



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Clermont County

www.LWVClermont.com

August 2005

Mission: the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens, women and men, ages 18 and older.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The summer is almost over and it is time for the League of Women Voters Clermont County to get back to work. We have a full slate of officers this year and it should prove to be an exciting year. Our Co-Vice Presidents have been working to plan an interesting series of programs beginning in September. Tina Breuer, a new member, has jumped right in as Secretary. Cyndy Wright will be Voter Services with three forums already planned. Leslie Massey is Voter Editor and as you can see by this first issue, already doing a wonderful job. Carol Glotfelter is Membership Director and will have a table at the Suffragist Dinner so that you can renew your membership while you are there. Sondra Katkin, who has done such a wonderful job getting articles about the league in the newspaper, will be our Publicity Chair again, and Jackie Hartley has volunteered to Chair Phonathon. Robert Funk is Historian and is compiling an album of photos and articles on our league.

The Suffragist Event committee has been busy planning the 9th annual Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award lead by chair Cyn Isaac. Members of that committee are Loretta Roekey, Carol Glotfelter, Cathy Gatch, Sharon McFadden, Nancy Middleton and Cyndy Wright. This year we were honored with nine nominees for the prestigious award. Be sure to attend this event. It promises to be very special.

Our Web site has a new look. Check it out at www.lwvclermont.com. You can now make your meeting reservations online and pay with a credit card or bring your check to the meeting. New items will be added monthly so please visit often.

The board has decided that because of the cost of copies and postage that we will only publish the Voter quarterly. There will be meeting notices sent out to remind the members of the other meetings. Since over 60% of our members have e-mail, these notices will be e-mailed to those members and then mailed to the remaining members. So please try to watch your mail box.

Plan to attend every meeting. You won't want to miss even one. This is going to be a very exciting year.

CLERMONT COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS:

NINTH ANNUAL SUFFRAGIST EVENT AND ORPHA GATCH AWARDS DINNER

The Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award will be presented on August 23, 2005 at the Annual Suffragist Dinner to be held at Receptions, Eastgate from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is Clermont County League of Women Voters' celebration of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment each year as a reminder of the enduring debt we owe to the suffragists.

This will be the ninth year that the Clermont County League of Women Voters has honored a Clermont County woman for her outstanding volunteer civic service. Throughout the history of this event, the Orpha Gatch Citizenship award was presented to Martha Dorsey in 1997, Deb Carter-Baker in 1998, Lois Brown Dale in 1999, Noreen Dawson (posthumously) in 2000, Anna Campbell in 2001, Cindy Jenkins in 2002, Debbie Siegroth in 2003, and Karen Jesse in 2004. These women symbolize the energy, optimism and trust of the early suffragists.

In 1958, Orpha Gatch was one of the founders of our local League. As a war bride she moved to the area in 1919. She was the first woman to be elected to the Milford School Board (1920 to 1931), was President of the PTA in the 30s, taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and headed the Women's Society all while raising seven children. She was also an active member of the Smith Club, the Milford Historical Society, and the Pattison Library.

For Cincinnati she supported the Nature Center, Symphony, Opera and Art Museum.

It is this spirit that we seek to honor. The Honorees for 2005 include Mia Supe, Connie Brockman, Mercedes Hance, Priscilla O'Donnell, Barbara Burke, Sister Mary George Boklage, June Creager, Alma Eichstadt and Linda Fraley.

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 2, 2005 ELECTION

**Special General 2005 Representative to Congress 2nd District
8/2/05**

191 of 191 Precincts Reporting

	Early Voting	Election Day	Provisional	Total	Percentage
JEAN SCHMIDT	1158	16162	0	17320	58.09%
PAUL HACKETT	750	11689	0	12439	41.72%
Write In Votes	3	56	0	59	0.20%
Total Cast	1911	27907	0	29818	100.00%

Membership Committee Report

Look for our table at the Suffragist Dinner on August 23rd. Please stop by the table before or after the program. You will have an opportunity to pay your 2005-2006

dues of \$45 (individual), 65\$ (household) and \$25 (student). You will also be able to pick up information for friends who may be interested in joining the League. We hope to see you there.

Meeting Dates for the Clermont League of Women Voters

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE	GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE
August 23rd – Annual Suffragist Dinner	
September 13, 2005	September 27, 2005
October 11, 2005	October 25, 2005
November 8, 2005	November 29, 2005
December 13, 2005	December Holiday Party
January 10, 2006	January 24, 2006
February 14, 2006	February 28, 2006
March 14, 2006	March 28, 2006
April 11, 2006	April 25, 2006
May 9, 2006	May 23, 2006 – Annual Meeting

CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE FOR THE CLERMONT COUNTY LEAGUE

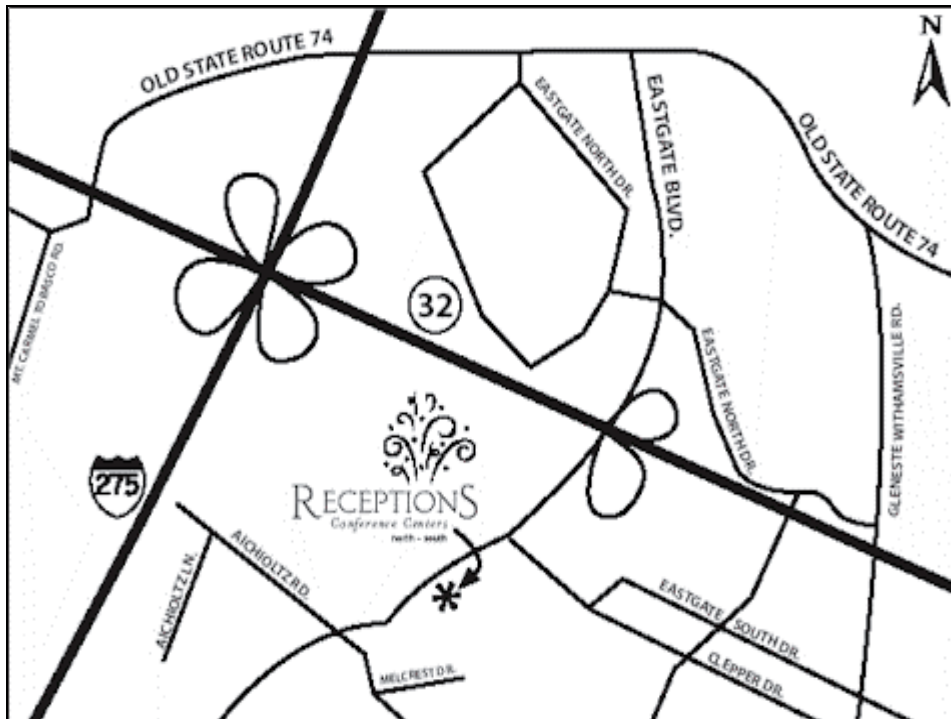
The meeting location will be changed this year to Receptions at Eastgate (at the East end of the Bigg's Mall building). This is a very nice facility and they have been very accommodating with our organization. The facilities are beautiful and parking very convenient. No more long walks around the halls trying to find our meeting room.

The address for Receptions East is

4450 Eastgate Blvd
Cincinnati OH 45245
Phone: 513-943-1888

(See Map below for driving directions)

The cost for each meeting will be \$15.00 per person. Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and programs start at 7:00 p.m. Members can make reservations and pay for the meetings online at www.lwvclermont.com ; or they can send reservations to LWVC Clermont, PO Box 733, Milford OH 45150. Or, they can call 575-0273, and leave a message.



September Meeting for the Clermont County League of Women Voters:

The September meeting will be on September 27, 2005. Children’s Protective Services Levy Presentation- The speaker will discuss exactly what Children’s Protective Services (CPS) does. This will include the mandated services as well as other services that are not required by law. In addition, the speaker will explain the limits of what CPS can do. Finally, CPS will address how levy funds are utilized and why there is a need for an increase. Much of the focus on the need for the increase will be the increase drug use, including methamphetamines, in Clermont County.

OHIO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWS AND EVENTS:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO HOSTS THIRD FORUM ON ELECTION REFORM
Public invited to discuss voter registration, purges, ex-felon issues in Cleveland

CLEVELAND – The public is invited to the third in a series of informal forums on election reform this summer, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 4 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the League of Women Voters of Cleveland office, 1148 Euclid Avenue, Suite 500.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the forums are intended to elicit public input on a stalled election reform bill before the state Senate. Dissatisfied with the direction of HB 3 but pleased by the Senate’s decision to recess before passing the bill, the League decided to use July and August to try to reach public consensus on a number of issues contained in the bill.

Thursday's forum will focus on voter registration, purges and notifications and rights of ex-felons.

The initial forum, on July 12, featured spirited discussion of accessibility for voters with disabilities and a conversation about absentee/early voting. A July 26 follow-up focused on provisional voting, identification requirements and homeless voters. The League plans to submit a report to the legislature when it reconvenes in the fall containing the public's comments.

The fourth and final forum will be Aug. 24 at the Grandview Heights Public Library in Columbus, and will cover recounts, observers and training/education. No reservations are necessary.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, 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.

ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has held several informal Forums on Election Reform throughout the summer months. These forums were held in response to HB 3 which has been postponed by the legislature until September, giving the LWVO time to consider how the concerns that were raised about HB 3 should be addressed and resolved. The report coming out of these forums will then be presented to members of the Senate rules committee, to other members of the legislature and to the media.

ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

The League of Women Voters of Ohio's goal for election system reform is not only to assure fair and honest elections, but also to assure transparency so that voters, the media, candidates and the general public have confidence that each election is fair and honest. Therefore, problems of perception must be given serious consideration along with problems of practice and law. The 10 recommendations that follow are based on League history and experience, and stem from League position and principles.

1. Create an impartial bipartisan election administration board to assume state election responsibilities.
2. Expand absentee voting to allow any voter to vote by absentee ballot at the board of elections without needing to provide a reason.
3. Allow provisional ballots to be cast anywhere in the county.
4. Make voting fully accessible to all voters with disabilities
5. Revise recount procedures so that they can be completed in a timely way as to allow elected officials to take office on time.
6. Adopt statewide use of the optical scan voting system, with specific safeguards.
7. Improve procedures, training and recruitment of poll workers.
8. Expand training and provide adequate resources for county boards of elections.
9. Expand voter education.
10. Reinstate Election Day registration

LEAGUE FILES FEDERAL LAWSUIT

On Monday, August 1, the League of Women Voters of Ohio announced that they would be the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit to be filed in United States District Court in Toledo. The suit contends that in the state of Ohio there exists a 30 year pattern of election dysfunction, chronic under funding of agencies and officials mandated to execute the voting process, and inadequate training for poll workers, among other systematic deficiencies in the Ohio system of election administration. LWVO leaders have concluded that a lawsuit is the most effective means of bringing about reform to Ohio's voting process. The suit is being filed against the office of the

Secretary of State and the office of Governor, not the individuals holding the offices at this time.

The previous LWVO board the current LWVO board, the executive director, Scott Britton and the League's elections lobbyist, Peg Rosenfield all participated in evaluating the risks and benefits of taking part in this suit. The LWVO feels that this lawsuit is one of the best ways to achieve the election reforms outlined in our 10-point plan. (See information above.)

The LWVO will keep in touch with local League members about progress on the lawsuit and how local Leagues can be involved through Post Board Mailings, articles in the Voter, and the LWVO's election reform listserv.

NATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HONORED WITH NASS FREEDOM AWARD

The League of Women Voters accepted the 2005 National Association of Secretaries of States Freedom Award at the NASS Summer Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. The League launched a massive voter registration drive in 2004, produced a series of voter education public service announcements and worked with NASS on a list of tips to make voting easier. NASS President, Rebecca Vigil-Giron said this about the award. "The League has long been a household name in the elections community due in large part to their work to educate voters. We appreciate their significant contribution to voter education and registration throughout the country."

STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASES

The League of Women Voters recently issued a report that details recommended operational and management practices for election officials as they work to implement the new federal provisions that mandate states establish a statewide computerized voter registration list by January 2006. For more information go to www.lvw.org/newsletters

LWV HONORS SIX SCHOOLS FOR MOCK ELECTIONS

Six schools from across the nation and one local League were presented with the National Student/Parent Mock Election Awards during the League of Women Voters Council of Leaders meeting in Washington DC in June. This award recognizes the recipients' innovative and effective work during the 2004 election season.

The groups that received the award include: The Albany Park Community Center of Chicago, Illinois; Bassett Elementary School of Van Nuys, California; Brighton Central School District of Rochester, New York; Jackson Street School of Northampton, Massachusetts; League of Women Voters of Moscow, Idaho; St. Paul Lutheran School of Grafton, Wisconsin and the Oakland School of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

League of Women Voters, Clermont County, Ohio Officers

President:

Vice President: Cathy Gatch
CGatch@cinci.rr.com

Vice President:

Treasurer: Brenda K Johnson
Brenda_K_Johnson@keybank.com

Secretary: Tina Breuer
My3walkers@yahoo.com

Membership: Carol Glotfelter
Glotfelter@fuse.net

Internal Communications: Jessica Creed
JCreed2@cinci.rr.com

Publicity: Sondra Katkin
SKatkin@cinci.rr.com

Now You're 18: Mary Sue Roberts
Home0834@aol.com

Voter Editor: Leslie Massey
masseyle@oplin.org

Historian: Bob Funk
rcfunk@fuse.net

Suffragist Dinner: Cynthia Macke
IsaacMacke@fuse.net

Phonathon: Jackie Harley
HartleyJ@cinci.rr.com

Voter Services: Cyndy Wright
Cyndy.wright@firstclermont.com

Time Sensitive Materials – Please Open Immediately

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

LWV of Clermont County Membership Form

Individual Membership _____ \$45, Household Membership _____ \$65, Student _____ \$25

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Make check payable to LWVCC and mail to:

P. O. Box 733

Milford, OH 45150

For more information call

Carol Glotfelter, 513/943-9429