

Voter

From The President,

The leaves are turning, soon the snow flakes will be falling and Votes have been cast. It has been a very busy season for the League of Women Voters Clermont County

We are working very hard on the Town Hall meeting and with the help of LWVOH, promises to be very exciting. More information will come in January and then at the Town Hall Meeting in April. Watch your voter and the state and local website for more information.

We also conducted a very successful Candidates & Issues night with candidates coming from across the county and across the state to speak to the members and LWVC and also the citizens of Clermont County. Attendance was nearly 100. (See Elizabeth Fiene's article below)

The membership committee has been hard at work and new memberships and arriving along with renewals and also renewals from members who have been away for 3 or 4 years. It's a good year for LWVC. Thank you all for your continued support of the league. Tricia Louis and Carol Glotfelter have been doing a fantastic job of bringing in new members and creating excitement about belonging to the league. They have also been able to secure donations of gift baskets and other items to be given away as door prizes. Thank you ladies for your hard work. Its time now for each member to bring a new member to league. Help our membership grow.

We are already hard at work completing a new membership directory and plans are to have it published before the end of December. Please remember to send in your dues so that you will be listed. Sondra Katkin has been busy securing advertisement for the directory. Again I challenge the membership. If each member will sell just one ad in the directory, the cost of printing will be covered. Call Sondra at 831-2429 for more information.

Voter services will be up dating the Directory of Public Officials and publication should be completed by the beginning of 2007. Hopefully we will be able to find a financial partner to help offset the cost of printing this year. Thanks to Vanessa Hanna and Mary Mackley Wolf.

Cyndy Wright and Amy Brewer, Co-Vice Presidents and Program Chairs have been busy planning an exciting schedule of programs for LWVC 2006-2007. Please plan to attend each and every meeting. (see schedule of meetings and programs in this newsletter)

Mary Sue Roberts is in need of volunteers to help with the "Now Your 18" program. We need members to introduce the program and the attorneys who are participating. These are usually early morning meetings and we are short of volunteers to participate. Call

Mary Sue Roberts at 831-6144. (For an idea of what the program entails, read Elizabeth Fiene's article "Get Involved: Now You're 18" in this newsletter.)

The location of our meeting might change at the beginning of the year. Our attendance at regular meetings had dropped to such a low number that unless our attendance exceeds 20 we will have to find a new location. We have talked to Union Township and can meet in one of their room at no charge. I would hope that we can continue meeting at Receptions. I enjoy sitting do to a meal and visiting with my league friends for the hour prior to the meetings. This time is very important to the unity of our group and helps make us unique around the state. LWV Clermont is one of only a couple leagues that gather for a meal prior to their meeting. The cost of a meal is only \$15.00. This is the cost to us from Receptions so we aren't making a profit. Members can always come at 7:00 pm for the program only if they do not wish to have dinner and there is still no cost for our programs.

See you Nov 28,

Nancy Middleton, President
League of Women Voters Clermont

Suffragists Roots in the Anti-Slavery Movement
League of Women Voters of Clermont County, Ohio
Program: November 28, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Receptions, Eastgate

Gary L. Knepp, author and historian, will present "Clermont County Women and the Struggle for Freedom during the Anti-Slavery Movement" on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clermont County League of Women Voters monthly meeting.

Gary's extensive research in Clermont County on the Abolitionist movement has revealed that the earliest suffragists in the county were instrumental in taking an active role in this major issue in the community in their day by signing petitions against slavery. Learn about Elizabeth Archard Conner of New Richmond who was the first woman to earn a Master's Degree from Antioch College in Yellow Springs. A journalist for the Cincinnati Gazette, she was also the first female editor of the Associated Press in New York and a female war correspondent.

Gary's most recent book is titled "Freedom's Struggle: a Response to Slavery from the Ohio Borderlands." Knepp is the Assistant Public Defender for Clermont County and is a sole practitioner in the areas of criminal, family, landlord/tenant and general civil law. He has presented many papers on local history, delivered speeches to historical societies and written several books on local history with emphasis on the Civil War.

Brochures with information on the Clermont County Freedom Trail will be available.

Join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. with the program following at 7:00 p.m. The cost for dinner is only \$15.00. The program is free. Seating is limited so make your reservations now by contacting Brenda Johnson at 576-5264 or you may make your reservation online at <http://www.lwvclermont.com>.

Become Involved in League of Women Voters

(Enquirer October 5, 2006 Community Press Guest Columnist: Amy Brewer)

My name is Amy Brewer. Most of you know me as a council member for the city of Milford. I serve on several boards including the Clermont County League of women Voters, as the co-vice president. This is my second term as vice president, my fourth year as a member.

I am writing this article for one reason. I want to urge women and men, (yes, I said men, we have several men in our organization,) to become involved in the League.

It's no secret that our membership is at an all time low, and I find that very frustrating. So I've asked myself, why? Why are we dying off? Why can't we get people involved in their community? Do people not understand what the League does? I must have asked this question out loud because my husband simply said that the League is nothing but a bunch of women lobbyist sitting around a table deciding how to vote and who to vote for. That couldn't be further from the truth. You know what's even scarier than him saying that? That there are more people out there, other than my husband, who feel the very same way. So here it is folks, let me set the record straight.

We are anything but lobbyist and we certainly don't sit around and decide who and what to vote for! The League to me is like a continuing educational course. Every month I get to have dinner with some of the most interesting, progressive, articulate, intellectual women that I've ever met. After dinner we have our general meeting which could be anything from a guest speaker on a topic such as eminent domain, green space, or patriotism to a game of Jeopardy with the answers relating to Clermont County's government.

Every November we have a candidates' night where you may come and meet your elected officials and ask them questions. It's an opportunity that you just shouldn't pass up. Now you may say, "I can't come, I'm too busy, and I had to work all day. The kids have soccer." Well I say, make the time to do something for you. It's once a month. Once a month you come out and participate and take advantage of what the League has to offer. There is power in learning at any age.

I joined the League for one reason. I wanted to be a member of an organization that encouraged the public to engage in issues that were important to them and their community, yet remain nonpartisan. That's why I joined the League. I urge you to become involved. I urge you to become aware of the issues that are surrounding your community and get involved in the ones that are important to you. Do it for your neighborhood. Do it for your children. But most importantly, do it for yourself.

Membership Committee Report

By: Tricia A. Louis, Membership Chair

As fall is here, we are trying to get everyone's membership dues paid. We have a great many renewals and some new memberships. We hope if you haven't sent yours in yet, you will consider doing so. If you know someone who may be interested, please bring them to a meeting and share with Amy Brewer's column from the Community Press. Our President, Nancy Middleton will answer any questions someone may have about joining the League. I have found that word of mouth is the best form of communication. I will keep trying to bring in new ideas for increasing membership and your help is always welcome. Thank you.

October 24, 2006 -Candidates and Issues Night

By Elizabeth Fiene

Many of the candidates for local election in November were out in full force on October 24 for Candidates Night sponsored by the Clermont County League of Women Voters at Receptions Eastgate. An audience of approximately 80 people gathered to meet and hear local candidates express their political views on the issues of the election.

Following an enjoyable buffet of appetizers and drinks, the program began with an update from the new assistant director of the Clermont County Board of Elections, Judy Miller. Ms. Miller shared information about the new absentee ballot process, which has been greatly simplified and broadened. Any registered voter may now vote absentee before an election in Ohio. Ms. Miller then outlined the new requirements for voter identification. All voters must show identification at the polls before voting. Details about this are available from the Board of Elections.

Each candidate or a representative was then allowed five minutes to introduce themselves and their political positions. When each candidate had had a turn at the podium, the floor was opened to screened questions from the audience. Questioning covered a broad range of topics, including fiscal management of County funds, the environment, illegal aliens, jobs in Ohio, and Planned Parenthood. Other questions centered on a two political party system in Clermont County and the accuracy of media reports concerning candidates. Health care issues and Medicare for senior citizens were also broached by the audience.

The candidates included campaigners for Clermont County auditor, Clermont County Court of Common Pleas, State Treasurer, State Representative, Ohio Governor, and the United States House of Representatives.

Susan B. Anthony Lunch

The League of Women Voters, Cincinnati Area are in the process of planning their Susan B. Anthony Lunch. The Lunch and program will be at the Phoenix on Saturday, February 17, 2007. The featured speaker will be Dr. O'Dell Owens, Corner will talk about "Caring for Our Children". Special Guest: Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary) Founder of Operation Respect, an Anti-bullying program will also be present. League members from Clermont County are welcome to attend and more information about the Lunch will be available in upcoming *Voter* issues.

Orpha Gatch Citizen Award Speech

The September issue of the LWV Voter contained an article about the Suffragette Dinner and Awards Event. Below is the text of the speech given by the 2006 Orpha Gatch Citizen Award Winner, Regina Theilman.

“I am honored just to be included with this group of ladies. I am sure that Orpha Gatch never dreamed that there would be an award named after her. I am just as sure that she passionately believed in giving women the right to vote. Each of us is driven to volunteer when we passionately believe that SOMETHING needs to be done. Our reward is seeing that “something” evolve into quite SOME THING. Winning the right to vote has evolved into the possibility of a women president. Who knows what OUR own volunteer efforts will evolve into? Not a one of us volunteers with the thought of any recognition in mind. The Shaws, Dan, Mona, Katie and Lily, nominating me has touched me in a way I will never forget. I am humbled to be included in the group of recipients of this award. Thank you.”

Get Involved: Now Your 18

By Elizabeth Fiene

One of the leading tasks of the League of Women Voters is that of civic education. The League is motivated to teach the responsibilities and privileges of good citizenship and to keep the populace informed on civic issues. The Clermont County League of Women Voters accomplishes this in part through a program called; *Now You're 18*. *Now You're 18* is designed for high school seniors, in order to give them a beginning knowledge of the responsibilities that become theirs when they reach the age of 18.

The program consists of visits to Clermont County high schools by 2-3 people, one of whom is a League member. The League member takes a few minutes to introduce the program and her fellow speakers, and then briefly explains voter registration. The greater part of the program is given to the remaining speakers. These speakers are usually prominent members of the Clermont County legal system. Lawyers, judges, and law enforcement officers have all given their valuable time to talk with teens about contract laws, driving laws, marriage laws, landlord/tenant issues, and military requirements. Young people are always absorbed with the opportunity to ask questions about the civic responsibilities of adulthood and the discussions are often lively and entertaining.

Occasionally it has been possible for a naturalized U.S. citizen to take part in the programs. People who come to the United States seeking a better life in a new country always have fascinating stories to tell about their decisions to become citizens of this country.

Now You're 18 is a complicated program to arrange in all our high schools, coordinating League members and speakers. However, it serves a valuable function in enlightening our young adults on the meaning of citizenship. If you'd like to become involved in this worthwhile effort, please contact Mary Sue Robers at 513-831-6144, or email HOME0834@aol.com

imPACT...Political Accountability for Citizens Today

The Ohio League of Women Voters has been awarded a grant to conduct the project imPACT ... Political Accountability for Citizens Today. The program is designed to collect citizen opinions on specific topics from about twenty leagues around the state. LWVCC has offered to be one of these leagues. The topics for this program are: Accountability, Election Laws, Judicial Reform, Redistricting and Campaign Finance. The local league can choose to address all 5 or select from this list.

LWVCC would partner with other local organizations to help in getting the 150-200 citizens to attend the event. League members as well as other organization members would be needed to act as discussion leaders in small groups. Ann Nelson from the state League trained Cyndy Wright and Amy Brewer on the program. Sherry Hayes from the Cincinnati League of Women Voters also received training.

As we prepare for this exciting event, information about the project will be discussed at upcoming League meetings and updates made available through the *The Voter*.

Amy and Cyndy suggested that the September meeting be devoted to explaining the concept to LWVCC with the intent of gaining support from the membership for this activity. The board agreed with this approach. Cyndy agreed to write a statement each month about the event that could be included in *The Voter* or mailed to the membership to keep everyone excited and informed about the April event.

If you'd like more information about the imPACT project, check out their website at www.ohioimpact.org The website contains in-depth information on redistricting, campaign finance, accountability, election law and judicial reform. Citizens have the opportunity to learn about these issues from the League, and can connect to other reliable, non-partisan sources of information. The website includes basic information about how Ohio government works and how to contact elected officials.

Upcoming LWVCC Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Topic</u>
November 28, 2006	Suffragette Roots in the Anti-Slavery Movement
December TBD	Annual Holiday Party
January 27, 2007	Update on IMPACT...the April Town Hall Event
February 27, 2007	Jeopardy or "Know your Government"
March 27, 2007	Eminent Domain Update
April 24, 2007	Town Hall... IMPACT Event
May 29, 2007	Annual Meeting

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

LWV Clermont County Officers	
Officers	
President - Nancy Middleton	Nancy@theprintingplaceinc.com
Co-Vice President - Cyndy Wright	Wright@firstclermont.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	Masseyle@oplin.org
LWV Clermont County Appointed Directors	
Historian - Bob Funk	RCFunk@fuse.net
Suffragist Dinner - Cynthia Macke	IsaacMacke@fuse.net
Phonathon - Jackie Hartley	HartleyJ@cinci.rr.com

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