



VOTER

14th Annual Suffragist Event
Presentation of the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award
“A Supreme Court Legacy: Women’s Rights”
August 24, 2010
5:30 p.m. at Receptions East Conference Center

Please join us at the 14th Annual Suffragist Event on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for the presentation of the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award, the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters. We are also celebrating the impact of our Supreme Court judges and their legacy on Women’s Rights. We are honored to have **Priscilla O’Donnell**, former Clermont County Judge, Attorney-at-Law and member of the Clermont County League of Women Voters, serving as our emcee for the evening. Our speaker for the evening is the **Honorable Margaret A. Clark**, presiding Judge of Brown County Probate & Juvenile Court.

There are still opportunities for sponsorships and ads. Please contact Cyndy Wright, Suffragist Event Chair, for more information at chwright@parknationalbank.com or at 513-284-1453. To register for the event please go to our website at www.lwvclermont.com/events or you may contact Cyn Macke at cynmacke@gmail.com or by calling 513-553-7349.

LWVUS Convention Report: June 11-15,2010

Jane Sonenshein, Mary Sue Roberts and I had the privilege of attending this year’s LWVUS convention in Atlanta as delegates from LWV Clermont County. The three of us each chose a different meeting during each session in order to maximize coverage of as many meetings, workshops or caucuses as possible. We each took copious notes in order to augment retention of details.

We have only 51 members, so we are only entitled to one voting delegate. As president, that was I. However, the first lesson I learned was that we could have gotten voting rights for each of our delegates if we had contacted LWVOhio in advance to volunteer to vote for non-attending leagues, and as long as we had gotten their written permission prior to the start of convention.

My major focus was upon attending as many leadership workshops as possible. Two workshops that were most beneficial to us were entitled “Streamlining” and “From Scarcity to Abundance” led by Marcia Merrins, LWVUS Membership Director and Trustee. She insists one can have a functional and dynamic league with only six strategic members. Let me assure you, I felt rich in resources with the talent we do have.

Marcia began her leadership journey as treasurer of a small California town league. For a fundraiser, she planned a road rally, which was a popular activity in that region. She wanted to get the idea out that League wasn’t just an activity for “old” or “dull and serious” types. She enlisted non-members including men to help. They expected their involvement to be limited to just that one project or event. They needed to attend a

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Member Spotlight: Mary Sue Roberts

What is your earliest historically significant memory? I remember the bombing of Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt's death. My brother was in the Marines, and was at Iwo Jima and other places in the South Pacific during WWII.

I believe you are retired; what kind of work did you do? I taught third, fourth, and fifth grades, covering all subjects. My favorite subject was science.

When did you join the League of Women Voters and why? I joined after retirement in 1999 or so. My mother-in-law, Judy Roberts, was influential in my wanting to join.

What duties have you handled in League? I was involved in "Now you're 18" as an introducer and as Program manager.

If you could be any woman in history, which one would it be? Eleanor Roosevelt was an early influence in my life and even more so as I've become aware of her influence on history.

Who is your favorite U.S. president? What qualities do you admire about him? I still admire Bill Clinton for his interest in bringing countries together.

Do you enjoy reading? What is your favorite book or type of writing? I belong to a book club, which meets once a month, and I'm taking a mystery class with Olli. I enjoy reading a variety of genres.

Do you have children? Siblings or family in Cincinnati? I had two brothers, who were very important in my growing up and maturing years. I have five children. Four of my children live in this area, and the fifth one just moved to Walla Walla, Washington. I am very fortunate in having 11 grandchildren, who are exceptional, as are their parents.

Do you still have a goal or dream you wish to fulfill? The West Coast is my next travel destination. I want to watch great big whales

What is your proudest achievement? My education and my family.

We consider Mary Sue to be one of our greatest assets in LWVCC! She's cheerful, smart, and reliable. She helps all of us.

June 17, 2010

Report from LWVUS National Convention in Atlanta from Mary Sue Roberts

The experience of my first convention was inspiring, invigorating and intriguing. The members attending had purpose and ability to support their subject with facts clearly stated. The atmosphere was of patient listening and responding with polite discourse.

The caucuses that I attended were informative and efficiently run. Printed information was available at all meetings. The presentations were clear and easy to comprehend. Each moderator encouraged questions that were answered willingly with clear responses. There was never a feeling of being rushed or ignored in any of the days' activities. In fact, everyone was encouraged to participate at all times.



The voting on concurrence issues was very exciting. The back and forth presentations by a number of participants gave a wide range of reactions, data and opinions. It is an experience I am proud to have witnessed. It was a well-run experience in democracy.

The experience left me filled with awe. I had no idea so many women were so strong, eloquent and involved in working together to bring about change and to support freedom in government. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to participate in LWVUS or to work on the national level.



Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Sue Roberts.

President's Message....

Summer is here, but these are not the lazy days of summer for your Board of Directors. The Annual Business Meeting and LWVCC elections are complete. I do have another year of my two-year term to serve; Liz Fiene will serve as V.P. and Program Chair for the upcoming year. Mary Sue Roberts has been elected to serve an unfilled term as secretary for the 2010-2011 year. Linda Pilon will continue doing her superb job as treasurer for two more years. Among the directors, Eve Enders will continue to serve as Membership Chair. Margaret Jenkins will continue as Study Coordinator in our Land Use Study program, as we bring that study to completion. Cyn Macke will continue as Publicity Director. Karen Scherra will continue as Historian. Cyndy Wright is our Voter editor, and will be aided by Nancy Middleton, another great past president. Glenda Neff, who has done such a splendid job as Voter Services Director is passing the baton or time keeping tools to Jane Sonenshein and Bev Chaney, who will co-chair Voter Services this year. At this point, all three are preparing for two forums in September. Martha Kleinfelter has successfully completed the "Now You're 18" booklet update.

Cyndy Wright, as chair of the 14th Annual Suffragists Dinner event has already dived into action. Notices for Nominations of Awardees have been posted. We've had our first planning meeting and each chair has his/her assignment(s). This is going to be another fantastic event in which we spotlight women who make our county a so much better place to live.

Mary Sue Roberts, Jane Sonenshein, and I have just returned from Atlanta and LWVUS national convention. I am so "pumped" about that, so it will require a separate article.

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer!

Yvette Duguay

Convention Report.....

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couple of meetings to promote the rally in advance of the event. You guessed it; they joined once they saw what League had to offer. She has since moved to Chautauqua, New York. Consequently, she had great ideas for totally different communities.

Marcia compared learning leadership to baking. There are principles that apply for each skill. Read the recipe or follow directions. If one fails at one attempt, ask experts or those with more experience. Try again. Practice does improve results. Always have a back-up plan. Don't give up!

We do need to hold our heads up high. We do have a talented pool of members. We have local, state and national level elected officials. Both major political parties are represented within our ranks, and the two groups work without friction on local league matters. Currently, that is a major accomplishment and is worthy of praise.

At Convention, it was an honor to be in a huge room filled with so many thoughtful, concerned and educated leaders: both men and women. Buttons proclaiming "LWV: not just for women anymore" were everywhere. I am so respectful of the concurrence process as an example of democracy in action. There were six microphones placed about the great hall, each marked "pro" or "con." Each person who wished to speak stood in line to await one's turn. The LWV process is fair and never "hot headed." Even when the group might take a stand contrary to my personal preference or viewpoint, I felt a sense of consensus among the group.

I do hope more of you get the chance to see this process in person. Next year, all the conventions will be on the state level. Our Ohio State Convention will be held at Maumee Bay State Park, near Toledo or Cedar Point in 2011. Then, the next National Convention will be in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Since Ohio is one of those pivotal big six states, we'll be part of history at either one. I do hope as many members as possible do attend either one or both of them.

Respectfully yours,

Yvette Duguay

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Place
Stamp
Here

2009-10 General Meetings

**August 24, 2010
14th Annual
Suffragist Event**

Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Receptions Conference Center East
\$35.00/Dinner
RSVP at www.lwvclermont.com
Or cynmacke@gmail.com 513-553-7349



It's Time to Renew: 2010—2011

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: _____



The Supreme Court and Women's Rights

When you think about the Supreme Court and its role in women's rights, the first thing that probably comes to mind is the Roe vs. Wade decision from 1973, that continues to elicit intense feelings on both sides of the issue to this day. However, there have been many Supreme Court decisions throughout the years that have impacted women and their fight for equal rights under the law.

It might surprise you to discover that Justice Paul Stevens, who recently retired, played a critical role in protecting and enforcing women's legal rights. Justice Stevens joined the Court in 1975, at a time when women still encountered discrimination in many areas. In the 1970's, some states still had statutes that allowed men control of all marital property and did not allow women to serve on juries on the basis of gender, and there were public universities that excluded women because they supposedly couldn't stand the rigors of certain educational programs. During the span of Justice Steven's tenure on the Supreme Court, many landmark decisions occurred that affected legal rights for women, including protections against sex discrimination and sexual harassment at work and at school, and the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law. He cast deciding votes on many cases of importance to women and helped assure that each girl and woman in the United States has a legal right to pursue her hopes, dreams and aspirations.

In the coming months, we will learn if Elena Kagan, President Obama's nomination for the Supreme Court, becomes the fourth woman justice, joining Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor in that elite group. Next month, the League of Women Voters Clermont County will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of women's suffrage and the ratification of the 19th Amendment at our 14th Annual Suffragist Event. While the focus of the event is on the nominees for the Orpha Gatch Award, another highlight is the event program book. In addition to stories about each of the women nominated for the Award, you will be able to read about the impact of the Supreme Court on the fight for women's rights. We hope the information and facts that outline the many changes in federal law that altered the role of women in this country will engage and maybe even amaze you! Please mark your calendars and make your reservation for the Suffragist Event on Tuesday evening, August 24th at Receptions Eastgate. There is much to celebrate about the role of women in today's society, as well as the laws and individuals that played an important part in ensuring our right to fulfill those roles, so join the celebration!