



VOTER

How Homeland Security is Working at Home

**“In League”
Welcome for
March**

Ms. Margaret Jenkins
Sigrid Spradlin
Scott Spradlin
Karen Spradlin

Rescheduled from a snowy January evening, the Clermont League of Women Voters welcomes Clermont County Director of Public Safety, Beth Nevel as our featured speaker for this month’s meeting on Tuesday, March 24. “How Homeland Security is Working at Home” is presented as part of the League’s engagement in civil liberty and security, based on our commitment to the notion that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens at all levels of government, and the citizen’s right to know about governmental actions.



Beth Nevel

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created in response to 9/11 and is made up of 22 agencies, with over-all responsibility for coordinating more than 88,000 different governmental jurisdictions at the federal, state and local levels that have homeland security responsibilities. In its first few years of operation, DHS focused on grants for planning, training, exercises and equipment.

The Citizens Corp Initiative is a national grass-roots organization set up in 2002 as part of President Bush’s USA Freedom Corp Initiative, and receives funding directly from the US Department of Homeland Security. The mission of the **Clermont County** Citizens Corp Council is to coordinate, educate, and train to better prepare and respond to natural and manmade disasters to make safer, stronger, and disaster-resistant communities. For the last two years, Clermont County citizens have been urged to “get ready” and to prepare for

emergencies from natural disasters to terrorists attacks. Whether man-made or natural, disasters require the same attention: prevention, response, and recovery.

Citizens Corps bring together community, emergency and governmental leaders to involve community members in

emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. Citizens Corp Councils work hard to help citizens prepare train and volunteer in their communities. Building on the successful efforts that are in place in many communities, Citizens Corps provide a variety of opportunities for the general public to get involved, rather than be spectators.

This program will help attendees gain a better understanding of local security measures against both man-made and natural threats, and that we all have a role in hometown security.

We all need to participate in making our communities, our nation and ourselves safer. Bring a friend, a neighbor, a family member to learn from this very informative program.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Queen City Room on the lower level of the Union Township Civic on Aicholtz Road. Register on line at www.lwvclermont.com,

by calling Marti Kleinfelter at 513-831-2997

or by e-mail at mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com.

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Now You're 18

League of Women Voters in cooperation with the Clermont County Bar Association presents *Now That You Are 18* programs to local high school students.

A member of the legal profession and a member of the League visits senior high school classes. The program is designed to help young adults know their rights and responsibilities, as they become young adults. It includes such topics as voting, jury duty, driving, drinking laws, credit, consumer protection, marriage,

divorce, and children, apartments, employment, criminal charges, Military service, and date rape. Telephone



Marti Kleinfelter

numbers for national, state, and local government agencies are provided in the booklet that

is given to each participant.

The booklet was originally compiled ten years ago. It is time to update the information. Telephone numbers need to be verified. Laws need to be checked to be sure the information is still correct. Your help is needed to help update *Now That You Are 18* booklet. You can do this from home.

If you are willing to help please contact Marti Kleinfelter at 831-2997 or mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com.



Day of Dance

Our local League was pleased to participate in Mercy Hospital's Day of Dance again this year. Day of Dance encourages women and their families to take action for their health. One of 38 vendor booths on Saturday, February 28, the League distributed our 2009 Clermont County Public Officials Directory and a wallet sized tri-fold card with the league mission, schedule and calendar of upcoming programs. It is hard to estimate a number who attended Day of Dance, but in our great booth location in the food court corridor, we were busy giving out information and talking to people about the League the entire 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thanks to members Jane Sonenshein, Mary Sue Roberts, Yvette Duguay, Marti Kleinfelter



Mary Sue Roberts, Cyn Macke, & Jane Sonenshein

and Cyn Macke for promoting the Clermont League at Day of Dance. Having a booth at the Day of Dance is a good chance to get the League in front of people who are not aware that Clermont County has a League of

Women Voters and who don't know what a League does. Working at the booth is great fun. If you didn't work last year or this year, please plan to come in 2010.

Cyndy's Corner...

Greetings! Don't you just love the month of March? It signifies the end of winter and the promise of spring. We welcome its warmth and the awakening of the earth.

I want to acknowledge the women of our League who made our participation in the 2nd annual Day of Dance at Eastgate Mall on February 28th a success. Many thanks to **Yvette Duguay, Marti Kleinfelter, Cyn Macke, Mary Sue Roberts and Jane Sonenshein** who (wo)manned our booth and handed out the 2009 Public Officials Guides and promoted the League. I thank you for your time and your spirit of volunteerism.

I am proposing a Stimulus Package for our League. We need a capital injection of talented and passionate people! The nominating committee is look-passionate about the do to carry on this work year term as your President then LWVCC President asked me to consider thoughts immediately went to my dear friend, Sue. She had such a passion for the League. She recruited me to come a member. I said yes because I loved Sue's passion and quite frankly, I would have felt badly if I could not look back and be a part of carrying on the tradition. I am so happy I said yes. I have been blessed to serve in this capacity and I am hopeful that when reading this you, too, may share the blessing. Please consider volunteering to serve your League in the following positions for the 2009-2010 year: President, Vice President, Publicity and Voter Editor and 2009 Suffragists Event Chair. We are seeking nominations. If you are interested, please contact any Officer or Director and they will be happy to talk to you about the positions.



Cyndy Wright

Stimulate your League by serving today. There is no job too small. Many hands (and minds) make the work lighter and so much more enjoyable! Don't forget to register for the March 24th program on Homeland Security. This program was rescheduled due to inclement weather in January so we welcome guest speaker, Beth Nevel. Also, please note the location and time change. We have moved our meetings to the Union Township Civic Center and the meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. I really want to see you there!

In League,
Cyndy
LWVCC, President

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Place
Stamp
Here

2008-09 General Meetings

- March 24th** How Homeland Security is Working at Home
Beth Nevel, Clermont County Director of Public Safety.
- April 28th** Education, A Look at the Governor's New Initiatives
Joan Platz, Ohio League Education Specialist and Lobbyist
- May 19th** Annual Meeting
6:00 pm
Receptions Conference Center East

General Meetings will be held at 7:00 pm
in the Queen City Room of
Union Township Civic Center

It's Time to Renew: 2008—2009

Please mark one:

- \$65 Individual
- \$85 Dual (2 adults same household)
- \$99 Family \$25 Student

Name: _____

Additional Names: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State Zip

Phone: _____ (home) Phone: _____ (office)

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Enclose form

with check payable to LWVCC:

League of Women Voters Clermont County
P. O. Box 733
Milford, OH 45150



April program features a look at the Governor's Educational Initiatives

Governor Strickland's Ohio State of the State Address 2009, delivered on January 28, focused very specifically on the State's educational initiatives. Joan Platz, educational specialist and lobbyist in Columbus for the State of Ohio League of Women Voters, has served the league in this capacity for over 20 years. We are very fortunate to have Joan coming from Columbus to Clermont County to discuss the Governor's Educational Initiatives at the April monthly meeting. Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, April 28th, 7:00 p.m. in the Queen City Room of the Union Township Civic Center. Don't miss this highly informative program!

To help prepare yourself for Joan's visit, take a look at the following LWVO Spotlight article on the state's Education Reform Plan.

Education Reform Plan Proposed for Ohio's Schools

by Joan Platz

Governor Ted Strickland's proposed FY10-11 budget includes an education reform plan to modernize Ohio's education system to ensure that students learn the skills to be successful in the 21st century. The plan also, according to Governor Strickland, creates a constitutional school funding system that will adequately support Ohio's schools when fully implemented.

The plan proposes a new Ohio Evidence Based Model (referred to as

OEBM or EBM), to determine state aid. When the plan is fully implemented in 8-10 years, the state's contribution to fund schools will increase from the current level of 52 percent to 59 percent. The plan also increases accountability and transparency through a variety of new reporting requirements and oversight by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Governor Strickland and his administration have developed this evidence-based model over the past year with input from business, education, and community stakeholder groups, and from citizens. The Governor hosted a series of community-based "Conversations on Education" from July through December 2008 to listen to ideas from the public about how to create and fund a world class and relevant education system for all Ohio students in the 21st Century.

Governor Strickland's proposed plan completely changes the current school funding system, which is now based on a "foundation level" of per pupil support (base cost per pupil). The new "evidence-based" system provides state aid based on ratios for classroom teachers; art, music, and PE teachers; administrators; nurses; media services; counselors; etc. Funding is also included to support students with special needs, those who have limited English proficiency, and instruction for gifted students. A targeted poverty index and Instructional Quality Index are included to compensate for the effects of poverty

on student learning, and provide support for highly qualified teachers.

The plan also lowers the charge-off (local share of education costs) from 23 mills to 20 mills. It allows school districts that are not at the 20 mill floor to convert millage to the 20 mill floor with voter approval, so that districts can experience growth on 20 mills when property values increase. Any millage that remains above the 20 mill floor will be converted into mills that operate like emergency levies. These changes, according to the Governor, address the impact of HB 920 on school district budgets.

The proposed budget is expected to increase funding for primary and secondary education by 4.7 percent in FY10 and 4 percent in FY11, for a total increase of \$925 million for education over current funding levels.

The Governor's plan will be clarified further through the language of the budget legislation, which is expected to be introduced in the Ohio House over the next few weeks.

For more information please visit the OBM's web site, which includes a number of documents that describe the Governor's proposed education plan. <http://obm.ohio.gov/Sections/Pages/Budget/FY1011/ExecutiveBudget.aspx>.