

The Voter

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

League of Women Voters Clermont County

LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Receptions, Eastgate

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Business Meeting

- State of the League Report
- By-Laws Changes
- Adoption of 2007-2008 LWVCC Budget
- Election of Officers and Directors
- Recognition of 2006-2007 Officers and Directors

Registration & Dinner \$15.00

Registration & Business Meeting Only, no charge

Register by May 18.

To register online www.lwvclermont.com

(you can pay online with a credit card)

or call Carol Glotfelter at 513/943-9429 or e-mail Carol at glotfelter@fuse.net

President's Message:

Here it is the end of my two year term. It has been very warding, exciting, interesting, heartbreaking, and a million other emotions rolled into one.

We have held forums in many communities, one very interesting night that almost came to blows, held very successful candidates nights in which we invited the candidates and the public to come and mingle, and programs on very exciting topics from Land Use, Senior Services, to Eminent Domain. We even had an Iraq War Veteran come and talk about his service to our country.

We have made the hard decisions to move the location of the meetings, increase dues and make By-Laws changes.

And the hardest part was losing three every valued friends and League members, Almeda Stitt, Carol Rogers and Roberta Windle.

I have had the privilege to attend one National Convention and two State Conventions, plus State House Day and Presidents training several times, meeting Leaguers from all across the state and country and learning they are that they are vibrant, dedicated women and men who are working hard to preserve the principals of the League.

After two years of proudly serving as President of the League of Women Voters Clermont County, I am just now beginning to figure out what we are supposed to be doing!!! Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving in this capacity. I also want to thank all the women & men who served as Officers & Directors, working hard and volunteering many, many hours in preparing for our meetings and events. I have met and worked with and made friends with so many wonderful citizens of Clermont Co. I have been much enriched.

Thank you again.

Nancy Middleton, President
League of Women Voters Clermont Co.



Dear League Member,

As we approach the 50th Birthday of our Clermont League of Women Voters, your fellow Clermont League Members are busy at work planning for the presentation of 2007 Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award to be presented at the Suffragist Dinner on August 28. This award recognizes Clermont County women who make a significant contribution to their community through their volunteer efforts. We are asking for the help of all League members in identifying women who should be among the award nominees this year. Here is how you can help with this important community event.

Submit a nomination for the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award. You can link right to the nomination form at http://www.lwvclermont.com/award_nomination.htm. Forward the nomination form to those groups or organizations, with whom you have a relationship, that are volunteer in their work or utilize volunteers, and ask them to consider nominating one of their key volunteers for this honor. The rate of return on nominations increases significantly when there is a relationship between the asker and the askee.

Your doing these two things shouldn't take a lot of your time, and will help the committee tremendously. Nominations are due no later than June 22, but why not get a jump on it and turn your nominations in by the May 22nd Annual Meeting?

Take a few seconds to mark these the three dates mentioned in this letter on your calendar:

August 28	Clermont League of Women Voters Suffragist Dinner
June 22	Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award Nominations Due
May 22	Clermont League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Please contact me with your questions, suggestions, to offer your help on the Suffragist Dinner Planning Committee. Our deepest thanks.

Your 2007 Suffragist Dinner Committee

Carol Glotfelter	Brenda Johnson
Cathy Gatch	Nancy Middleton
Regina Theilman	Karen Scherra
Cyn Macke	Cyndy Wright
Debbie Siegroth	

8-Points for Redistricting Reform

The League of Women Voters of Ohio

March 10, 2007

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has long advocated for the use of a bipartisan process and nonpartisan criteria in determining Ohio's electoral districts for state and national representatives. 2007 offers a new opportunity for redistricting reform. The League of Women Voters of Ohio reaffirms its criteria for electoral districts and the process used to define them.

Background

Issues

Ohio has a long history of partisan gerrymandering; that is, carving out legislative districts with safe seats that protect incumbents *and* certain districts for each party. The party in control of drawing district lines, whether for state or national seats, designs the districts to maximize the number of safe seats for its party. It also provides a few safe seats for the opposition party by drawing a small number of districts that highly concentrate the opposition party's voters. The Voting Rights Act has been used to concentrate minority voters into a small number of districts, as well.

Consequences of Gerrymandering

Ohio has one of the largest disconnects—nationwide—between how we vote and who gets elected. An oft-cited statistic about the effect of Ohio's gerrymandered electoral districts is that even though more than half (53%) of Ohioans' votes in the 2006 U.S. congressional races went to Democratic candidates, only about one-third (39%) of the seats went to Democrats and almost two-thirds (61 %) went to Republicans.

As a result of gerrymandering, the state legislature and national congressional delegation do not proportionally reflect the political affiliations of Ohio voters. The only real choice voters have in gerrymandered districts is a choice between their party's candidates in the primary elections. With gerrymandered "safe seats" throughout the state, only voters of the majority party in the district really have the opportunity to determine who is elected. Other voters in the district have, literally, no chance of electing a representative.

Eight Criteria for Redistricting Reform

1. The redistricting process must be transparent to the public, and the public must have meaningful involvement.

- Meetings of the group(s) responsible for redistricting must be subject to Ohio's Sunshine law.
- Records of the group(s) must be subject to Ohio's Open Records law.
- The data needed to draw the maps should be publicly available on a website.
- Maps must be accepted from anyone who wishes to submit one and must be fairly considered and judged by consistent criteria.
- A narrative should accompany the map selected justifying why it was selected.

2. A bipartisan commission comprised of an odd number of members should determine U.S. congressional and state legislative district lines.

3. Districts *must* comply with relevant portions of the U.S. and Ohio constitutions, all applicable state and federal laws--including the national Voting Rights Act protecting minority representation--and precedents such as "one person, one vote." The Voting Rights Act must not be used to marginalize minority voters by overpacking them into one district.

4. Districts *must* be contiguous and bounded by a single non-intersecting line.

5. Districts *must not* be drawn to purposefully advantage any political party or any incumbent.

6. Two primary values should be maximized in drawing district lines: compactness and competition.

- Compact districts permit persons in communities of interest to have the same representative.
- Competitive districts ensure that voters have a choice between different political ideologies.

7. Local political boundaries should be respected. That is, counties, municipalities and townships should be represented by the same person to the extent possible.

8. Discretion in the redistricting process must be minimized. Although it is nearly impossible to take the politics out of the redistricting process, non-discretionary criteria will limit partisan manipulation.

Membership Committee

Hello Everyone!

It is time to end the year and remember what we have done over that year.

The membership committee has started a door prize drawing at every meeting.

We have signed up a lot of new members over this year and we hope to retain those new members in the future years to come. We know that everyone is busy and can not attend every single meeting but the fact that you choose to join as a member shows your support for the mission we are trying to accomplish with the League of Women Voters Clermont Co.. As with any type of club or group, you get the most interest and members by word of mouth. Every time I talk about the League to people they seem interested to know what we do.

We need to reach out to the community and get the voters informed. If people are not voters we need to get them to be voters. We need to pull together and make this

League strong and touch the lives of the people in Clermont County. There are and always will be uninformed people but it is our responsibility to try and inform as many people as possible.

Most of us attend a church, talk to people at the workplace, see people in the stores we shop,

talk to people at the gym or classes we may take. Take advantage of these opportunities every

time you get a chance. Let's continue to make the Clermont League of Women Voters a great League to be a part of. We have so much to gain by working together toward this great cause of knowledge. We need to know how important our right to vote is because there was a day we did not have this right.

We have a lot to be proud of this year. There are three of us going to convention in Akron the first weekend in May, and three of us went to statehouse day in April. If anyone has some free time and wants to volunteer we always have things we can use help with, just contact any board member.

Thanks for a great year and I look forward to serving you again next year.

Tricia A Louis Tricialou3677@yahoo.com

Tricia Louis, chair

Carol Glotfelter, member

The membership committee is pleased to announce that we have 75 dues paying members for 2006-2007. Of these 19 were new members. We took a couple of different approaches this year. The year started off on a very positive note as we focused more on membership at the August Suffragist event. In addition, Tricia offered door prizes at many regular meetings. New Member packets were mailed to new members in January.

Below are our 19 new members ... welcome to the League!

Mary A. Benoski

Jesse Dunbar

Carol Heusner

Deborah Schafer

Mia Supe

Diane Zuk

Linda & Toni Bloom

Rebecca Ford

Glenda Neff

Karen J. Scherra

Regina Theilman

Mary Ann Hudson

Tricia Burke

Mae Hannah

Senator Tom Niehaus

Judge James Shriver

Joe & Patti Uecker

Judith Miller

Calendar

August 28

11th Annual Suffragist Dinner
& Celebrating the 50th Anniversary
of LWV Clermont

September 25

Town Hall Event

October 23

Candidates Night

November 27

General Meeting

December

No scheduled meeting





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

Officers and Directors 2006-2007

President - Nancy Middleton Nancy@theprintingplaceinc.com
Co-Vice President - Cyndy Wright chwright@parknationalbank.com

Co-Vice President - Amy Brewer abrewer1@cinci.rr.com
Treasurer - Brenda K. Johnson Brenda_K_Johnson@keybank.com
Secretary - Carol Glotfelter Glotfelter@fuse.net

LWV Clermont County Elected Directors

Membership - Tricia Louis tricialou3677@yahoo.com
Internal Communications - Cathy Gatch CGatch@cinci.rr.com
Publicity - Sondra Katkin SKatkin@cinci.rr.com
Voter Services - Mary Wolf bosswoman@cinci.rr.com
Vanessa Hanna vhannah2@yahoo.com
Now You're 18 - Mary Sue Roberts Home0834@aol.com
Voter Editor - Leslie Massey MasseyL@oplin.org

LWV Clermont County Appointed Directors

Historian - Bob Funk RCFunk@fuse.net
Suffragist Dinner 2006 - Cyn Macke IsaacMacke@fuse.net
Phonathon - Jackie Hartley HartleyJ@cinci.rr.com

