



# VOTER

A Publication of The League of Women Voters Clermont County Ohio

September 2006

## Theilman Wins Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award

Inspired by her son, Regina Theilman has done everything she can to give a group of students, who are often ignored, the attention and opportunities they deserve.

Theilman was chosen the Clermont County League of Women Voter's 2006 Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award winner for her efforts to organize a parent group in Milford devoted to providing enrichment activities for gifted students.

Theilman was selected from eight woman whose volunteer efforts are making a difference in Clermont County and are reminiscent of Orpha Gatch and other early suffragettes.



"Each of these women are caring, generous, get-it-done women," said Nancy Middleton, president of the LWV.

This made it all the more difficult for Theilman to believe when her name was called as the winner.

"I was shocked," she said. "I was up there with a group of women who I thought had done much more important things than I had."

Not that Theilman doesn't think of her work as important. In fact, it is one of the most important things in her life since it has all grown from her son, Brad.

When Brad was identified as a gifted student, Theilman knew she wouldn't be able to rely on the school because of funding cuts, so she took matters into her own hands.

"There are no laws saying gifted students have to be serviced. They have to be identified, but they do not have to be serviced in the school," she said. "We would never want to take away from the other end of the spectrum but there are laws to protect (those students)."

Theilman realized that with limited funds, the district would not be able to provide as many enrichment programs for Brad as she would want, and guessing that other parents would feel the same, she organized the Milford Academic Boosters.

The boosters allow gifted students to meet outside school for additional activities as well as helping parents of gifted students.

"When a parent first finds out their child is gifted there are all sorts of things that go through their minds. Is this a plus? Is this a minus?" she said. "The more information they have, the better parent they can be."

The Milford Academic Boosters has organized speakers, classes and several activities.

One such activity is The Summit, which allows students to get an advance understanding of government by developing and proposing a bill for mock legislature. This program is in its third year.

The next big project is expanding the group started by Theilman in Milford to the rest of the county. She believes groups like this will make big changes with the priority placed on gifted students

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# League Celebrates “A Decade of Dedication”

Can you believe it was 10 years ago that Sue Craig chaired the 1st Annual Suffragist Event, named in honor of Orpha Gerrans Gatch? That 1997 event honored 13 Clermont County women who embodied the spirit and dedication of Mrs. Gatch, and celebrated the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Clermont County League has been honoring amazing women in Clermont County for 10 years.

It was great to see so many of our League members at the Tenth Annual Suffragist Event. Thank you for your part in helping our league host this important community event. A very special thanks to Sue Craig, who took on the challenge of getting our past Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award winners to the dinner. The planning committee, Cyndy Wright, Brenda Johnson, Carol Glotfelter, Cathy Gatch, Nancy Middleton, Liz Fiene, Tina Mills, and Cyn Macke are pleased to share these results of the event.

- Eight Outstanding Clermont County Women were honored as nominees for the 2006 Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award: Jo Ann Beamer, Wanda Downey, Carolyn Maupin, Kathy McRoberts, Kathleen Rodenberg, Jean Schmidt, Margaret Terwillegar and Regina Theilman
- Regina Theilman, who has made a significant in the lives of Milford School children, was selected as

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## The Now You're 18

The Now You're 18 program will start with a letter to the schools to inform them the program will be available this year. Anyone interested in participating in this program will be welcomed with open arms. This could involve contacting attorneys to speak, contacting schools for dates and times convenient to all persons involved, introducing a speaker ( 5 minutes is all we want so the speaker can use the time), coordinating books to schools for program, signing up new voters, and other if necessary. It very rewarding to see and hear the students and speakers relating on these vital issues.

Please contact MARY SUE ROBERTS at 831-6144 or e-mail HOME0834@AOL.COM.

- the 2006 Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award Winner
- As the League's primary annual fundraiser, the event generated a net income of \$3040
- Attendance was 187
- Fifty five program advertisements were purchased
- Sponsorships included 1 major sponsor, 1 event sponsor, 13 table sponsors and 13 in kind sponsors.

Your league needs your help related to the Suffragist Dinner. First of all, if you missed out on this year's event, please, please, please set the time aside if at all possible, and help your league host next year's event. You will be so proud of your league when you see this wonderful event. Secondly, we are in need of a few new committee members for next year. The committee starts working on the Suffragist Dinner just after the first of the year. And thirdly, we would like to have your input as we work to create written criteria for the Orpha Gatch Citizenship Award. If you have seen the nomination form, you have seen the only written criteria that exist. There is a need to get a committee together to work on written criteria before the planning begins for the 2007 dinner. If you would like to send your input or serve on the committee, please contact Nancy Middleton.

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## Phone Tree

Volunteers are needed to man the League Phone Tree. In past years, before the internet, the League members formed a Phone Tree to alert members to events or meetings. In recent years the phone tree has faded into the sunset. We would like to see the phone tree active again. In a phone tree, there are several people designated to make phone calls. The more volunteers the fewer phone calls each person needs to make. We had approximately 80 members last so we would need about 15 volunteers who would make 6 - 8 calls to other members. You would need to be available at least once a month to remind members of the next meeting and occasionally an additional call. To volunteer for the phone tree, call Cathy Gatch at 831-0412 or e-mail her at cgatch@cinci.rr.lcom

# Theilman

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in the future.

“At some point the gifted will be serviced, and it will be because we had parent groups starting grass-roots

Campaigns to get them serviced,” she said. “We don’t want to take away anything from anyone, but it’s time we get what we deserve.”

For Theilman it all comes back to helping her son, being recognized for that is just a bonus.

“No one volunteers with the thought of being recognized so just to be nominated was a feather in my cap. I was so thrilled,” she said. “I still just can’t believe it.”

## Program Schedule

September 26 — 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 are: Accountability, Election Laws, Judicial Reform, Redistricting and Campaign Finance. The local league can choose to address all 5 or select from this list.

Explaining the concept to LWVCC with the intent of gaining support from the membership for this activity. Information will be included in The Voter or mailed to the membership to keep everyone excited and informed about the April event.

Other meetings:

- October 24 – Candidate Forum
- November 28 – Patriotism
- December TBD – Holiday Party
- January 23 – Update on imPACT ... the April Town Hall event
- February 27 – Jeopardy or “Know Your Government”
- March 27– Eminent Domain Update
- April 24 – Town Hall ... imPACT Event
- May 29 – Annual meeting

# Membership

Hello everyone. It’s time to get the new year started. Invoices have been mailed to all current members and many have already renewed.

As the new membership chair, I would like to see increased membership for the upcoming year and the future years to come. We do realize that everyone has very busy and hectic lives already, but we are not asking that you make it to every monthly meeting, just the fact that you become a member and get involved with our cause.

Of course the members that can make it to the monthly meetings and bring a friend to the meetings need to be rewarded. So in September everyone who brings a guest to our meeting will be entered into a drawing to win a surprise!! For the first three meetings of this year we have lowered the price of the dinner back down to \$15.00. We do hope this helps some people to come back to the meetings who have not been attending.

Any other thoughts on increased dinner ideas please contact any board member . I can be reached on my cell phone 513-502-0203, if I do not answer please leave a message and I will call you back as soon as possible. My home phone is 513-752-3677 any and all comments are always welcome. Let’s have a great 2007 year !! Thank you, Tricia A, Louis

## Sympathy

Carol Rogers passed away May 12

Roberta Windel passed away August 8

Both were long time League members and will be missed by family and friends.

## Get Well

Marion Funk has had both knees replaced

Sue Craig had one knee replaced

Marge Dunnom fell and broke a hip

Greg Hollister suffered a heart attack



League of Women Voters Clermont  
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**Position**

**Term Expires**

**Officers & Committee Chairs**

President	(2 yr term) 2007	Nancy Middleton
Vice President	(1 yr term) 2007	Amy Brewer & Cyndy Wright
Secretary	(2 yr term) 2007	Carol Glotfelter
Treasurer	(2 yr term) 2007	Brenda Johnson

**Directors**

Director	(2 yr term) 2007	Mary Wolff & Vanessa Hanna	Voter Services
Director	(2 yr term) 2007	Mary Sue Roberts	Now You're 18
Director	(2 yr term) 2008	Tricia Louis	Membership
Director	(2 yr term) 2008	Cathy Gatch	Internal Communications/Membership
Director	(2 yr term) 2008	Sondra Katkin	Publicity
Director	(2 yr term) 2007	Leslie Massey	Voter Editor

**Appointed Directors**

Appointed Directors	(1 yr term) 2006	Cyn Macke	2005 & 2006 Suffragist Dinner
Appointed Directors	(1 yr term) 2007	Bob Funk	Historian
Appointed Directors	(1 yr term) 2007	Jackie Hartley	Phonathon Chair