



VOTER

## A Time to Celebrate...Come to the Party

Check on page 4 for a Membership Form to join or share with a friend, or Go to [www.lwvclermont.com](http://www.lwvclermont.com) and download a Form or join online.

Contact Tricia Louis, Membership Chair at [triciou3677@yahoo.com](mailto:triciou3677@yahoo.com) or call her at 513/752-3677

Your League of Women Voters has much to celebrate . . . the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the League in Clermont County, the eighty-seventh anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women in the U.S. the right to vote, and the nomination of thirteen amazing Clermont County Women for the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award. To observe all of these very special occasions, your league is throwing one grand party on Tuesday evening, August 28 at Receptions Eastgate.

(isaacmacke@fuse.net). This August 28<sup>th</sup> celebration will honor these founders and all league members past and present. If

your present contacts include former Clermont League members, please invite them to this event.



This photo was taken at the 1957 organizational meeting of the Clermont County League of Woman Voters. Shown from left to right are: First row: Mrs. Spensell, secretary; Lois Brown Dale, president; Mary Cochran, Helen Heusinkveld, Arlene Rosenhoffer, unidentified, Winnie Calk. Second row: Mabel Potter, unidentified, unidentified, Winnie Nichols, Margaret Herman, Yvonne Lombke, treasurer; Grace Spieldel, Adele Stewart, Cecelia Kruger, Gertrude Avery. Third row: Unidentified, Evelyn Jackson, Christine McBride, Ida Kennard, unidentified, Mary Lou Powers, and Bernice Kunkel. Photo courtesy of Ruth Parsons.

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For each of the past 11 years, since the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award was established, the Clermont League has brought the community together in the summer to celebrate women's right to vote and the suffragist spirit of Clermont County women today. In addition to that, this year it is our honor to celebrate 50 Years of League in Clermont County and to celebrate the women who shaped our league and our community. Take a look at this picture.

These are the women who founded our league in 1957! Most, but not all of them are named. If you have any information that could help us identify those not named, please contact us (isaacmacke@fuse.net). If you are a descendent of one of these women, please contact us

### Memory Lane

## Clermont LWV and Clermont Co. Public Library to Sponsor Voter Registration Drive

Working cooperatively, our local league will join the Clermont County Public Library in a voter registration drive to take place during the month of October. Cyndy Wright, LWVCC and Elizabeth Fiene, CCPL will be the joint coordinators of the endeavor.

The ten branches of the public library already serve as voter registration sites, so a sign-up drive is a natural project for the two organizations. The two groups will

cooperate on publicity and volunteer recruitment. The plan, which is still in the early stages, is that volunteers will staff registration tables in the library branches in four hour shifts during the library's busy times.

Further information about the voter registration drive and how league members can volunteer to help will be forthcoming in future issues of the Voter and at our Town Hall Meeting.

## Spotlight on Marti Kleinfelter

### Marti's two truths and a lie:

1. My favorite vacation was visiting all the presidents' birthplaces in Ohio.
2. I have a pool in my back yard but I do not swim.
3. My favorite class I took in college was hot air ballooning.

Tell us your "League" story.

I joined the League because I am a history teacher. I thought this would be a great source for objective information. I want my students to make up their own mind on issues. My mother had been a member of the League in Maumee, Ohio for years. I remember her enjoyment in going to the meetings.

I joined when I did because I had time to attend meetings. My daughter was in college and I no longer had the daily commitments I once had.

Tell us about your family – including four legged members.

I am divorced with one daughter. Sarah is in graduate school at the University of Toledo . She is an athletic trainer. I teach Social Studies at Live Oaks. When Sarah left for college she left her two cats with me. And I dog sit



for her two dogs often.

What CD/Artist is in your CD player in your car right now?

I like to listen to old artists from the 60's and 70's. I particularly like Rod Stewart. When I am down I listen to Helen Reddy's "I am Woman"

What books are you reading that we would find on your night stand?

I belong to several book clubs so I read a variety of authors. My two favorite are Jodi Picoult and Tom Flynn.

What was the last movie

you saw at a movie theatre?

I do not attend movies often. My favorite is "National Treasure".

Who would you say is your favorite U.S. President?

I have three favorite presidents. Thomas Jefferson because he was such an educated man and explored many different ideas.

Andrew Jackson because he was not from the original 13 states. He was different. The fact he made it possible for more men to vote. I do not like his treatment of the Native American though.

Harry Truman because he was put in a difficult position after FDR's death. He took responsibility for his action. "The buck stops here"

What is your Favorite Flavor of Ice Cream?

Raspberry Chocolate Chip

## Now You're 18

You have a great opportunity to meet the future voters of Clermont County by participating in the *Now That You Are 18* programs. This program was 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.

A presentation lasts about one hour. A member of the League tells high school seniors a little about the

League, hands out the *Now that You Are 18* booklets then introduces a member of the Bar Association, who is the main speaker. The main speaker will answer questions from the students after a short presentation. We are in need of League members willing to participate in this program. We are asking for a commitment of one time. We can match you with a specific high school or a time of the year, that works best for you.

The schools that participate are Amelia High School, Batavia High School, Bethel Tate High School, Clermont Northeastern High School, Felicity High School, Glen Este High School, Goshen High School, Live Oaks C.D.C. , Milford High School,

New Richmond High School, US Grant JVS and Williamsburg High School.

If you are willing to participate or would like more information, please contact Carol Glotfelter at 943-9429 or [glotfelter@fuse.net](mailto:glotfelter@fuse.net)

Marti Kleinfelter at 831-2997 or [mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mkleinfelter@cinci.rr.com)

### 2007 Program

AUGUST

Suffragist Event and Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award Golden Anniversary Celebration

SEPTEMBER

Town Hall Meeting imPACT-LWVOH

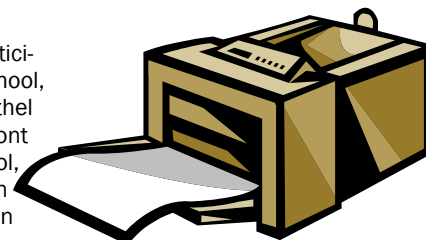
OCTOBER

Candidates Forum

NOVEMBER

Renew Ohio

DECEMBER



# League of Women Voters of Ohio Launches imPACT - Political Accountability for Citizens Today

LWVCC and UC-Clermont Co-sponsoring September 25<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting

In Ohio, a quiet revolution is starting. This revolution involves concerns about money and its influence on government. Not only do Ohioans believe the influence of money in politics and a lack of accountability has become an obstacle to action on key issues, they also believe it is prohibiting good candidates from running for office.

To help this revolution to catch fire, the League of Women Voters of Ohio is launching "imPACT" - **Political Accountability for Citizens Today**, possibly the largest project ever undertaken by the League.

The goal is to educate Ohioans about political reform issues such as: Redistricting, Accountability, Judicial Reform, Campaign Finance Reform, and Election Law Reform. The objective is to reenergize Ohioans toward civic engagement, regardless of their political viewpoint. "Citizen participation is what it takes to make Ohio government responsive, fair and honest," says Carol Gibson, former Co-president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. "Through imPACT, the League will provide well-researched and trustworthy information so an individual can get involved in his or her own way."

League of Women Voters of Ohio will begin this process by hosting a series of Town Hall meetings on the most critical political reform issues facing the state. **The League of Women Voters of Clermont County will host a Town Hall meeting on September 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Receptions, Eastgate.** The Town Hall meeting is being co-sponsored by UC-Clermont. "The Town Hall meetings will open a dia-

logue between neighbors on how political reform can be discussed at a grassroots level," explains State League President Linda Lalley. "We hope these discussions will set the tone for long-term participation and action on these issues by everyday Ohioans, not just policymakers." The Town Hall series is one element of the League's imPACT Project, funded in part by the Joyce Foundation. For more information on the imPACT initiative, call toll free (877) LWV-OHIO.

There will be light refreshments and the event is free of charge. All are welcome and it is open to the public. If you are interested in participating in the Town Hall meeting as a table facilitator or recorder, please contact Cyn Macke at [isaacmacke@fuse.net](mailto:isaacmacke@fuse.net) or Cyndy Wright at [chwright@parknationalbank.com](mailto:chwright@parknationalbank.com).

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and*

*active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## "In League" Welcome!

Please welcome the following new member to the LWVCC in 2007:

**Lucy Snell**

## Cyndy's Corner...

*Tricia Louis, Director and Membership Chair, passed on an inquiry for details about the League from someone was inquiring about who we are, what we do, how we spend our money, and so forth. I sat down and wrote an email to honestly reply to their questions. My response became this month's message. I think it's worth sharing because it tells you a little about our immediate past and the vision for the future.*

*'I'm thinking about becoming a member of LWV. The membership fee for one year seems a bit steep to me; perhaps you can give me a rough idea how the chapter spends its dollars. What volunteer opportunities are available? To be truthful, what I'm not finding is what the chapter does for voter education and policy advocacy. (I'm relying on the web site, including the newsletter). I see activities for members (newsletter, dinners, luncheons, meetings, etc.) but other than an occasional meet the candidates meeting, I don't find any outreach... I've been frustrated with the lack of candidate information (online, newspapers) for state and local candidates for election. Tell me what I'm missing.'*

As you already know our league is celebrating 50 years as a league in Clermont County this year. We are celebrating this golden anniversary event at our annual Suffragists dinner on August 28, 2007. We will also name the 11<sup>th</sup> winner of the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award given in honor of one of our local Suffragettes whose granddaughter is a member of our League, **Cathy Gatch, Director, Internal Communications**

I tell you that as a bit of history and to address the question of our League membership dues. In 2006 we voted to raise our dues for the first time in over 10 years. The individual mem-

bership dues had been \$45.00 for as long as anyone could remember. Because we have to pay for the national and state memberships out of the dues we collect and for the past 2-3 years we saw steady increases in their membership dues, we realized we weren't even collecting enough to cover our obligations to national and state. In fact, our local league was subsidizing about \$1.00 for every member. It took the Board a year to deliberate these issues. We looked at it long and hard. We decided to raise the dues significantly enough so that we would hopefully not have to go back to membership for an increase for many years. It was presented at the annual meeting in May 2006 and approved. This year our commitment to the payment per member for both national and state is \$46.40 going up another \$1.50 next year.

By having some extra funds in the coffers it allows us to expand our outreach. The budget for this fiscal year includes the printing costs for the **4000 Public Official Guides** that we have just begun printing in more generous quantities thanks partly to our budget and in major part to the partnerships we formed with the **Clermont Chamber of Commerce** who paid more than ½ the cost to print and has distributed about 2000 of the guides and **The Printing Place, Inc.** who provided discounted services as well so that we could afford to do the volume. We have the remainder of the 4000 in the local branches of the public library for citizens at no charge.

We pay some of the costs for the **"Now You're 18"** program that originally started several years ago by

the LWVCC. It is a comprehensive booklet that we collaborated on with the **Clermont Bar Association** that we give for free to seniors at the 12 local high schools and 2 vocational schools in our County. Again, we are in collaboration with the Clermont Bar Association who donates the costs of printing the booklets we hand out at no charge in the schools. We arrange for speakers, like lawyers, police officers and our ever popular **Sheriff Tim Rhodenberg**, to attend a civic/government class or senior assembly to explain exactly what it means to be 18. Our co-chairs for this program, **Carol Glotfelter** and **Marti Kleinfelter** are dedicated educators and leaguers who are freshening up the program with new ideas and contacts. It will be an exciting year.

In 2005 we hosted 7 local **Candidate's Forums** around the county with about 15 volunteers serving as moderators, time-keepers and question screeners. We have already been asked to facilitate 2 candidate's forums in October. We are planning a **Voter Registration Drive** for 2 weeks in October in partnership with the **Clermont County Public Library** and we need many volunteers to staff tables at the busiest library locations to talk to everyone about the importance of voting and supplying resources for Voter Education.

You are right on about the lack of Candidate's information and guides. This was a project that we had for many years and then the local newspapers decided to take it over. We deferred to them and now they have stopped as well. To me, that is a problem. I am currently working with the **Cincinnati Area league** to learn about the online resource **Smart-Voter.org**. I think this is the way of the future, reaching voters electronically and I want to see how LWVCC might harness this resource to provide more candidate

and issue information to our constituencies. Smart-Voter.org is not cheap. And it's not easy. It is going to require about \$2,500 a year in hosting fees just so that we can provide this resource. It will also require the human part of managing the process, getting the questions to the candidates, getting the answers back, logging them in, and turning it on for all to see. The Cincinnati League has been using this resource for several years and it has a very positive response rate. They are continuing the program. They get data that tells them how many times Clermont County voters request information. That statistic in and of itself was enough to convince me that we need to find the resources to fund this project and man it for at least the next two years. I am researching and applying for grant dollars so that we can get funding to get this going. If grant dollars don't come through then I will be hitting the pavement asking for tax-deductible contributions to our **LWVOH Education Fund** that we can use to support the program. I want to be up and running for the primary in 2008. Wish us luck!

**THE FUTURE:** I have a vision for the League in my two years to get back to basics. To advocate, communicate and educate our voting community. I want to mix things up, find new members who want to learn, engage members who have been around for a while but are disappointed and disillusioned, to make things happen and provide leadership to others and have fun along the way. I haven't quite figured it all out yet, but I am trying. Please join us in the journey. You provide insights already that I feel would be invaluable to helping the LWVCC be all it can be.

From my corner of the world to yours,

*Cyndy Wright, President  
League of Women Voters,  
Clermont County*

## League of Women Voters Clermont County

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Phone: 513-284-1453  
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Email: [president@lwvclermont.com](mailto:president@lwvclermont.com)

Place  
Stamp  
Here



### Serving the League

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity with the League? If so, we are looking for you! There is a key service opportunity on the 2007-2008 Board to be our League Historian. Capture the moments; assist in keeping track of important events in League history. What better time than our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year to be our Historian. For more information please contact **Cyndy Wright** at [wrightcyn@current.net](mailto:wrightcyn@current.net) or 513-284-1453.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2007-2008

Hello everyone! It is almost the end of a wonderful summer. We have our 50th Anniversary coming up as a league and our annual dinner. We have 13 nominees for the Orpha Gatch Award this year. I hope everyone can attend and please invite family and friends to join us also. We have the Honorable Melba Marsh as our guest speaker and I am sure it will be a great time for all.

Also, it is time to renew your annual League Membership for the 2007-2008 year. Membership Renewal invoices will be mailed by the end of August. The due date is September 30, 2007. You can also find a membership form on our website at

[www.lwvclermont.com](http://www.lwvclermont.com). Invite your friends and family to join with you. Do you know a student who is civic-minded? A student membership is only \$25.00 and they can be included in a family membership for only \$99! We have volunteer opportunities for all ages. Don't miss out on the monthly publications from National, State and your Clermont League. Please feel free to call me with any membership questions or concerns. I look forward to an eventful year ahead.

Yours in League,  
Tricia A Louis, Director,  
Membership Chair

## Membership Form

### 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