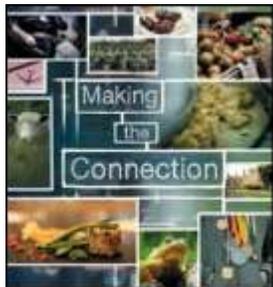
Please join us for the eleventh in our monthly series of community conversations around films and speakers that address global climate change as a crisis of human conscience. January's session will be at The Civic Garden Center, 2715 Reading Rd, Cincinnati 45206.

How can we collectively change our local social infrastructure to build a more resilient community? How can we live more simply - and more richly on Earth?

Sunday, January 26, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Saving the Planet ... With Your Fork!

Did you know that someone riding a bicycle following the Standard American Diet does more environmental harm than a vegetarian driving a Hummer? Or that Cincinnatians eating meat just one day a week less would accomplish greater greenhouse gas reduction than virtually anything else we can do short of Duke Energy ceasing to use coal altogether?



Local artist, curator, critic, and first amendment and environmental activist **William Messer** will discuss the environmental and health impacts of meat consumption and production. We will view a short animated documentary *The True Cost of Hamburgers* as well as clips from *Making the Connection*, a British film that presents the benefits of a plant-based diet. Bill serves on the City of Cincinnati's Environmental Advisory Council, Green Umbrella's Local Food Action Team and has chaired the Food Task Team of the original Green Cincinnati Plan. He wrote the Plan's initial food recommendation, making Cincinnati the world's first city (among many, now) to recommend reduced meat consumption to deter climate change.



Cincinnati Plan. He wrote the Plan's initial food recommendation, making Cincinnati the world's first city (among many, now) to recommend reduced meat consumption to deter climate change.

Cosponsors of the series: St. John's Green Sanctuary Partners, Woman's City Club, League of Women Voters, of the Cincinnati Area The Sierra Club, and The Environmental Community Organization (ECO).



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR LWVUS CONVENTION IN DALLAS - JUNE 6-10, 2014

By LWVUS

LWVUS Convention 2014 is in Dallas, Texas, on June 6-10, 2014. Please plan to join national, state and local League leaders from around the country for this lively biennial event - to hear nationally known speakers, learn more about the issues important to the organization and the nation, participate in training sessions and join in the discussion and networking that make the League a strong and vital force in our democracy.

Registration is now open. Please use the Convention 2014 registration form at lww.org to register as a delegate or visitor. The fee includes participation in all trainings, briefings, caucuses, general sessions, and national networking events, and includes the LWVUS-hosted banquet and program on Monday evening. The online registration deadline is May 23, 2014. Registrations after that date will be \$385 at the Convention site. Find more at <http://www.lww.org/member-resources/convention-2014>

We look forward to seeing you in Dallas in 2014!

WE NEED YOU AS A MEMBERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COACH!

By LWV Ohio

Currently two LWVCA members are volunteering as Membership Leadership Development (MLD) coaches for local leagues in Ohio. Marlene Muse is coaching Chillicothe, and Sandra Mowell is coaching Shaker Heights and Cuyahoga Area.



LWV Ohio is recruiting coaches to join our Ohio team for 2014-2016, so we can increase the number of Ohio Leagues involved in MLD program from 12 to 20 Leagues. Our LWVCA coaches encourage anyone who is interested in this opportunity to contact them for more details. As Marlene Muse observes, "It's fun to coach Chillicothe. They host monthly meetings or social events that appeal to a wide range of folks and are gaining new members and friends from those events." Join an outstanding team of League members from across the state and help local Ohio Leagues move to a higher level of excellence!



Imagine if you joined an outstanding League team that . . .

- Helps Leagues grow in membership and funding.
- Helps Leagues with support, ideas and guidance.
- Helps League leaders with training and mentoring before they lead.
- Helps Leagues' voice become as strong and powerful as possible!

You can!! LWVUS developed the Membership Leadership Development (MLD) program seven years ago to help local Leagues increase their membership and develop leadership. Over the short time the program has been operating nationwide, it has

had phenomenal success. *In 2012 the LWVUS had a membership growth for the first time in 30 years!* So MLD does work, and one of the reasons it is so successful is because of the MLD coaches assigned to each local League.

The coaching commitment is straightforward: one telephone call per month to each of two Leagues plus any follow-up; and one telephone call per month with all of the Ohio MLD coaches and Ohio's national MLD Coach - a total of three telephone calls per month, each call no more than one hour in length. In addition, there is a brief monthly survey from LWVUS. "The opportunity to interact regularly with League members from all over the state -- members of the Leagues I coach and my fellow MLD coaches -- is one of the reasons I chose to participate in MLD," said Sandra Mowell.

The role of the coach is to build a relationship with each of the two local Leagues they coach. Coaches act as mentors, cheerleaders, and communicators. Each month, they introduce training materials supplied by LWVUS, and learn about their coaching Leagues' activities, problems, and progress since the last month's call.

Each new MLD coach will receive training April 25-26 in Columbus, with their hotel and meal expenses covered by LWV Ohio. Please contact either (or both!) of LWVCA's MLD coaches for more information: Sandra Mowell and Marlene Muse either by calling the LWVCA office at 281-8683 or by contacting them individually using the membership directory.

Join the LWV Ohio MLD Coaching Team and work with us on this exciting project! More information is available on the LWV Ohio website at lwvohio.org by visiting the in the Member Area -- MLD Program.

NATIONAL NEWS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SEEKS TO INTERVENE IN KOBACH V. EAC

By LWVUS

11/21/13 - Washington, DC – This week the League of Women Voters of the U.S., the League of Women Voters of Arizona and the League of Women Voters of Kansas jointly sought to intervene as defendants in the case *Kobach, et al v. U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)*. This case, which will be heard by the U.S. District Court in Kansas on December 12, 2013, involves the requirements in Arizona and Kansas to provide documentary proof-of-citizenship on the national mail-in voter registration application form. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court held in *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.*, that Arizona's requirement that voter registrants provide documentary proof-of-citizenship was preempted by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) with respect to applicants using the Federal Form. Kansas and Arizona are attempting to circumvent that decision.

“For 20 years, the NVRA has enabled citizen-led organizations like the League of Women Voters to bring more citizens into the democratic process,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. “By streamlining the voter registration process, overcoming the widely divergent confusion of state laws and setting national standards for national elections, the NVRA has successfully boosted voter registration.”

“Too many people, including married and divorced women with name changes, simply don't have easy access to documentary proof of their citizenship,” according to MacNamara. “Kansas and Arizona are erecting unnecessary barriers to their participation,” she said.

“As the grassroots organization that led the push for NVRA, we are deeply concerned by Arizona and Kansas' continued campaign to undermine uniform standards, represented by the national mail-in voter registration form,” MacNamara said. “Unnecessary and confusing restrictions on voter registration make it much more difficult for the League to register eligible citizens to vote. Independent registration drives by citizen groups like the League are often the only effective means for some voters to get registered and participate in our great democracy.”

Leagues in both Arizona and Kansas have been directly and adversely impacted by the documentary proof-of-citizenship voter registration requirements.

“The Arizona League had to drastically reduce our efforts to register voters when the state implemented this requirement a few years ago, because we did not have portable photocopy equipment,” said Barbara Klein of the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ). “This requirement drains our resources and harms our mission - encouraging voting and other forms of civic participation. Even when we did have access to copy equipment, our effectiveness in completing registrations was reduced as people did not carry the required documentation or were hesitant to share such personal and security-related information. Our members would volunteer many hours only to be blamed by potential voters who were angry and frustrated by these onerous requirements – all this making us unsuccessful in our mission to make voting an easy process. We've already won in the Supreme Court on this issue and are prepared to do what it takes to prevail again.”

“Kansans have not been well-served by this new requirement,” said Dolores Furtado, President of the League of Women Voters of Kansas (LWVKS). “Early implementation of this law has been chaotic with thousands of voter registrations held in suspense while citizens try to find or obtain appropriate documentation. When we make things complex, it confuses people and means fewer people are registering and planning to vote. In the end, the League can't do its job, citizens are left out and the fabric of our democracy is weakened.”

“The League has worked tirelessly to remove barriers from voting and advocate on behalf of the voting rights of all Americans,” MacNamara said. “The gains that the League has worked for are now being threatened by the documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements that Arizona and Kansas seek to force into the Federal Form.”

“Restrictions, such as the proof of citizenship requirement, chill, and in some cases, prevent voting,” concluded MacNamara. “We need to encourage participation by all Americans in our democracy instead of erecting new barriers to civic participation.”

The League is represented in this case by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, as well as pro bono counsel Kirkland & Ellis LLP and David G. Seely of the law firm Fleeson, Goings, Coulson & Kitch, LLC.

“Our firm is pleased to be able to assist the national, Kansas, and Arizona chapters of the League of Women Voters to present their unique perspective regarding voting rights in this important matter. Also, my mother is a member of the Kansas chapter, and it is nice to be on the same team with her,” said David Seely.

PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED ON 501(c)4 ORGANIZATIONS

Adapted from LWVUS League Leaders Update

As noted in Elisabeth MacNamara's 12/5/13 League Leaders Update, the IRS issued a notice asking for public comment on proposed rulemaking regarding 501(c)4 organizations. (Available at tinyurl.com/treasury501c4)

LWVUS issued a statement welcoming the new rulemaking process but it is a mixed bag with aspects that would rein in the dark money abuses that we have seen since *Citizens United v. FEC* and aspects that would define voters service work, including the non-partisan work of the League, as political activity inappropriate for 501(c)4 social welfare organizations.

It is important to note that we are at the beginning of a very long process of developing a rule that will clearly define what tax-exempt organizations can do in the political arena. This definition of "political activity" will likely be at the heart of the debate. The initial comment period ends February 27, 2014, after which there would normally be a new, fully developed proposed rule and an additional comment period. While our co-presidents speak for LWVCA, we encourage our members as individual citizens to consider making their thoughts known during the public comment period.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE WORKSHOP 1/25/14

By Ann Gilton, LWVCA Parliamentarian

The Queen City Unit of Parliamentarians will present its semi-annual workshop for newly elected/appointed Local Governmental Officials *and the community* on January 25, 2014, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Forest Park Senior Center, 11555 Winton Road, Forest Park, 45240.

The workshop is designed to impart basic parliamentary procedure to local governmental officials. Members of civic and other organizations will find the workshop beneficial toward the goal of conducting efficient and effective meetings.

The \$30.00 registration fee can be sent to George Gore, 148 Hidden ridge Court, Cold Springs, KY 41076.

Please call Ann Gilton with any questions at (513) 899-2030.

Join us for the 27th Annual SUSAN B. ANTHONY LUNCHEON

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Santa J. Ono
President, University of Cincinnati

Saturday, February 8, 2014
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 W. Fifth St..

Cost: \$40 per person; \$350 Table of Ten; \$1,000 Sponsorship

See page 25 for details

Parking is available at \$5 per car in the Tower Place garage on Fourth Street, across from the hotel's valet.



LWVCA STUDY PAGES - JANUARY 2014 LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING - 2014

Program is the League's basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action at the local, state and national levels. It includes both adopted positions, statements of where the League stands on issues of public policy that are used for action, and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

League program originates with League members. Once members have been stimulated to think about the widest possible range of choices, the League collects the members' ideas as presented at biennial program planning meetings. On a local, state or national level the procedure is the same. The Board of Directors reviews the suggestions from the planning meetings, evaluates and coordinates them with the rest of the League's projects and then recommends the program, as either recommended or non-recommended study items, to the members at their local annual meeting, state or national convention.

The League program process begins with selection and adoption; continues with study and discussion, followed by consensus/concurrence; and culminates in action and change. This year, all of our local program committees have reviewed the positions they are currently using in their work. Along with those positions, they have included comments and recommendations for members to consider for the future.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES

SUPPORT OF MODERNIZATION OF HAMILTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Position: The LWVCA supports the modernization of county government through some form of reorganization, such as adoption of a county charter or one of the alternative forms of county government permitted by Ohio Law.

Criteria to be used in defining/judging "modernization":

Group A

1. The county executive should be appointed by the county governing body.
2. The county executive should have budgetary responsibilities and powers of policy execution and be directly answerable to the county governing body.
3. Hamilton County governing body should have implied powers and some self-taxing ability.

Group B

1. The county governing body should be elected in combination method including districts and at-large and should have 5-11 members.
2. Means of citizen participation should be explicitly provided.

Group C

1. Members of the county governing body should serve 4-year, staggered terms.
2. Means of citizen recourse should be explicitly provided.
3. All county department heads should be appointed.

Explanation: The membership in March 1980 indicated that the criteria in *Group A* are the most important and not negotiable when evaluating any method of modernizing county structure.

A significant number of units indicated voter approval as being necessary to self-taxing ability, however this was not a consensus. No consensus was reached as to whose powers should prevail in the event of conflict between levels of local government.

Group B contains criteria to be considered secondly. Consensus on the number of governing body members ranged from 5-11. No consensus was reached as to a method for citizen participation. Citizen advisory groups and regional planning boards are both important.

Third position consideration should go to criteria in *Group C*. Methods of citizen recourse favored but unranked are: public meetings, hearings, and records; initiative and referendum; and amendment process. No consensus was reached regarding to whom the county department heads should be accountable, but lines of authority should be well defined the county executive and the governing body included.

While the criteria in *Group A* are vital and most important, the membership indicated that a majority (rather than each one) of the criteria in *B* and *C* must be present in "modernization" efforts rather than each and every one.

Background: The LWVCA initially supported county reorganization in 1933 and supported a charter for Hamilton County in 1935. Our present LWV position for modernization was adopted in 1967. In 1980, after a two-year study, LWVCA adopted a set of

criteria by which to judge any future attempt at county reorganization. In 1981, we were part of a coalition that drafted a county charter and circulated petitions to place it on the ballot. Support in the community was not forthcoming, so the effort ended.

2014 County Government Committee Statement: There has been no local active discussion about restructuring in the recent past. Restructuring remains an option for improved government efficiency. The position has criteria by which to assist in the development or the assessment of any proposal to restructure county government.

Recommendation: RETAIN

CRITERIA FOR HAMILTON COUNTYWIDE VOTED PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

Position: A model tax levy process would include:

1. A committee of citizens with the authority to review tax levy proposals and tax levy recipient organizations; to review the requesting agencies' financial, management and performance audits; and make recommendations to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. This committee must be adequately funded and staffed.
2. Reduction of the total number of voted levies without sacrificing needed services.
3. Timing that prevents placing all levies on a ballot at the same time.
4. Funding county services based on a determined level of need that balances funds, services and resources.
5. Funding broadly defined services that can respond to changing conditions and needs.
6. The provision of meaningful opportunities for citizen involvement, input, monitoring and review.
7. Assuring agency accountability to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners for the appropriate use of tax levy dollars.
8. Ballot language that is understandable to citizens and accurately describes services funded by the proposed levy.

Background: In May 2004, at the request of membership, the County Government Committee initiated an *"Evaluation of the Procedure for Voting on Property Tax Levies in Hamilton County."* The extensive eighteen month study determined criteria for evaluating proposals to change our property tax levy system. After member discussion and consensus, the LWVCA approved the Committee's recommendations as a local League position in December 2005.

2014 County Government Committee Statement:

Adopted by the Board in December 2005, this Position remains relevant to current BOCC considerations about possible improvement to its property tax levy process. Established in 1995, the Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC), reviews county voted levy requests and makes recommendations about the requests to the Board of County Commissioners. LWV members monitor the meetings and reports of the TLRC.

Recommendation: RETAIN

SUPPORT OF CERTAIN CRITERIA FOR METHODS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Position: The LWVCA supports criteria for service delivery in areas of:

1. Relationships with other governments and service providers
2. Accountability and responsiveness
3. Taxes, fees and assessments
4. Quality of service.

I. The LWVCA believes the following features are of primary importance in judging proposals for service delivery whether directly by government unit, public/private contract or a special district:

- A. In regard to relationships with other governments or service providers, service provider should take part in cooperative planning for the region. In the case of special districts, the proposal should include firm guidelines for dissolution or merging with another district or governmental unit.
- B. In regard to accountability and responsiveness, there should be
 - 1) clear responsibility for planning and delivery of the service,
 - 2) a clear line of recourse for unsatisfactory service,
 - 3) preannounced open board or council meetings,
 - 4) accountability to citizens through an elected official, and
 - 5) annual financial and program reports readily available to the public.
- C. Elected officials should approve fees and assessments.
- D. The service delivery plan should be the best service delivery option in terms of cost-effectiveness (assuming cost-effectiveness means the best service for a reasonable price, not just low bid); provide for qualified staff to plan, to write RFPs (requests for proposals) and contracts and to monitor and evaluate service.

Other features considered important but without consensus on the level of importance are:

- 1) the service provision not be duplicated by another source,
- 2) the proposal not have an adverse effect on prospects for change in county structure,
- 3) annual financial and program reports be reviewed at state and local level with results of that review published, and
- 4) there be a public referendum on new taxes.

It is the intention that these criteria for service delivery be applied in Cincinnati and other municipalities and townships as well as at the county level. ~~Before League members in a unit of government may take action, they first must do a survey of their government (such as KNOW Hamilton County, the Wyoming School District study, etc.). Following the survey, members study the issue, and if a consensus is reached, the Board approves a position statement based on the group's agreement. Note: Before any action is taken, the Board considers a number of criteria, i.e. are the members knowledgeable, supportive of the position and willing to help? (This section of the Position explanation will be dropped as it references League policies and procedures which are available "In League.")~~

II. LWVCA members support special districts, contractual arrangements (both public/private and intergovernmental) and general-purpose government as appropriate means of service delivery.

Explanation: Note that LWVCA Board must approve any action applying LWV criteria for effective action. When applying the criteria to a particular service delivery program, a judgment will have to be made about how many features of importance must be present for support. Criteria will also be used for comments during the proposal development process at hearings, etc.

Background: In 1986, determining that the chances for a major structural change in county government seemed remote, the LWVCA approved a study of alternative methods of service delivery in Hamilton County. Material for unit discussions on special districts (1987) and privatizing and contracting out of services (1988) led to consensus (April, 1988) on the criteria for judging new proposals for service delivery. In 1990, after a series of service breakdowns and criminal charges that could be traced to a lack of administrative oversight, LWVCA stated that county government had serious administrative deficiencies. LWVCA Board declared county government a high local action priority. In the late 1990s, the LWVCA promoted the establishment and maintenance of a tax levy review process with adequate time, information and accountability. In 1996 the position was reaffirmed at Annual meeting. In 2000, several lines regarding rules for League action were added to the position.

2014 County Government Committee Statement:

As the BOCC scrutinizes the services that it provides within current budget constraints, this Position, adopted in 1988, is an important one for League reaction to possible County proposals including shared services.

Recommendation: RETAIN

SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF CITY GOVERNMENT FOR CINCINNATI

Position: The LWVCA supports the council/manager form of government for the City of Cincinnati including:

1. Support for at-large election for City of Cincinnati council members using semi-proportional (weighted or cumulative voting) or proportional representation (that is, the single transferable vote) method of election,
2. Support of a nine-member council for the City of Cincinnati,
3. Support of a four-year term of office for members of Cincinnati's City Council including the mayor,
4. Support for separate, direct election of Cincinnati's mayor by majority vote on a non-partisan ballot at the general election.
Support for the mayor as a regular voting member of council with such powers as would enhance the role of mayor as council leader within the council/manager form of government.

Background: The LWVCA has supported the council/manager form of government from the time of the adoption of the 1926 Home Rule Charter in Cincinnati. This position has been reaffirmed and enhanced numerous times in response to proposed changes in the city's governmental structure. Support for four-year staggered terms was added in 1970. Support for staggered terms was dropped in 1996 but support for four-year terms continued. Support for a nine-member council was added in 1982, and for an expanded description of at-large elections in 1993 (point #1). Most recently, in February 1996, League members developed a new position for the direct election of a 4-year term mayor with enhanced powers (point #4).

2014 City Government Committee Statement:

With LWVCA support, a Charter Amendment for 4-year terms for Cincinnati City Council was passed by voters in November 2012. LWVCA will monitor how 4-year terms work for Councilmembers. Possibilities for future Charter Amendments include provisions for recalling the Mayor, changing to an Executive Mayor, changing how council members are elected, changing council salaries, provisions for referendum and initiative, and provision for council to meet in Executive Session.

Recommendation: RETAIN

SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN THE CITY OF CINCINNATI

Position: LWVCA supports provisions in the Cincinnati City Charter for the existence of independent boards and commissions in the functional areas of parks, city planning, health, and recreation. The League also supports measures, which would make more effective the operations of the independent boards and commissions.

Background: This position was adopted in May 1990 following a study of the four boards and commissions in the city of Cincinnati commonly thought of as "independent" - the Park Board, Recreation Commission, Board of Health, and City Planning Commission. The City Planning department now is under the City Manager but still has an advisory Planning Commission. Each of these

independent boards and commissions grew out of grassroots citizen initiatives that predated the city's Charter of 1924. League members agreed that independent boards and commissions are a unique tradition of citizen involvement in decision making in Cincinnati government and that they should be continued and strengthened.

2014 City Government Committee Statement:

LWVCA should continue to monitor any proposals for changes in the functioning or status of the City's independent boards and commissions.

Recommendation: RETAIN

PLANNING

SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AT THE MUNICIPAL, COUNTY AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Position: The LWVCA supports the following criteria for evaluating planning proposals.

Such proposals should:

1. Be responsive and adaptable to changes;
2. Provide for citizen education and participation at all stages;
3. Consider social and environmental values as well as physical and economic development;
4. Be concerned with preserving historical and cultural assets of the local areas of the region;
5. Be fair and non-discriminatory, considering the welfare of the entire region rather than that of special interest groups;
6. Be able to be implemented under existing financial and political constraints, but allow for possible changes, e.g., changes in national or state laws, change in governmental structure, etc.;
7. Take into account the goals and priorities of all levels of planning (municipal, county), striving to avoid duplication and to promote compromise;
8. Be compatible with the established goals of the regional planning authority.

Explanation: A definition of comprehensive planning is the study of the relationship among all aspects of an area's history, organization, growth, and natural environment at local, metropolitan and regional levels for the purpose of defining an organized program of development that maximizes the achievement of the area's goals and objectives.

Background: LWVCA first became interested in land use planning in 1951 and has restudied and expanded its positions since then, arriving at the present statement in 1971. Meanwhile, land use became a concern of League members nationwide; in 1972 the LWVUS convention added a land use study item to its program. By 1985 we had a national consensus, now stated as "Action to support responsible management of our finite land resources and developed environment to ensure consideration of public interests and private rights."

Recap of past action: Beginning in 2002, League members participated in meetings that culminated in the development of Hamilton County Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies (COMPASS), and LWVCA was an Associate member of the follow-up Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission Planning Partnership from 2004 – 2008. The Planning Partnership is a collaborative initiative of the HCRPC taking a long range comprehensive approach to planning. League members participated in the Planning Partnership 2010 – 2011 Reinventing Our Communities workshop series. Because of county budget constraints following the economic downturn, there has been significant reduction of funds for Planning Partnership activities. Since 2010 the Planning Partnership organized the Sustainable Hamilton County "Reinventing our Communities Workshop" presentations about research findings, case studies, and resources for long term sustainability in local communities. In 2013 support from regional initiatives Agenda 360 and Vision 2015 broadened the scope currently called "Sustainable Greater Cincinnati – Reinventing Our Communities." LWV members participate in these presentations.

League members participated in the OKI Land Use Commission meetings that resulted in the 2005 Strategic Regional Policy Plan for linking Land Use and Transportation planning. The Plan encourages local governments in the region to create up-to-date, consistent and coordinated comprehensive plans. Currently this strategic plan is in a two year process of being updated.

Plan Cincinnati is a long-range plan to promote growth, protect the environment and influence future development in Cincinnati. It was adopted by the City Planning Commission and City Council in 2012 following a three year planning process. League members participated in the public meetings and presentations leading to adoption of the Plan and, with other community groups, are engaged in efforts to formalize citizen engagement aspects of the Plan.

These planning activities are a means to implement the more detailed LWVCA Planning position in SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AT THE MUNICIPAL, COUNTY AND REGIONAL LEVELS. The local League Planning position complements more general LWVO and LWVUS planning positions.

2014 City Government and County Government Committee Statements:

The Planning Position, adopted in 1971, is viewed as an important League statement. Pending League member interest, the LWVCA Planning Position enables the organization and its members to promote planning locally and link planning to larger regional goals.

Recommendation: RETAIN

TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORT OF A PUBLICLY-OWNED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR THE CINCINNATI METROPOLITAN AREA

Position: The LWVCA supports the establishment of a public transportation agency, such as an authority or a district, on as wide a geographic base as feasible. The League prefers a nine-county base (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana); the next most desirable would be a tri-county base; or at least one including all of Hamilton County. The LWVCA believes that local governments share the responsibility to assure the existence of an adequate mass transportation system. The LWVCA supports public ownership of a mass transit system, and opposes subsidies to privately owned transit systems.

Background: Following studies in 1966-67 and 1972, the LWVCA arrived at the present support position on transportation. In 1969, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) was created by Hamilton County. SORTA's area of jurisdiction is Hamilton County. However, under state law any contiguous county is permitted to join the transit authority upon a vote of its county commissioners. In 1972, enabling legislation was passed, allowing a vote on taxes for mass transit by individual townships and municipalities instead of on a countywide basis only.

Recap of past action: In 2002 LWVCA supported the Metro Moves Regional Transit Plan. The ballot issue seeking funds to implement the plan was defeated. League members have observed the monthly SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation Authority) Board meetings. For a more regional approach, the SORTA Board has been expanded to 13 members and now includes a member each from Butler, Clermont and Warren counties. League members have followed the deliberations regarding a Cincinnati Streetcar proposal. LWVCA opposed the November 2009 and November 2011 proposed Charter Amendments directed at the Cincinnati Streetcar Plan but which would have impeded the development of adequate transportation for the city and the region. Both proposed Charter amendments were defeated by the voters. Construction for the Cincinnati Streetcar began in Summer 2013. In December 2013 Council voted to suspend construction on the project to conduct an audit of costs.

2014 Transportation Committee Statement:

Pending League member interest and involvement, there are opportunities for LWV involvement in regional transportation planning. Federal policy promotes multi-modal transportation including bus, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and motor vehicle transportation. The LWVCA Transportation position coupled with the LWVUS Transportation position enables the League organization and its members to be actively involved in promoting the development of an adequate regional transportation system. Currently discussions are ongoing about developing bus rapid transit in the area. Plans are continuing for rail passenger service along the Eastern Corridor from Cincinnati to Eastgate in Clermont County. In May 2013 Metro presented a preliminary go*Forward, a Metro Transit Plan. In August 2013 short term improvements of this comprehensive transit planning effort were introduced including new, limited-stop Metro*Plus and service additions. There is growing recognition that a regional funding source for transportation is needed.

Recommendation: RETAIN

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

SUPPORT OF DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED INTEGRATED EDUCATION

SUPPORT OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS LEADING TO IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Position: The LWVCA supports different approaches to achieve high quality integrated education for every child. Methods of desegregation that the LWVCA supports include: alternative schools, open enrollment, pairing of schools, redistricting. ~~The LWVCA supports a program of educating the public for school desegregation. We support the League's participation in the desegregation plan. The LWVCA supports open enrollment in all Hamilton County area schools if there is no financial burden to the receiving district.~~

Background: The consensus on integrated education was reached in 1976 and reaffirmed in 1996. In February, 1984, the Cincinnati Public Schools, the NAACP and the Ohio Department of Education reached a tentative out-of-court settlement (approved by the court in June, 1984) ending ten years of litigation in the Bronson suit and avoiding a bitter court battle. In the Agreement the Cincinnati School District agreed to reduce racial isolation over the next seven years, using standards established by the Agreement, and was given the discretionary authority to select the methods of meeting that responsibility. In 2000 a proposal to restudy this position was defeated at Annual Meeting.

2014 Education Committee Statement: An update of this local position on Desegregation in Cincinnati Public Schools was approved by the membership at Annual Meeting in May 2012. Background information was presented to League units in November 2013 and members were asked questions about the position. The consensus appears to be that this position on Cincinnati Public Schools should be retained but modified by deleting the portions which describe methods of desegregation (see strike-out section of position above). Members want to state clearly that we continue to support a high quality education for every child in the system. Units mentioned ways that such a goal might be reached, and some would like to place more emphasis on early childhood education which we can do under the LWVUS Education position.

Recommendation: RETAIN, with modified wording

CINCINNATI SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX LEVIES AND BOND ISSUES

Position: For the Cincinnati School District: The LWVCA supports tax levies and bond issues to implement policies for operations and improvements in the system. The Board, in determining LWVCA action on a proposed Cincinnati Public Schools tax levy or bond issue, should consider the following information:

1. proficiency scores,
2. drop-out/graduation rates,
3. the spending per student,
4. the condition of the physical facilities,
5. the socio-economic background of the student body,
6. programs offered, and
7. student/parent satisfaction survey results.

The trends for these data should be that the district is showing improvement toward meeting its announced goals, and where progress is not being made, remediation efforts are in place. In addition to the above information, the Board should examine the CPS budget to determine what monies are coming into the district and how they are being spent. Moreover, before any position is taken, the Board must be confident that the LWVCA members have been thoroughly updated on the state of the CPS and that their activities are being routinely monitored.

2014 Education Committee Statement and Background: Because our Education position had been modified in bits and pieces over the years, the LWVCA found itself with a position that indicated unqualified support for virtually any tax levy or bond issue proposed by Cincinnati Public Schools. Members decided in 2001-02 that we should develop criteria which the Board would use in determining whether a proposed levy or bond issue warranted our support. After study and discussion by the membership, the section beginning “The Board, in determining LWVCA action on a proposed Cincinnati Public Schools tax levy or bond issue.....” and the paragraph ending with “their activities are being routinely monitored” were added to the Cincinnati School district Tax Levies and Bond Issues Position.

Recommendation: RETAIN

NATURAL RESOURCES**SUPPORT OF THE LITTLE MIAMI RIVER AS A SCENIC RIVER**

Position: The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area supports the protection of the Little Miami River from its source to its mouth at the Ohio River in the State System of Scenic Rivers and in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems.

- The LWVCA believes that continued action is needed to protect, maintain, and improve available water resources of the Little Miami River. Ground water recharge areas should be protected. Groundwater that seeps into the river provides the base flow--the low flow that is sustained through the driest part of the year--and is an important source of public water supply. Citizen action is also needed to safeguard the ecosystem, some rare species of wild life, irreplaceable historic sites, and an open area for the recreational use of thousands of people.
- The LWVCA favors restrictions on any industry located in the flood plain of the Little Miami River through zoning restrictions and strict enforcement of present and future regulations.
- The LWVCA opposes any highway construction that threatens the future status of the Little Miami River as a State and National River, its ecosystem or its historic sites.
- After the Little Miami River is designated as Scenic or Recreational, the LWVCA favors seeking funds for its maintenance and administration from federal, state, local (government) or private sources, or a combination of them.

Action taken on position: Several years ago the Natural Resources Committee took an active interest in an Eastern Corridor plan to build a new bridge across the Little Miami River at the “Horseshoe Bend” area. The League position was helpful in giving us standing to request information about the project. Such proposals occasionally resurface as an Eastern Corridor for traffic is discussed, so the position is still pertinent.

2014 Natural Resources Committee Statement:

This position could guide action on future threats to the integrity of the Little Miami River as a Scenic River and source of safe water. Though the extent of fracking wells, fracking waste storage, and gas pipelines along the Little Miami River is unknown at this time, this position may be of future use. A highway project surfacing periodically is construction of a new bridge over the Little Miami Scenic River.

At the request of the membership, the committee continues to monitor fracking in general and in Ohio in particular. A forum was held in December, 2013 to educate the public on this technology. We continue to be concerned about the negative impacts on Ohio’s water, air, and communities. The LWVO has recently published a paper highlighting fracking and the various LWV positions that can be used for advocacy. Committee members are interested in water issues. New members are welcomed.

Recommendation: RETAIN

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters® of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries. Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

LWVUS Position Summary continued from page 21)

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be

responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

The Voter Collating Schedule* 2013 – 2014

August 22
September *Voter*
LWVCA Board

September 19
October *Voter*
Warren/Butler

October 24
November/December *Voter*
Central Evening

December 19
January *Voter*
Anderson

January 23, 2014
February *Voter*
Eastern Day and Office Volunteers

February 20
March *Voter*
Hilltop North

March 20
April *Voter*
Metro Day

April 17
May/June *Voter*
Northeast Evening

June 19
July/August *Voter*
Hilltop North

**All dates are subject to change. Call Pinky Kocoshis
when your Unit's time is coming up!*

Join the League of Women Voters

Because democracy is not a spectator sport!

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 include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National membership, including newsletters from LWVCA and LWVO.

- Individual - \$60.00
- Household - \$80.00
- Student - \$25.00
- Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____
- Optional additional deductible contribution: _____

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Mail to LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft, Cincinnati, OH 45219

The Voter is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA).

Editors:

Melissa Currence and Marty Harrington

Layout/Design:

Marty Harrington and Phyllis Nesselroad

Please submit articles to:

newsletter@lwcincinnati.org

Next deadline: Friday 01/10/2014
for the ***February 2014*** issue



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

103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219

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JANUARY 2014 - LEAGUE ACTIVITIES: *All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, 103 Wm. Howard Taft, unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend! (All meeting dates/times subject to change. Please be sure to check the calendar on our website www.lwvcincinnati.org for the most up-to-date meeting and activity information)*

Wednesday	Jan 1		<i>New Year's Day holiday</i> - Office Closed
Saturday	Jan 4	10 am	Discussion Leader's Briefing for January Units (<i>Sat. session only; no Wed.</i>)
Monday	Jan 6	6:30 pm	ActOne Meeting
Monday	Jan 6	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee - Volunteer Office
Tuesday	Jan 7	2 pm	LWVCA Board Meeting
Wednesday	Jan 8	7:15 pm	Central Evening Unit
Friday	Jan 10		Deadline for submissions for February "Voter"
Monday	Jan 13	Noon	Housing Committee
Monday	Jan 13	7 pm	Northeast Evening Unit - Madeira Public Library, Miami and Euclid Roads
Tuesday	Jan 14	Noon	Hilltop North Unit - Friendship UMC, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd.
Tuesday	Jan 14	7 pm	Anderson Unit - Government Center, Community Room, 7850 Five Mile Rd
Tuesday	Jan 14	7:30 pm	Warren/Butler County Unit - Mason UMC, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd
Wednesday	Jan 15	Noon	Eastern Day Unit - Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Community, 3550 Michigan Ave.
Wednesday	Jan 15	Noon	Metro Day Unit
Friday	Jan 17	Noon	Nominating Committee
Tuesday	Jan 21	7 pm	County Government Committee
Wednesday	Jan 22	7 pm	Membership Committee
Sunday	Jan 26	7 pm	"Saving the Planet...with Your Fork!" - Civic Garden Center, 2715 Reading Rd
Tuesday	Jan 28	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
Wednesday	Jan 29	7 pm	Program Development Committee

Join us for the 27th Annual

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY
LUNCHEON**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Santa J. Ono

President, University of Cincinnati

“Engaging Young Adults in Today’s Political Process”



Saturday, February 8, 2014

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
35 W. Fifth St.

11:00 am - Noon: Social Hour and Raffle/Auction

Noon - 2:00 pm: Luncheon and Keynote Address

-Menu-

Salad - Shaved Asian Pears, Red Wine Vinaigrette, Bleu Cheese, Candied Walnuts and Local Honey

Entrée - ***Choice of:*** Chicken Scallopini w/Lemon Sauce and Braised Fennel **-OR-**

Vegetable Wellington with Mixed Vegetables in Puff Pastry

Dessert - Chocolate Decadence with Pomegranate Reduction and Raspberries

Parking is available at the Tower Place Garage (the former Pogue’s Garage), 30 West Fourth St, for a special rate of \$5. Discount coupons will be handed out to drivers at the Luncheon Registration Table.

This event is for the benefit of the LWVCA Education Fund, a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization

Please return reservation by January 31 with your check made payable to: LWVCA-Ed Fund, 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati OH 45219. You may also make reservations via our website www.lwvcincinnati.org. Please call the office at (513) 281-8683 for more information.

Name(s)	Chicken/Vegetarian	Name(s)	Chicken/Vegetarian
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I am enclosing payment for:

_____ # of single tickets @ \$40 ea. = _____
 _____ Table(s) of Ten @ \$350 ea. = _____
 _____ Sponsorship(s) @ \$1,000 ea. = _____

I am unable to attend but would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Ed Fund: _____