



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Clermont County www.LWVClermont.com February 2007

President's Message:

Celebrating 50 years.

LWV Clermont is celebrating 50 years of service to the community.

In 1957 a group of ladies lead by Lois Brown held their first meeting as an official League of Women Voters unit in May of 1957. Undaunted by the task they had undertaken these women began an exhausting job that continues into 2007 and beyond. Ms. Dale writes a synopsis of the previous year. A membership Tea, Voter Services held a County Wide Town Meeting on the Hospital Issue, Your Vote is Your Key, Federal-Loyalty Security Study, Health Inspection for Retail Markets, Ohio Finances, Does Clermont County need Zoning, were some of the topics. All are still relative to our League today. They ended the year with 99 members. She ends with *"We have found that being a "full fledged" League entails many more responsibilities than any one of us had anticipated, but we feel that the price for being a better informed citizen was well worth it"* 50 years later, these words still ring true.

Plans are underway to celebrate this achievement with a 50th Anniversary Party. We are trying desperately to gather all the miscellaneous league materials that are floating around in attics and basements. If you have any materials, we ask that you bring them to the next meeting. We are also trying to put together a list of all past Presidents and ask that you send in the names and years of service of any of the presidents you can remember.

Information is included on State House Day and Convention. Please plan to attend. The Clermont league needs to be well represented. There is additional information in the newsletter.

A fund raising event is planned with the Burke surveys for March 8. Two additional persons are needed for the 8:30 am space. Please call me at 575-0273 if you are able to help. This even raises \$35.00 for the league for each participant. An easy way to add \$420.00 to the treasury. Thanks to the 10 volunteers already volunteered.

Nancy Middleton, President

Report of January 2007 General Meeting

By Cindy Wright, Co-Vice President

In a legislative update by State Board of Education member, Jane Sonenshein outlined the key components of SB311 recently passed by the Ohio Legislature. This Substitute Senate Bill 311 emerged as a vehicle for the Ohio Core curriculum proposal to change high school graduation requirements and admission standards for Ohio's colleges and universities.

Jane shared the key points to the legislation that would require all high school students, beginning with this year's 5th graders who will be members of the graduating class of 2014, to complete the Ohio Core as a prerequisite for admission to any of Ohio's four-year public colleges/universities. There is no change to the 20 credits required for a diploma, however the mix of credits is weighed in favor of adding more math and science requirements.

There is still much work to be done at the state and local levels to see that this new core curriculum is fully implemented. The repercussions for implementation are far-reaching; Ohio will have an overwhelming need for more qualified Math and Science teachers for grades 5-12.

"I see this as a Middle School Core Curriculum," said Jane. She continued, "In order to have the students prepared to take on the more stringent work in high school we cannot wait to begin preparing our students."

Jane graciously handled questions from the audience assisted by Ohio State Representative, Joe Uecker, also in attendance.

For more information about this and other relevant educational topics, please visit the website of the Ohio Department of Education at www.ode.state.oh.us and follow the links to legislative updates.

League Membership

by Tricia Louis, Membership Director

Welcome all from the membership of the Clermont County League of Women Voters. I hope everyone is having a happy New Year! We would like to introduce our newest members of the League and give them a Big Thank You for joining us this year. Mary A. Benoski, Linda and Antoinette Bloom, Tricia Burke, Jesse Dunbar, Mae Hannah, Carol Heusner, Mary Ann Hudson, Greg Louis, Judith Miller, Glenda Neff, Senator Tom Niehaus, Deborah Schafer, Karen J. Scherra, Judge James Shriver, Mia Supe, Regina Theilman, State Representative Joe & Patti Uecker and Diane Zuk. Our membership now stands at 77 members.

Even as we enter the New Year we are always looking for new members to join. Please invite your friends and family members to attend a meeting with you and encourage them to join in this wonderful League. I hope everyone comes to as many meetings as they can in this New Year, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact any one of the Board Members, we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

In Sympathy

The League of Women Voters of Clermont County extends our sympathies to Jane Sonenshein and family on the death of her mother-in-law Josephine Sonenshein who passed away on January 4, 2007.

We also extend sympathies Tom Still and family in the passing of Almeda Stitt, former President of the League of Women Voters Clermont. Almeda passed away February 4, 2007 at Univeristy Hospital after a long illness.

11th Annual Suffragist Event August 28, 2007

It is so hard to believe that January 2007 is almost over. I am excited about the up and coming year. Before we know it the spring and summer will be behind us.

My name is Sue Bowman. I have attended the leagues Suffragist events for the past two years and was touched each time. I am excited this year to be the Chair for this event. It will be a hard act to follow but with the information pasted on to me by the previous committee, I'm up for the challenge! This will be my first year on the committee and though I have a lot of experience in putting together other programs, I would like to ask for volunteers to help me. If you're new in the organization and want a chance to meet and get to know some other experienced members, please join me. If you have wisdom and knowledge of past events and can offer some of your expertise, please join me.

I am looking forward to a great year, getting to know many new friends, and a world of learning. We will have our first meeting in February. Please let me know if you are interested in helping. My e-mail is sue.bowman@agedwards.com or give me a call at 513 891 1336.

The 57th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Ohio May 4 - 6, 2007

Hosted by: LWV of Akron

Convention Site: Sheraton Suites – Cuyahoga Falls 1989 Front Street

The Convention shall be composed of Voting Delegates, Visitors and Guests

Voting Delegates Include:

1. The members of the LWVO Board of Directors.
2. The President {or designated alternate} from each Local League.
3. One delegate from each Local League for each 50 voting members, or fraction thereof, based on the records in the state office on January 31, 2007.

All other League members may attend the Convention as Visitors.

Additional information will be sent to you in later mailings concerning Convention Registration, Agenda, Proposed Budget, Bylaws, State Program and Hotel Reservations.

These materials will be posted on the LWVO Website {www.lwvohio.org} in late March.

We look forward to an exciting and unique Convention, which will include an impACT Project Town Hall Meeting.

WE ARE YOUR LEAGUE: STRENGTHEN YOUR VOICE !



MARCH 29, 2007 - THE RIFFE CENTER - COLUMBUS - 9:15 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

All New Format for Statehouse Day !

A.M.: Kick off the day with keynote speaker John Corlett, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the Center for Community Solutions. John serves as co-chair of the Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future, the human services budget coalition.

Then participate in one of five workshops led by LWVO lobbyists and other pros on popular LWVO interest-inventory topics:

*Health Care
Election Reform • Education Funding
Watershed Protection & Factory Farms
Home Rule & Gun Violence*

Lunch: Exchange thoughts and ideas with other LWV members, issue experts and LWVO lobbyists over lunch.

P.M.: Advocate your issue as your LWVO lobbyist is joined by state officials or legislative staff having responsibility for the issue.

You will have the opportunity to stop by your legislator's office at the conclusion of Statehouse Day to drop off LWVO materials. However, no appointments will be made with individual legislators.

9:15 - 9:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast

Be part of LWVO in action! Statehouse Day is for all political junkies, from old-time Leaguers to potential members. Attendees will learn how to lobby—and then collectively use their skills.

FOR A COMPLETE AGENDA and MAP TO THE RIFFE CENTER, please visit the STATEHOUSE DAY SECTION on LWVO's website since they will not be mailed as in previous years.

lwvohio.org -- after February 19

Statehouse Day • March 29, 2007 • 9:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

****Statehouse Day Registration Deadline: March 16 • One Form per Person Please!****

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Local League _____ Issue workshop you'd like to attend _____

Fee: \$30 adult ___ \$15 student ___ Vegetarian lunch? Yes ___ No ___

Make checks payable to LWVO and remit this form with payment to:

**LWV Ohio • 17 South High Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215
For information call: (614) 469-1505 or toll free (877) 598-6446**

League of Women Voters US Storybank Project

Taken from the "Leaders' Update: 1/18/07"

The League of Women Voters US is taking a new approach to increase membership in the organization. As a part of the Membership Recruitment Initiative, LWVUS has developed a Storybank to collect and house personal stories of achievement from League members from across the country. There is no better way to explain the benefits of membership to potential members than to share stories from current LWV members. WE need your story about what League means to you to make the Storybank a success and encourage others to join. [Submit a story now!](#) For more information about the Storybank and how your story may be used, contact storybank@lww.org with any questions.

Susan B. Anthony Luncheon – League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area

The League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area's annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon is scheduled for February 17, 2007. The luncheon will be held at The Phoenix, 812 Race Street beginning with a silent auction as well as a Cash Bar and Strolling Minstrel at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon begins at 12:30 after the announcement of the recipient of the 2007 Martha B. Taft award. The program begins at 1:15 with Dr. O'Dell Owens' presentation of "Out of the Crossfire, Making Our Children Safe!" Peter Yarrow, from Peter, Paul and Mary will further the efforts of protecting our children with an explanation of Operation Respect and his program "Don't Laugh at Me."

Several League members from Clermont County are planning to attend. Reservations for the luncheon are limited and the deadline to register is February 5, 2007. The cost is \$35 per ticket. Please make checks payable to LWVCA and mail to: LWVCA, 103 William H. Taft Road, Cincinnati, OH 45219. Call 281-8683 for more information.

OPERATION RESPECT: www.dontlaugh.org

Taken from the LWVCA Voter, February 2007

Operation Respect is a non-profit organization working to assure children a respectful, safe and compassionate climate of learning where their academic, social and emotional development can take place free of bullying, ridicule and violence. Founded by Peter Yarrow of the folk group Peter, Paul & Mary, the organization disseminates educational resources that are designed to establish a climate that reduces the emotional and physical cruelty some children inflict upon each other by behaviors such as ridicule, bullying and in extreme cases violence.

Operation Respect has developed the "Don't Laugh at Me" (DLAM) programs, one for grades 2-5, another for grades 6-8 and a third for summer camps and after-school programs. Through music, video, and classroom activities, the DLAM programs help sensitize children to the painful effects of behaviors that too often are accepted as necessary rites of passage in childhood — ridicule, disrespect, ostracism and bullying. Children participating in DLAM learn that by working together they can positively shape their school environment, and eventually bring this message to the broader community.

All of the programs are based on the well-tested, highly regarded conflict resolution curricula developed by the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program of Educators for Social Responsibility. Operation Respect provides the programs free of charge. More than 145,000 copies of the curriculum have been distributed to educators since Operation Respect's inception.

Operation Respect also offers assembly programs and professional development workshops designed to provide educators with the tools for effective implementation. To date, over 40,000 educators have participated in workshops throughout the United States.

The website has three main sections:

Educator's Avenue - Where teachers, school counselors, principals, school social workers and other educational and healthcare professionals can order a free copy of the DLAM program of their choice. The program materials include a curriculum guide, CD, video and pre-and-post implementation questionnaires.

Parent's Place - Offers parents strategies and ideas to deal with the glamorization of violence and the increase of ridicule and bullying in our society.

Kid's Corner - Provides a place where children can share their stories, photographs, poetry, and personal experiences with the Don't Laugh at Me Program.

Immigration at Home: Historical, Social, Economic Perspectives

Taken from: The LWVCA Voter, February 2007

A panel discussion on immigration focusing on its historical roots in Cincinnati and its current social and economic impact will be held at the Wise Center on Monday, March 12, 2007. How has immigration defined our region? How do immigrants fare in our community? How are the issues regarding immigration the same or different now from those of the past? How do new immigrants' concerns about schools, social services, housing and jobs resonate with our own concerns? "Immigration at Home" will address this multilayered and emotional issue from multiple perspectives with panelists Sean Arthurs, an attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati; Dr. Nancy Bertaux, Professor of Economics, Xavier University; Dan Hurley, Assistant Director of History, Cincinnati Museum Center; and Father William Jansen, Director of Hispanic Ministries, Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The program is being presented by The Wise Temple Political Advocacy Committee in co sponsorship with the American Jewish Committee, Adath Israel Congregation, Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Chapter of Hadassah, Congregation Beth Adam, Jewish Women's Agencies, National Council of Jewish Women, The Interfaith Alliance and Woman's City Club.

This community-wide program begins at 7:00 p.m. at Wise Center. It is free and open to the public. More information may be obtained by e-mailing: pac@wisetemple.org.

Upcoming LWVCC Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Topic</u>
February 27, 2007	Study of LWVC current position on Senior Service & Review of LWVCC position
March 27, 2007	The group will "Cacus". the issues that will be voted upon at the state convention
April 24, 2007	Town Hall... Impact Event
May 29, 2007	Annual Meeting

Watch your mail and the LWVCC website for details or to register.

February 27

Please join us on February 27, as we welcome Linda Eppler of Clermont Senior Service. Ms. Eppler will provide insight into the many ways Clermont Senior Services provide for the needs of our aging population. Ms. Eppler will be available for Q&A. Afterward we will review our current position on Senior Service & make recommendation on any updates needed.

Local Position Clermont Senior Service

The League of Women Voters of Clermont County supports offering a broad range of quality home and community services that enable older adults to remain active and independent as long as possible. Funding for these services should come from a variety of sources including levies, organizations such as United Way and Council on Aging, foundations, and participant donations.

Concurrence on Position reached at March 24 General Meeting; Position adopted May, 1998.

All meetings February thru May will be held at:
Receptions Eastgate
Dinner 6:00 pm - \$15.00
Program 7:00 pm - no charge for program only
Go to www.lwvclermont.com, click on Events to register
or call Cyndy Wright @ 513-576-0600 ext. 239,
or e-mail wrightcyn@parknationalbank.com



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