



VOTER

**“Fighting For Our Rights”  
Annual Suffragist Dinner to feature  
World War II Military Pioneer and  
2008 Presidential Volunteer Award Winner**



Following a 72-year fight for woman’s suffrage, on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, granting women in the US the right to vote. In honor of the suffragettes who fought for women’s voting rights all those years ago; in recognition of the women who, in the spirit of the early suffragettes, give of their time, today, to make our community a better place; and in thanks to the men and women who fought and still fight for our country’s freedom, the Clermont League of Women Voters announces the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffragist Dinner.

This special community celebration in Clermont County, held on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> will feature as keynote speakers, Nancy Arnold, winner of the 2008 Presidential Volunteer Award, presented by President George W. Bush, and Dr. Lynn Ashley, World War II Pioneer for Women activated in the Army Air Corps in 1944. Work as a charter member and facilitator of a local Military Support Group formed in February 2002 has afforded Mrs. Arnold many volunteer opportunities with the Thank You Foundation and other fundraising efforts in the Tri-State area in support of the troops.

Dr. Ashley is a strong advocate of generating awareness of the roles that women have served in the military. She actively supports the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C. “You can’t shake the impact that experience has on your life,” she says, of serving in the armed forces. “It confirmed for me the attributes I knew I had, and gave me the ability to pursue my beliefs more strongly than I had in the past.”

The Clermont League of Women Voters 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffragist Dinner will take place on Tuesday, August 25, 5:15 p.m. at Receptions Conference Center East. Active and Retired Military are encouraged to attend the dinner. Tickets for the general public are \$35 each or \$350 to sponsor a table of 8. Special pricing of \$25 is available to military men and women.

Please register online at [www.lwvclermont.com](http://www.lwvclermont.com) or by telephone by calling 831-2997. Reservations may be made through August 21.

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# Fighting for our Rights

By Karen Scherra, LWVCC Historian

The theme of this year's Suffragist Dinner is "Fighting for our Rights." This theme has a number of meanings, and several form the basis for the focus of the event. Obviously, the fight for the right of women to vote will always be an element of the annual event, and will be celebrated again in 2009. In addition, we will be recognizing the valor and sacrifice of our military men and women, who through their dedication and willingness to put their lives on the line for our freedom, fight for and assure our rights every day.

Our Suffragist Dinner program this year will highlight information, facts and trivia about women in the military. You might be surprised to learn the many important roles women have played, dating back to the beginnings of our country. You may also be surprised to discover that despite the many accomplishments of women in the military, there are still aspects of military life that are slow to adapt to our changing culture.

Considering the clash of values and behaviors, especially involving the role of women, back in America of the 1950's and 1960's, you can appreciate the following story shared by the current Clermont County League of Women Voters President Yvette Duguay:

"It was a drizzly, somewhat cold December day in 1963. My husband was a newly commissioned second lieutenant in the Army (despite his name, "Saylor"! ). His commanding officer gave him the afternoon off and told him to show me the facilities I would need to use on post, such as the PX and Commissary, and take me to lunch at the Officers' Club. I dressed in a nice pantsuit and dress shoes. We entered the Post Exchange first, where the salespeople were courteous and said nothing special as I filled the cart with our purchases. However, when I attempted to pay for my items, the sales person stated: "I cannot serve you, M'am." I was incredulous and stammered "Why not?" He replied "I am not able to serve you, as you are inappropriately attired." I automatically clasped my hands across my chest, checked zippers and back seams to be sure all was where it should be. I was truly speechless. My husband, dressed in starched and tailored fatigues and wearing combat boots that shined like mirrors, took one brisk step forward asking "May I purchase those items, M'am?" The reply was "Yes, Sir. I would be pleased to package these for you." I felt so foolish. There were no signs stating the rule. Women were just supposed to know. That

same rule applied to wives and daughters who lived in on-post housing. Women couldn't go to the mailbox or walk the family dog or do anything outside their living quarters unless wearing a dress or skirt. I'll bet that was fun on windy days!"

Well, life for women has changed dramatically since the 60's, right? Well, think again. I'll bet you didn't know that for the first time since women officially entered service in 1908, the Navy in October of 2004 (yes, just 5 years ago) finally approved a new dress code that made skirts optional for its more than 54,000 female sailors. In addition to the revamped skirt policy, the new dress code permits women to use regular purses and not the military purses which were so boxy and unpopular that they were called "granny bags."

Whether it's being able to vote or to dress comfortably, women have been fighting for their rights – and changing our world for the better – throughout our nation's history. Come join the League on August 25<sup>th</sup> and celebrate these accomplishments and the work of some amazing Clermont County women.

## Now That You Are 18

The *Now That You Are 18* program reached over a 1000 seniors in our county this last year. The *Now That You Are 18* program is designed to help young adults know their rights and responsibilities. The booklet is prepared through a grant by the Bar Association and Clermont League of Women Voters. 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.

Thanks to attorneys Suellen M. Brafford, Joe Braun, Steve Crowe, Darren Miller, Don Moore Jason Sims, and Jim Thatch and Sheriff Rodenberg, and Doug Brothers for sharing valuable information with the students and making this project possible.

This project could not have succeeded with out the help of the following League members who introduced the speakers

and gave information about the League of Women Voters: Mary Sue Roberts, Jane Sonenshine and Chris Imbus.

We are in the process of updating the booklet to include current topics such as sexting.

If you would like to help with this valuable program as a speaker and/or as a member of the League please contact Marti Kleinfelter [mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com) or 831-2997.



## Agenda 360 Discussion Series: Connecting the Dots Clermont County Meeting

### What:

"Connecting the Dots" takes a closer look at how our region can attract talent, and how talent allows us to grow in important knowledge industries. Join us August 4th for a lively discussion about the lifestyle needs of a talented workforce and which focus areas and strategies will enable our region to meet those needs. The discussion will also touch on business growth in knowledge economy clusters.

### Where:

TQL - Total Quality Logistics, 4289 Ivy Pointe Boulevard, Cincinnati, OH 45245 (parking in north lot, enter west door facing 275)

### When:

Tuesday, August 4, 2009 , 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

### To Register Contact:

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Customer Focus Center, [info@cincinnati-chamber.com](mailto:info@cincinnati-chamber.com), 579-3111

### Hosted by:

Clermont Chamber of Commerce

## And the Nominees Are...

As we celebrate the 89<sup>th</sup> year of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote on August 25, 2009 at the Annual Suffragists event we will be awarding the esteemed Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award. This is the thirteenth year for the award and the list of nominees this year is quite impressive. Nine Clermont County women were nominated for their volunteer contributions to the community and their active civic-engagement. The traits that make them uniquely qualified are the same traits exemplified by Orpha and the other early Suffragettes. Each one can be found "fighting for our rights" and following their passion to make the world they touch a better place.

Please join us in celebrating, not only these women, but also our military women (and men!) and the presentation of the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award Winner on August 25, 2009, 5:15 p.m., Receptions Center East, Eastgate. To register, please visit our website at [www.lwvclermont.com](http://www.lwvclermont.com). Reservations must be prepaid and are accepted through 08/21/09.

Lisa Davis, Williamsburg  
Julie Graybill, Williamsburg  
Yvonne Haight, Milford  
Regina Herbolt, Batavia  
Connie Hunter, Milford  
Ginny Kaldmo, Amelia  
Nancy Middleton, Goshen  
Sue Radabaugh, Miami Township  
Charlotte Schadler, Miami Township

## Suffragist Committee...



(L to R) Linda Pilon, Marti Kleinfelter, Cyndy Wright-Chair, Nancy Middleton, Cyn Macke, Mia Supe and Yvette Duguay. Missing from the photo is Karen Scherra.

## September meeting

**September 22, 2009**

**Union Township Civic Center, Queen City Room**

**Guest Speaker:**

**David Spinney, Clermont County Administrator**

**NEW! Box Dinners are available at 5:30 p.m.**

*(must be registered and paid for in advance, only \$10.00)*

**Program begins at 6:00 p.m.**

**Please note our new format and time change.**

**We are offering a Box Dinner catered for only \$10.00 available at 5:30 p.m.**

**General Meeting and Program begins at 6:00 p.m. More details on the Box Dinners to come!**

# President's Message...

Dear L.W.V. Members and Friends:

It's starting to get very exciting. We're almost at the start of a new year. Your board and the Suffragist Dinner Planning Committee have been busy all summer prepping for the 13th Annual Suffragist Dinner. I admire every one of the nominees, and I am grateful that I do not have to make the selection of the winner. These are women who make me feel both humble and proud. I'm proud to be a woman and to think I have that much in common with them. However, I know I must humbly admit that I've never done anything as worthy of praise as these women have done.

I hope you all have your tickets ordered. Just sign in at our website and get your place saved.

Our main focus will be on the nominees, and that is as it should be. However, I must admit that I was deeply impressed last year to see how professional our videos and speakers and presentation was. This year, we are again blessed to have Sherrie Paoello as emcee. In addition, the 2008 Presidential Award Recipient, Nancy Arnold, will be one keynote speaker.

Sharing that spotlight will be Dr. Lynn Ashley as the other keynote speaker. Dr. Ashley had been one of those "Rosie the Riveter" girls early in WWII. Later, she joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

After leaving the military, she continued a path of growth and service. She eventually entered the faculty at The University of Cincinnati.

I do believe this would be a good event for parents to take daughters. It could be better than "Take your Daughter to Work Day."

Also, mark September 22, 2009 on your calendar. That is the first day of autumn, and the date of our first regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Dave Spinney will be our speaker. I know we shall all learn much about what is happening in Clermont County.

Very truly yours;

*Yvette Duguay*

LWVCC, President

## 2009-2010 League Leadership Officers:

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**League of Women Voters Clermont County**

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**2009-10 General Meetings**

**September 22, 2009**

**Union Township Civic Center, Queen City Room**

**Program: 6:00**

**Guest Speaker:**

**David Spinney, Clermont County Administrator**

**NEW! Box Dinners are available at 5:30 p.m.**  
*(must be registered and paid for in advance,  
only \$10.00)*



**It's Time to Renew: 2009—2010**

**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 LWCC:**

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

