



What Values Should Form the Basis of Immigration Policy in the US?

"In League" Welcome!

Please welcome the following new members to the LWVCC in MARCH

Theresa Conover
Yvette Duguay
Julie Young

Join your league on Tuesday, March 25, at Receptions Conference East, as our monthly meeting features an evening of dialogue on the critical issue of Immigration. Our nation is experiencing an Immigration Crisis. Few subjects in the US are as controversial as immigration or have as contentious a history. It has been a focal point in the presidential primary, in national security concerns, and with the League of Women Voters.

The League of Women Voters US launched a two-year Immigration Study in 2006 aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders are exploring the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in

American society. Hopefully you noticed the series of articles in The National Voter throughout 2007, including A Historical Perspective on Immigration in February 2007, Global Interdependence and Migration and Immigration Impact on US Economy in June 2007, and Border Enforcement and Family Reunification and Diversity Policies in October 2007. These can be accessed through the US League website, www.lwv.org. LWVO Executive Director, Jerolyn Barbee also featured Immigration in her November Spotlight Newsletter urging local league members to help their community by holding educational programs such as this one on the Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms and their Impact on the US Economy and America's Future.

We are pleased that Alice Gerdeman, a member of the staff of the International

Center for Peace and Justice, Dan LaBotz, an expert in legislation, history and civil rights of immigrants, and Louis Valencia, an immigration attorney, will present our program. The International Center for Peace and Justice is a coalition of faith-based organizations and individuals who work to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and do public witness.

Immigration affects us all. You won't want to miss this program. Please pass the word on to your League and non-league friends, family and acquaintances. This program begins at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend the pre-meeting dinner at 6:00, the cost is \$15 and your advance registration on our website www.lwvclermont.com is requested.

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Member Spotlight: Jane Sonenshein



Please tell us your "league" story: I was invited to a League meeting about a month after I moved to the county by a neighbor who has since moved out of state. I joined before the end of 1977. Not too long after, I became the Voter Editor, which was great League training because I learned about everything League was doing! I have served as Co-Voter Service Chair, Education Chair, Program Chair, Secretary and President. League and PTA involvement taught me everything I know. Both encourage learning all you can about government and what decisions are being made.

Please tell us about your family: I am married to Chuck. We celebrated our 40th anniversary by taking our two adult sons to Alaska for a week in July. It was a perfect vacation, something we love to do- travel. Most of our travel now is connected with Chuck's work as a speaker on math education, my work

on the State Board of Education, or visiting one of our kids - Jason in Cleveland or Joe wherever he is performing on stage.

What CD/Artist is in your CD player in your car right now? I'm really pretty boring. I am a news junkie, so I seldom have a cd or tape playing. My radio knows where the NPR stations are from here to Gallia County to Columbus. When I do listen to music, my tastes run to Celtic, Judy Collins, Native American. Chuck often finds some good Sinatra or Clooney tunes for me.

What books are you reading that we would find on your bedside table? I don't read many books now. My reading stack keeps growing without adding books. The last books I read are "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink - looking at the need for creativity in education and "The Elephant and the Dragon" about the economy as determined

by China and India. I need to read the latest Harry Potter book.

What was the last movie you saw in a movie theatre? The last Harry Potter movie was probably the last movie I saw in a theater. It doesn't happen often. We try to attend the Cleveland film Festival every March, but we missed the 2007 one.

Who is your favorite president of the United States? I have always been fascinated by Abraham Lincoln. Every biography I have ever read makes me admire him more as he was so very human and very aware of humanity. My great regret was that I was, and would have been, too young to ever vote for John Kennedy. He was the important president of my youth.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? The best ice cream in the world is Graeter's black raspberry chip.

Heavy Voter Turnout in Clermont County

Batavia, Ohio. The 2008 Ohio Primary Election created an unprecedented demand for Democratic ballots across Clermont County. The Board of Elections reports there are 14,500 registered Democrats in the county and 33,310 ballots were ordered; even with the large number of ballots ordered, there were still some shortages experienced in several parts of the county, including Amelia, Milford, and Union Township.

"Several precincts reported shortages of Democratic ballots and Clermont County Sheriff's Deputies were quickly dispatched with additional ballots for the sites needing them," said Clermont Board of Elections Director Judy Miller. "We apologize for any inconvenience to citizens who had to wait for the ballots to arrive. Most of the ballots were delivered within 15 to 30 minutes of when they were requested."

While there was heavy voter turnout reported across Clermont County, and some precincts had long lines, those in line when the polls closed at 7:30 p.m., were permitted to cast ballots. Of the 128,396 registered voters in Clermont County, 43 percent voted in this primary election.

For additional information, please contact Clermont County Communications Director Kathy Lehr at (513) 732-7597.

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Cyndy's Corner...

Did you know that March is Women's History Month? I did not know that until I read a Leader's Update from the LWVUS. If you would like to learn more about Women's History Month, please go to http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Women_s_History_Month

I'd like to share with you a story about a woman who I believe deserves a place in history; if not in the annals of history, at least in the minds and hearts of us all. She is a shining example of patriotism and civic responsibility. I am changing the names since I did not formally ask for permission to tell this story but I strongly believe it's a story worth telling.

In February I received a call from a man named "John" who had questions about getting a ballot for his older sister, "Anne" who had recently been confined to a nursing home. Anne is in her mid-80's and she had never missed a chance to vote. Anne was determined that

circumstances this year would not stand in her way.

You see, Anne had been serving over the past months as her husband, "Gary's," primary caregiver. Gary, in his 80's as well, had been diagnosed with cancer. Anne had been faithfully seeing Gary through his treatments and frequent doctors' visits, providing meals and all of the necessities of in-home care. His prognosis was not good but together they were fighting this battle. On January 4, 2008, things definitely took a turn for the worse. Anne suffered a stroke leaving her paralyzed. She was taken to the hospital where things were critical for quite some time. John and the family stepped in to provide for Gary. On Monday morning, January 7, 2008, Gary died from his battle with cancer. The family rallied taking care of all of the arrangements. Anne mourned the loss of her mate of many decades but began the fight to regain control of her body. Anne was a retired businesswoman with a special acumen for math; her mind was still as sharp as a tack.

She knew that the primary election was coming up and insisted on voting. In the midst of everything else going on in her life, Anne was determined not to miss her opportunity to vote! John went to the Board of Elections, got an application for an Absentee Ballot and assisted Anne in completing her voting process for the Primary of 2008.

I know I am preaching to the choir, but clip this story out, share it with friends, neighbors and relatives who claim they are "too busy" to vote or they think "it won't make a difference."

I close now from my corner of the world to yours, thanking "John" for sharing this story and for "Anne" who has set the "no excuse for not voting" bar higher than anyone else ever could! God bless you, Anne!

With gratitude,

Cyndy Wright

President

League of Women Voters,
Clermont County

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Place
Stamp
Here

**2008 General Meetings
and Programs**

March 25, 2008 - Immigration Study
Location: Receptions East • Time: 6:00 – 8:30

**April 22, 2008 - Redistricting Reform &
Campaign Finance Reform**
Location: Receptions East • Time: 6:00 – 8:30

May 20, 2008 - Annual Meeting
Location: Receptions East • Time: 6:00 – 8:30

Make reservations and pay online with a credit card
www.lwvclermont.com
or mail reservations to
LWVCC • PO Box 733 • Milford OH 45150



2008 Suffragists Event Chairwoman Named

We are pleased and proud to announce that **Amy Brewer, LWVCC member and Milford City Councilwoman**, has agreed to chair the 2008 Suffragists Event. She has organized her committee and begun the planning process. As of March 12th the following members have signed on to assist in making the 12th annual event the biggest and best yet: **Eve Enders, Cathy Gatch, Pam Holbrook, Karen Huff, Marti Kleinfelter, Tricia Louis, Cyn Macke, Nancy Middleton, Karen Scherra, Mia Supe, and Cyndy Wright.**

This annual event celebrates the early Suffragettes who fought so hard to get ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote 88 years ago. In addition, the prestigious Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award is presented to a Clermont County woman who exemplifies the same spirit of patriotism, civic engagement and volunteerism of Ms. Gatch, for whom the award is named. Over 250 people attended the event in 2007. If you are interested in being an event sponsor or would like to serve on this very special committee, please contact Amy Brewer at abrewer1@cincir.rr.com or 513-576-1461
