



THE LEAGUE

OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

THE VOTER

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Visit LWVCA on

September 2012

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all men and women over 18. For information call 513-281-8683, or write to the LWVCA office at 103 Wm H Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219, or email at info@lwvcincinnati.org.

LWV DIVERSITY POLICY

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

The LWVCA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS – HOT TOPICS

- ✓ *Electing the President*
- ✓ *Ohio Redistricting*
- ✓ *LWVCA Strategic Plan*

For our September unit meetings, we will be discussing how to move forward with the publication “**Electing the President** - A Guide to the Election Process,” produced by the League of Women Voters in cooperation with the Newspapers in Education Institute. A local “Electing the President” committee has been hard at work developing materials based on this publication to be used by schools, civic groups, and League chapters across the country – see the article by Nancy Dawley on page 11. A poster, a PowerPoint presentation and other resources have been assembled and are available at www.lwvca.org/electingpresident. Each unit will

generate ideas on how to further disseminate these materials to the general public. In addition we will discuss strategies for responding to deceptive and inaccurate campaign advertisements, a huge part of the presidential campaign this year after the Supreme Court *Citizens United* decision on campaign financing.

(Continued on page 2)



HELP EDUCATE VOTERS – WE NEED YOU!

By *Glenda Bernstein, Vice President of Voters Service*

Did you know...we have an election coming up on November 6? The question is a little tongue-in-cheek. Our airwaves, web communications and print media are literally bursting with political topics.

We can't escape the barrage and neither can the general public! I am proud to be a part of LWVCA, a nonpartisan organization whose mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government, to work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

(Continued on page 3)

■ Read the article on gerrymandering on page 4.

■ Don't forget to get your tickets for *Iron Jawed Angels*. 859-957-3456 or www.cincyworldcinema.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By *Shirley Jason, President of the LWVCA*

Dear League Friends,

I was born in Louisville, Alabama, located seven miles from the birthplace of former Governor George Wallace. Governor Wallace made his legacy by blocking school house doors rather than integrating and allowing students of color the opportunity for a higher education at the University of Alabama.

As we move toward this election cycle, let us keep in mind these words spoken by Attorney General Eric Holder to the NAACP:

In short, it is time – yet again – to put our energy and skills to good use – in advocating for the most vulnerable members of society; in protecting the liberty – and the sacred rights – of every single person in this country....

These were the values that a group of patriots first seized upon 236 years ago last week, when they gathered in Philadelphia to draft a declaration that shook the foundations of an empire and set in motion the great American experiment with which we are entrusted today. They are the principles that another generation fought and died to extend, less than a hundred years later, with the abolition of slavery in the aftermath of a terrible Civil War that remade our nation; and the ratification – exactly 144 years ago this week – of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which finally ensured due process, equal protection, and – for the first time – the full rights of citizenship for the African-American people who helped to build this nation and their heirs. Even within our own lifetimes, these are the essential ideals that have driven great leaders and ordinary citizens alike to stand up, to march forward, to reach out a hand, or simply to take a seat – at a lunch counter or the front of a bus, in a classroom or a courthouse – in order to bring about transformative, once-unimaginable progress.

www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-120710.html

The current assault on voting rights is an assault on these ideals. As National Urban League president Marc H. Morial declared, the assault on voting rights affects more than individual rights: “*It has the potential to diminish who we are as a nation,*” he said. “*It’s anti-democratic, anti-freedom, anti-equality, and it seeks to point the compass backward.*” www.defendernetwork.com/urban-league-focuses-on-empowerment/

This election will have a great impact on you, your community—employment, your health, your future.

VOTE THIS NOVEMBER!

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Jason



HOT TOPICS (continued from page 1)

All units will also be given information on the **Voters First** campaign to pass a referendum this fall to reform redistricting by placing it in the hands of an independent citizens’ commission. Learn about the League’s role in placing this issue on the November ballot; why the League feels so strongly about this issue; and how the plan will work if passed. Become informed so that you can help others understand this issue.

In addition, we will have a brief overview of the new **LWVCA Strategic Plan**. We hope you will come to a Unit discussion to learn more and share your thoughts.

The Voter is the official monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA).

Editors: Melissa Currence & Marty Harrington.

Office Staff: Susan Gorman.

Proofer: Marty Harrington.

Layout and design: Kit Berger.

Please submit articles to:
newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org.
Next deadline: Friday 09/07/12
for the October issue

YOU'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION: "USE IT OR LOSE IT!"

By *Nancy Dawley*

Less than 100 years ago, women in America did not have the right to vote. Today, the lengthy struggle to amend the U.S. Constitution is little more than a footnote in our history books. As voter suppression is on the rise in America, it is essential that people of all ages, from all walks of life and of all political persuasions understand the sacrifice and effort in obtaining a basic right that so many take for granted today. It is also essential that the American people diligently exercise – or risk losing – their right to a voice in how our local, state and national governments are run.

LWVCA is promoting voter education in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Area with two screenings of *Iron Jawed Angels*, an HBO film that chronicles the struggle of suffragists who fought for women's right to vote. In conjunction with **Cincinnati World Cinema (CWC)**, the film will be shown on Saturday, September 8 at 4:00 and 7:30 pm at the Carnegie Arts Center, 1028 Scott Blvd., Covington, KY. Joining LWVCA in co-sponsoring this event are **YWCA of Greater Cincinnati, Woman's City Club, American Association of University Women, Cincinnati NOW (National Organization for Women), and Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus.**

Starring Hilary Swank, Anjelica Huston, Julia Ormond and Frances O'Connor, the film recounts the little-told story of how the Women's Suffrage Movement overcame violence, imprisonment, divisive politics and an indifferent president to amend the U.S. Constitution to give women the right to vote. The film is appropriate for all ages from high school up.

Before each screening a social hour will be held in the Gallery of the Carnegie Arts Center with information available about all co-sponsors as well as a cash bar and a-la-carte hors d'oeuvres from the Europa Bistro and café.

After each screening there will be an opportunity to discuss the film and generate ideas on how to impart the urgency of voting throughout our communities. LWVCA members Jane Anderson, Roxanne Qualls, and Kathy Helmbock will join Timothy Swallow, Director of CWC, to ensure a lively discussion.

Please join us for this highly entertaining and extremely inspiring event. Invite your family, friends, and colleagues. Tickets are required for entrance and are available online at www.cincyworldcinema.org or by calling 859-957-3456. A free will donation of \$5 for students and \$10 for adults will be greatly appreciated.



L - R: *Sandra Mowell, Tim Swallow, Nancy Dawley*

EDUCATING VOTERS *(continued from page 1)*

If you are concerned about the rhetoric and would like to do something constructive, consider participating in one or more Voters Service activities. Help is needed year-round, but the pace and volume are heightened during election season, especially during a presidential election year.

Some examples of how you can help:

- Requests for assistance *registering voters* at various locations throughout the area have been coming into the office for several weeks now, and I expect that to increase.
- We will be preparing material for *Who and What of Elections*, and *proofreaders* are needed.
- If past experience is any indication, LWVCA will be contacted by communities and organizations to support candidate forums and debates in the form of *timekeepers and moderators*.
- Each year, LWVCA is asked by many area groups and organizations to *present a balanced summary of the ballot initiatives*.

If you are new at these kinds of activities, mentoring and support are available. To help build skills, LWVCA has offered a speaker training at the League office on August 28. If you missed the meeting but are still interested in learning more, please contact me.

So much is going on right now – voter rights, money in politics, redistricting, partisanship - to name just a few. If you want to add a little clarity and reason to the mix, please lend your time, talents and interests to the League! We can match you to a valuable and rewarding activity – guaranteed!

DO YOU WANT TO ELIMINATE GERRYMANDERING?

By *Julie Zavon*

The referendum will be on the ballot in November, but without significant outreach between now and election day, it won't pass. I'm looking for volunteers to help me with the following:

1. Form a writers group to respond to posts/letters/editorials in major Ohio newspapers. (The head of communications at Voters First has given me a list of newspapers to target. We would need people willing to monitor the papers, and people willing to write responses. I'd be happy to draft a couple of sample letters that people could use or modify to make the task easier.
2. Contact the city's neighborhood associations to see if we can't (1) present briefly on this issue at their September or October meeting and/or (2) give them a 1-page brief summary of the issue to distribute at their meetings in Sept/Oct.

Time is short, and I need your help. Many hands make light work. Please contact **Julie Zavon**.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

By *Mary Kay Gardner, Office Coordinator*

If you would like to be an office volunteer, now would be great time to join us! We have several openings and need to fill them. This will be a very big year for the League and we need someone in the office every weekday morning. Questions come in every day, and we need people who can find the answers or help find someone who can. The public judges the League by our ability to help them out. Please sign up to help.

You would only be asked to come in one day a month, with hours from 9:30 to 1:30. There is training offered, and don't worry about questions asked. I hear that folks worry about questions. There are always answers to be found in the office or you can always say "I'll find you an answer and call you back." There is always help for you in finding an answer. Please do volunteer for this important League job. Call the office or Mary Kay. Hope to hear from you!

GOOD NEWS AND A CALL FOR HELP!

By *Sherrie Heyse, Vice President of Fund Development*

Many thanks to all who responded to our Annual Campaign wrap-up letter in May. So far this summer, we have received a little over \$10,000 from our generous donors to support the mission of the League. Amazingly, this is about what we would have realized had we continued to host the Visions Luncheon. The letter was sent to all LWV members and other members of our community.

The LWVCA Education Fund has received two grants from the Seasongood Foundation. The first is an \$8,000 grant for our nonpartisan Voter Services outreach in the fall before the election. This includes support for the printed *Who and What of Elections Voter Guide*, the online election guide *Smart Voter*, the Voter phone hotline and other educational materials. The budget for these services is a little over \$22,000. The second Seasongood grant, for \$3,600, fully funded our "Electing the President" project. This project is an outreach to educate students and citizens on the process of presidential elections. **Our thanks go to Melissa Currence, Nancy Dawley, Sandra Mowell, Jean Masthay and Sherrie Heyse, our volunteer grant writers.** This support is critical to the mission of the LWV Education Fund.



One of our largest fundraising efforts is the annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon to be held in February. If you would like to work on the committee for this fun event, please call Sherrie Heyse. We need silent auction ideas, helpers to organize tickets and speakers, decorations or planning PR. If you can help in any way, please call Sherrie Heyse.

The Fund Development committee can always use volunteers in grant writing, event planning, letter writing, public speaking, or developing ideas to support the League of Women Voters in our mission to serve the public. Please call Sherrie Heyse, Vice President of Fund Development.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor of *The Voter*:

The article "Salmon—A Consumers' Guide" (in *The Voter* July/August 2012) lacked the balance that is the hallmark of the League's statements on any issue. It is taken verbatim from the website of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The information summarizes a 2004 Monterey Bay Aquarium report that is based on data from 2002 and earlier. By scientific standards as well as the reality of salmon production this is out of date. Before assuming conclusions made in 2004 report are valid in 2012, the information needs to be checked and updated.

More to the point, by what process do we accept the article's broad statements about environmental and human health problems without examining them? What do we know, for instance, about EPA's position regarding the environmental problems? What did the EPA and other relevant regulatory and health authorities (federal and state) say in 2004 about the situation? How have salmon farming practices and environmental regulations evolved since 2002? Similar questions need to be asked about all the website's statements reprinted in *The Voter* regarding human nutrition, toxicology, rations fed to salmon, risks to wild salmon populations, etc. But do we in the League have the expertise to evaluate these issues as we do, for instance, governance issues such as congressional redistricting? If we don't have the necessary technical and scientific expertise to truly evaluate the issues and talk as peers with relevant professionals (e.g., environmental toxicologists, population biologists, etc.), it means we are basing our advocacy on someone else's conclusions because we can't truly assess the information ourselves to arrive at an independent conclusion. If we trust the source, it's tempting to trust their conclusion, but we won't necessarily recognize when data and conclusions are outdated, or one-sided, or watered-down, or slanted by omission of information, or just plain inaccurate. The League does this at its peril. When it backfires, as it did with this reprint on Salmon farming, it ultimately damages the League's credibility. The League runs the same risk with questions about fracking, genetically modified crops, and many other health, environmental, or nutrition issues that require deep expertise in multiple disciplines to assess the facts rather than recycle someone else's conclusions.

Julie Zavon, member

The LWVCA accepts letters to the editor, including diverse views and opinions relating to the items discussed in our newsletter. If you'd like to submit a letter, please send it to newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org or to LWVCA, c/o Voter Editor, 103 Wm Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, OH 45219. Letters reflect the opinion of the author and may not reflect the views or positions of LWVCA. The LWVCA is not responsible for the accuracy of any information supplied in letters to the editor.

IT WILL BE A LONG DAY, BABY, BUT...

By Nancy Forbriger

League members have faithfully helped with voter registration, moderated



candidate forums, produced unbiased election information printed and online, answered phone queries from voters and spoken to groups on ballot issues. However, in addition of all

this commendable work, this year there is one more thing to do...**BE A PRECINCT POLL WORKER on November 6.**

A statewide call has gone out to increase the numbers and quality level of the Election Day teams at the precincts. More emphasis will be on persons trained well in the details of running an accurate, efficient and correctly managed voting place so that every vote will count.

Yes, if your application is accepted you will:

- Attend a 3 hr. training session at time and place convenient for you.
- Be at your polling place the night before the election to help set up,
- Be at your polling place for possibly 15 hours on Election Day.
- Accept up to about \$150.00 for your own budget or to contribute to a favorite charity.
- Be acclaimed and proud that you have performed a valuable civic service.

Bite the Bullet! Step up to the Plate! No whining or excuses!

Call the Hamilton County Board of Elections at 513-632-7000 and say you want to be a poll worker on November 6. Tell your friends to do the same. Each precinct has 2 or 3 workers from each political party, and Independents can volunteer too.

THANK YOU MEMBERS

By *Susan Steele, Membership Services*

Your membership commitment to the League of Women Voters is an essential part of your League's efforts to promote responsible representative governmental decision making, to educate voters, and to improve elections.

We moderate debates between candidates and present forums for discussion of issues. Your League develops plans for advocacy and action through the hard work of your Units and Committees: Your voice continues to be heard! As we tackle and meet these goals, we invite previous and prospective members to join us. Your valuable input is a necessary part of the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area.

We appreciate your continued support! A membership renewal letter and form will be mailed to you in August. Please fill in the form and mail it in with your check, or go online to renew at www.lwvcincinnati.org. An early response will be greatly appreciated.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION IS UP TO DATE!

By *Nancy Dawley, Action Chair*

Nearly 30 percent of people who signed the recent redistricting petition in Hamilton County are registered voters but used an address different from the one on their voter registration. Make sure that your registration is up-to-date so you don't have problems when you try to vote. Voter registration and information update form can be found here:

www.hamilton-co.org/BOE/ and click on [voterregistration/changeofaddressform](http://www.hamilton-co.org/BOE/voterregistration/changeofaddressform). Fill it out and mail to the Board of Elections before the end of September.

You can also update your registration address online at the Ohio Secretary of State's website. Go to www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/elections/Voters.aspx and click "Change My Address Online."



Display at Anderson Library

By *Gail Wick*

The Anderson Unit is busy again! Members **Joan Honeck** and **Sara Johnson** designed the Anderson Library Branch's voting information display, pictured here. The photo was taken by **Sara Johnson**, also of the Anderson Unit.

A LEAGUE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT ON ANDERSON COMMUNITY TELEVISION

By *Gail Wick, Unit Coordinator*

The TV twosome –**Gail Wick** and **Ruth Hardy**—are at it again! This time they did a Public Service Announcement

for Anderson Community Television! It was a 3 ½ minute segment on voting. Gail Wick read letters, emails and phone messages from the public asking questions about voting, and Ruth Hardy answered with all the correct information. They gave answers to everything from "Am I registered?" to "How do I know where to vote?" with many other matters, like voter I.D. requirements, early voting and absentee ballots, in between. This program will be broadcast on AC-TV until the election.



ANDERSON CANDIDATE FORUM: OHIO REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 27

By *Ruth Hardy*

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, Anderson Unit, will be presenting a Candidates' Forum on Tuesday, September 18th at 7:30 PM at the Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road in Anderson Township.

The Forum will be open to the public, and will feature the candidates running for Ohio House of Representatives, District 27: **NATHAN WISSMAN - D** and **PETER STAUTBERG - R**. (District 27 was formerly District 34.) The event will be televised live on Anderson Community Television.

NONPROFIT VOTER ENGAGEMENT TRAINING AT UNITED WAY

By *Nancy Dawley, Action Chair*

OhioVOTES invites those interested to participate in a free nonprofit voter engagement training on September 13, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm at United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

The purpose of the training is to mobilize and motivate the people you serve, plus your staff, board and volunteers to vote. Hear how nonprofits can be active in voter engagement while still following guidelines for 501(c)(3) organizations on being nonpartisan. Learn ways to educate and motivate your constituents and communities to vote and the latest rules on voting in Ohio. Build stronger communities and neighborhoods through nonpartisan voter engagement.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Nonprofit executives, board members, program staff and volunteers. Sign up for the Cincinnati training here: www.tinyurl.com/ohiovotes-cincy.

For more info, contact Cathy Johnston, Program Coordinator at 614-280-1984 ext 25 or cathyjohnston@cohhio.org

OhioVOTES is a project of Coalition of Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) in partnership with the Ohio Association of Food Banks, Ohio Association of Community Health Centers, Public Children's Services Association of Ohio, The George Gund Foundation, the Center for Independent Living Options, Community Shares of Mid Ohio, Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati and the local county boards of elections.

DO YOU KNOW HOW INVESTING WORKS? If so, we need your help

By *Fred Heyse,*

Chair of Investment Committee

Most of you probably know that we have had an Investment Committee that advises the Board on how to manage the various funds: League, Education, and Steiner Funds. This committee meets only quarterly to review our quarter-million-dollar investments and recommend changes to the Board. The Treasurers actually make the transactions so our role is strictly advisory. Current members include **Marjorie Davies, Marcia Togneri, Joan Honeck, Dee Shaffer, Burt Roehr, Shirley Jason,** and **Fred Heyse** (chair). If you are at all interested, please call or write to Fred.

WHAT IS FRACKING? A PRESENTATION BY ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS

By *Nancy Dawley, Action Chair*

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of shale to extract natural gas is in the news almost daily in Ohio. The League will be exploring this technology and its intended and unintended consequences in November buff pages and Unit discussions. Another opportunity to learn about fracking has surfaced for League members.

The Regional Engineers and Scientists (RESC) will be discussing hydraulic fracturing at their lunch meeting on **October 16** at the Evergreen Retirement Community opposite Drake Hospital. **Gene Gardner**, past president of this organization, has invited a limited number of League members (only because of room capacity) to join the discussion. Speaker will be Dr. Michael Miller of the University of Cincinnati, discussing:

- The technology of drilling, including how to drill a hole that bends in desired direction(s)
- An explanation of fracking
- Discussion of water, chemicals, pressure
- Discussion of capture of waste, gas, oil
- The economics to show why fracking is a hot topic
- Environmental impacts of fracking
- Current or pending regulations about fracking.

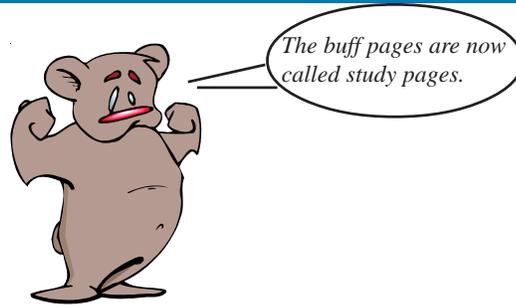
This event will be in three parts:

- Luncheon at 11:30 in the Evergreen dining room (optional, but enjoyable). The cost is \$13 payable by check in advance, no limit to number of guests.
- Presentation on the technology of fracking at 1:00 by Dr. Miller. Free to attend, but reservation required, **limited to 20 guests.**
- Discussion of the pros and cons of fracking with panelists from 2:10 until 3 pm. Free, but reservation required, **limited to 10 guests.**

League members interested should email **Gene Gardner** (GeneGard24@aol.com). He will send those who contact him more information as the date approaches. Reservation can be made up until 10 days beforehand. For more information see www.RESC.org.

STUDY PAGES – ELECTING THE PRESIDENT FOR SEPTEMBER UNITS

Below is information adapted from “Electing the President: A Guide to the Election Process” by the LWVUS and Newspapers in Education Institute. We are renaming the “buff pages” to “study pages” this year. Please study this material before your unit meeting. To see the booklet in full, go to lwvca.org/electingpresident.



Who’s Sponsoring That Ad?

As the presidential campaign season gets under way, television and radio ads will start appearing out of nowhere. Make sure to listen or watch until the end of the ad for the sponsor—and if it’s not a candidate’s campaign, take the whole thing with a grain of salt.

If a radio or TV ad is paid for by a candidate’s organization, it is required to have “My name is X and I approved this ad” (or something similar). That rule passed as part of The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) that was signed into law March 27, 2002 by President George W. Bush. BCRA is intended to make candidates and their campaigns more accountable for what their advertising says.

One of the key pieces of information everyone needs to know when evaluating an ad is: who *is* paying for that ad? This has been standard advice to the voter, but is much easier said than done with the recent Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission*. The floodgates have been opened for an unlimited amount of money to be spent on ads supporting or opposing candidates.

It is helpful to know how the Federal Election Commission (FEC) is applying the decision under current law. The following statements are from the **Electioneering Communications Brochure** available from the FEC:

Portions of this publication may be affected by the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United v. FEC. Essentially, the Court’s ruling permits corporations and labor organizations to use treasury funds to make independent expenditures in connection with federal elections and to fund electioneering communications. The ruling did not affect the ban on corporate or union contributions or the reporting requirements for independent expenditures and electioneering communications. The Commission is studying the Court’s opinion and will provide additional guidance as soon as possible.

*An electioneering communication is any broadcast, cable or satellite communication that fulfills **each** of the following conditions:*

- *The communication refers to a clearly identified candidate for federal office;*
- *The communication is publicly distributed shortly before an election for the office that candidate is seeking; and*

The communication is targeted to the relevant electorate (U.S. House and Senate candidates only).

The job of determining who is paying for an ad and where the money is coming from is Herculean. One place to start is with the records filed with the FEC. Luckily there are other nonpartisan organizations with the skills to help navigate the maze of Super PACs, Labor Unions, Corporations and 501 (c)4 and 6 groups buying these ads and thus subject to filing of information with the FEC.

The Sunlight Foundation works to make government transparent and accountable. The Sunlight Foundation “uses the power of the Internet to catalyze greater government openness and transparency, and provides new tools and resources for media and citizens, alike. [They] are committed to improving access to government information by making it available online... and by creating new tools and websites to enable individuals and communities to better access that information and put it to use.” <http://sunlightfoundation.com/>

Currently there is a lot of spending that does not show up in the FEC files. Anyone trying to track down the source of money for these ads has had to go to the broadcasters themselves and request copies of files the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires broadcasters to keep. This has meant physically going to a station and going through a sometimes lengthy process to get access to these files.

As a result of the recent decision by the DC Court of Appeals in *Van Hollen V FEC*, beginning August 2, 2012 the top four television stations in the top 50 markets must post information online regarding who is paying for political ads. Eventually this new FCC rule will apply to more and more stations, but for this coming election the information available online will be limited as described above. Visit www.bit.ly/Nqqxy4 to see a map that shows which areas are included in the top 50 markets. Cincinnati is ranked 35 in the market so information from our top four broadcast stations should be available.

Sources you may find of interest in your research into this topic are:

- **Follow the Unlimited Money**, a product of the Sunlight Foundation Reporting Group, is a

(Continued on page 9)

searchable database tracking organizations that are paying for ads and other forms of communication. Find it at www.reporting.sunlightfoundation.com/outside-spending/.

· **Influence Explorer** connects the dots of political contributions on the federal and state level allowing you to track influence by lawmaker, company or prominent individual. Find it at www.influenceexplorer.com/.

The average voter who tries to follow this maze of money may be easily frustrated. And finding out the source of money for these political ads is not the only area of concern. Determining their veracity is also a prickly proposition.

If you are able to determine an ad is misleading or patently false what are you to do with that information? Concerned voters can take action in trying to limit the influence of deceptive and inaccurate ads. At the LWVUS Convention 2012, delegates were addressed by Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania. The Center's researchers have drafted materials that help policy-makers, journalists, scholars, constituent groups and the general public better understand the role that media play in their lives and the life of the nation. Jamieson stated that according to their research, "Typically, third party ads have the highest level of deception." Broadcast stations are required to take advertisements from candidates. With the *Citizens United* decision, ads by so-called third parties are becoming more prevalent. These ads are not directly approved by the candidates, and the names of the third parties purchasing these ads are so generic (i.e. American Future Fund, Americans for Prosperity) it is virtually impossible to tell where the money to pay for the ads is coming from.

Jamieson informed the delegates at the convention that **broadcast stations have the right to refuse third party ads and to insist on the accuracy of those they accept.**

From Flackcheck's website: *When a group called "Building a Better Ohio" offered Ohio TV stations a deceptive ad last October, a number of stations exercised their prerogative to insist on the accuracy of so-called third party ads by refusing to air it. Their action reminds us that although, with few exceptions, broadcast stations have to air ads sponsored by candidates seeking such federal offices as the presidency, they are under no obligation to accept outside groups' ads and can insist that any of them they transmit to our living rooms stick to the facts.*

Citizens interested in holding the broadcast stations to this standard are encouraged to participate in flackcheck.org's "Stand by your ad" campaign. You can send a message to your broadcast stations at this website: www.flackcheck.org/stations/

REDISTRICTING

Representative democracy depends on voters freely choosing their elected officials, not elected officials choosing them. The League works to promote transparent and accountable redistricting processes and to end hyper-partisan practices that don't benefit constituents. - League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO)

Districting- Summary of LWVO Position

"Support an impartial districting process with opportunity for citizen participation. Support districts that are compact, contiguous, bounded by a non-intersecting line, and follow political boundaries as much as possible."

This is the premise upon which our LWVO position rests and the basis for LWVCA's part in a petition drive for a ballot measure that would significantly change the way district lines are drawn in Ohio.

LWVO and Voters First Ohio

On Monday, August 6, 2012, Secretary of State Jon Husted's office announced that Voters First collected 406,514 valid signatures, exceeding the 385,253 needed to put the measure on the ballot. The League of Women Voters of Ohio, along with many other organizations, participated in this endeavor.

As part of the total number of valid signatures needed to place the measure on the ballot, petitioners collected signatures from at least 44 of Ohio's 88 counties, and within each of those counties collected enough valid signatures equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the most recent gubernatorial election, 2010. Petitioners for the proposed constitutional amendment met or exceeded the five percent threshold in 60 counties. (<http://newsdemocrat.com/main.asp?SectionID=219&SubSectionID=1375&ArticleID=136150>)

Voters First states that the "proposal emerged after majority Republicans last year drew uncompetitive Congressional and legislative districts that would help keep them in power. Good government groups and Democrats criticized the GOP over the new boundaries and for the secrecy under which the maps were crafted. The solution proposed by Voters First is a 12-member commission to draw new boundaries every 10 years. If approved by voters in November, the plan would go into effect immediately so that the commission would draw a new map in 2013 in time for the 2014 election." www.Votersfirstohio.com

Voters First's proposal will create an Independent Citizens Commission. Politicians, lobbyists and political insiders are prohibited from serving on the commission. The Commission's work will be open and it will be accountable to the public. The Commission will empower voters to choose their politicians instead of politicians picking their voters.

(Continued on page 10)

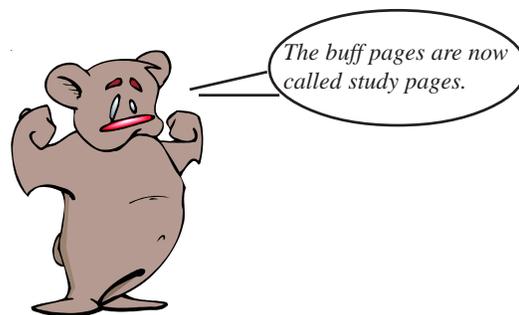
“Let’s Put the Voters First!” Fact Sheet from Voters First

What is the Solution?

Nonpartisan, good government organizations in Ohio, including the League of Women Voters and Common Cause, have proposed a constitutional amendment that would reform Ohio’s redistricting process. With the support obtained through signature collecting, this will now be on the November ballot.

What would the new process look like?

- **Politicians will no longer be able to draw their districts.** Instead, an Ohio Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission, consisting of 12 qualified people, will draw our district boundaries. Politicians, lobbyists, and other political insiders will not be permitted on the commission or to choose who is.
- **The Commission will be politically independent with four Republicans, four Democrats, and four voters not affiliated with either party.** New districts will require the approval of 7 of the 12 commission members. No map can be created to favor a political party, incumbent, or potential candidate.
- **No more backroom deals!** All commission meetings and records, including proposed plans must be public. The commission must consider plans submitted by the public and must provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on proposed plans.
- **Requires fair and objective redistricting practices.** The commission will be required to adopt the plan which best meets the following criteria:
 - o Preserves communities by minimizing splits of counties, cities, and townships
 - o Maximizes the number of competitive districts
 - o Fairly reflects the preferences of the voters of Ohio
 - o Creates compact districts
 - o Reflects the diversity of Ohio



Additional information is available:

On-Line Video: You can watch the video *Gerrymandering 2010* for free by streaming online. Filmed before the latest round of redistricting, the film *Gerrymandering 2010* speaks to the issue of how politicians – sometimes the Democrats and sometimes the Republicans – design Congressional and state districts to give one party an unfair advantage. You’ll also learn how the term “gerrymandering” came into existence!

Go to Hulu at www.hulu.com/watch/255611/gerrymandering

Websites: Voters First at <http://votersfirstohio.com>

LWVO at <http://www.lwvo.org>

Common Cause at <http://www.commoncause.org>

Reshape Ohio at <http://www.ReshapeOhio.org!>

REDISTRICTING WILL BE ON THE BALLOT THIS FALL

By *Melissa Currence*

The Ohio Secretary of State has certificated 406,514 registered voter signatures submitted by Voters First, well above the 385,253 required to qualify for the general election and also meeting the required 5 percent threshold in 60 counties.

Voters First is led by a coalition of nonpartisan groups including the League of Women Voters, and by people from across Ohio. It was created to take the

power over drawing our congressional and legislative districts out of the hands of the politicians and put it in the hands of the people.

“We are grateful for the support of hundreds of thousands of Ohioans who have said it is time to take the power to draw legislative and congressional districts away from the politicians and put it in the hands of the people,” said Voters First Chair, Catherine Turcer, in a press release. “With the certification of our

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ADVOCATES CLARIFY VOTING RULES IN 1-2-3 SERIES

By the League of Women Voters of Ohio

Following months of confusing voter legislation, the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVO) and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) have crafted simple and comprehensive guides that explain how to register to vote and cast a ballot in Ohio in 2012.

The Voting 1-2-3 series includes:

- How to register to vote, including eligibility, deadlines and important reminders;
- Three ways to cast your ballot, including absentee, in-person and at the polls;
- Voter ID, including the documents necessary to cast a ballot;
- Voting for college students, a voting guide using either home or school address;
- Where to go for help, a list of important voting websites and phone numbers.

“We’ve been getting loads of calls from voters who just want the facts,” said Carrie Davis, executive director of the LWVO. “We thought it a good use of time to develop these quick and easy fact sheets in response to the demand we know is out there.”

“Voting is a right for all citizens,” said Cathy Johnston, COHHIO’s OhioVOTES director. “This series helps clarify the process so that every eligible voter can participate in our democracy.”

The guides are available in English and Spanish and can be found on the State League website (www.lwvohio.org) and COHHIO’s OhioVOTES website (www.ohvotes.org).

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

By Melissa Currence

The League of Women Voters is a co-sponsor of National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

On this day volunteers, civic groups, and organizations from all over the country will “hit the streets” for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated effort, technology and media efforts will create awareness of voter registration opportunities.

In 2008, 6 million Americans didn’t vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn’t know how to register.

National Voter Registration Day is a nonpartisan event sponsored by a growing list of nonprofit and civic organizations. Find out more at www.lwv.org and at www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

ELECTING THE PRESIDENT:

Educating The Cincinnati Area and Beyond To Vote

By Nancy Dawley

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area is using the presidential election to educate thousands of area children, youth, and adults on the importance of voting in our democracy. Using the booklet “**Electing the President 2012 – A Guide to the Election Process**” written by the League of Women Voters and Newspapers in Education Institute, LWVCA has created additional school curriculum and meeting discussion materials that were distributed in August to school teachers, college faculty, civic groups, libraries, and Local Leagues throughout the country. Our Speakers’ Bureau is gearing up to assist with fall election programs.

The League partnered with the Cincinnati Art Academy for the artwork of a PowerPoint presentation and a poster. Members will have the opportunity to view this work at September unit meetings. All materials are easy to share with ANYONE interested in promoting voter registration and education. The materials are in a drop box that all can access. www.lwvca.org/electingpresident.

Examine the materials yourselves and become ambassadors of voter education this fall, encouraging people you know to sample “Electing the President 2012” before going to the polls to vote.



Melissa Currence, Megan Volkerding of Art Academy of Cincinnati, and Nancy Dawley

DELEGATE REPORT FROM LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012

By *Sandra Mowell, Delegate to National Convention*

The League of Women Voters National Convention was held June 8-12 in Washington DC. It was attended by **652** voting delegates representing **45** states plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. In addition some **47** non-voting delegates attended. Voting delegates for League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area were **Shirley Jason, Nancy Dawley** and **Randi Ditter**. **Pinky Kocochis, Gail Wick** and **Sandra Mowell** attended as non-voting delegates but during the course of the convention were assigned to other Ohio Local Leagues as their voting delegates.

The theme for convention was “Power the Vote-Imagine, Commit, Act!” A pre-convention workshop featured Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer, founder of AmericaSpeaks and Rick Johnson, Managing Director of Lake Research Partners. Johnson shared data compiled through polling of the general public on their knowledge and impressions of the League of Women Voters.

Lukensmeyer, a former Chief of Staff to Governor

Richard F. Celeste of Ohio, presented information on the town hall type meetings AmericaSpeaks conducts. Their mission is to reinvigorate our nation’s democracy by engaging citizens in the public decision-making that has the greatest impact on their lives. More information can be found at www.americaspeaks.org and www.globalvoices.org.

The business of convention was handled at the daily plenary sessions. Between debates, discussions and votes we were addressed by Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington DC delegate to the US House of Representatives, Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States, and others. (All of the presentations are available for viewing at www.library.lwv.org/events-series/convention-2012.)

The motion to adopt a concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWVDC was approved, as was the motion to adopt the LWVUS Board-recommended comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance. The LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force has been formed and has already issued two publications, “LWVUS Action on Campaign Finance” and “Review of Constitutional Amendments Proposed in Response to Citizens United.” Both publications are available at www.lwv.org/search/content/campaign%20finance%20task%20force. The publications list several actions for State and Local Leagues to consider. One action item is participating in the “Stations: Stand by Your Ad” campaign. September unit meetings will be discussing this item in more detail. The LWVUS Board approved the Privatization Position. Look for the text of that position, printed below.

A motion to review and update the LWVUS agriculture position, approved in 1988 was also approved. The motion read in part:

“Such a review would investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer’s right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.”

If this is a subject that interests you, please consider volunteering to help your Local League in our restudy efforts when the particulars are known from LWVUS. In the meantime, several members on the lwv.leaders@lists.lwv.org suggested reading Marion Nestle’s *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*, and an article in the Atlantic entitled “*The Triumph of the Family Farm*” (you can find it at www.theatlantic.com by searching putting the article name into their search box).

The motion to adopt a Per Member Payment (PMP) rate of \$31 for the fiscal biennium 2012-14 was approved on a card vote: 323–yes, 186–no. The proposed LWVUS budget was approved and the nominees for LWVUS officers, directors and nominating committee were approved by unanimous consent. Elisabeth MacNamara will continue in another term as President, Janis McMillan is 1st Vice President, Mary Klenz 2nd Vice President and Patricia Donath Secretary/Treasurer.

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*Ohio’s Delegation at the National Convention in June.
Photo by League of Women Voters of Ohio.*

REPORT FROM LWV CONVENTION *(Continued from page 12)*

A complete list is available at www.lwv.org/content/report-convention-action-tuesday-june-12-2012.

In addition to the business sessions and workshops there was some time for caucusing and socializing. There was a performance by *Capitol Steps*; a showing of the film *Patriocracy*; a Dine Around (the Local League makes arrangements at many local restaurants for a meal out and a chance to network with a variety of League members); and a banquet featuring an address from Political Pollster John Zogby.

Local Leagues' work to "Power the Vote" in 2012 will include protecting the vote, planning effective voter registration, educating voters and mobilizing voters for Election Day. In addition LWVUS issued these challenges to EVERY Local League:

- Host at least 5 registration events
- Host at least 1 candidate forum/debate
- Pursue an online voters' guide
- Meet with local elections officials
- Identify 5 key media contacts and communicate monthly
- Conduct get-out-the-vote with registrants, volunteers and online networks
- Consider a poll watching/poll worker recruitment program
- Take advantage of LWVUS and state trainings, materials, etc.

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area is well on its way to meeting most of these challenges already! If you have not contacted our Voters Service VP **Glenda Bernstein** to volunteer at one of the many functions we have in the works, please do so ASAP!

HELEN KELLER: ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

From an on-line article in on-line yes! magazine, which was adapted from The 100 Greatest Americans: A Social Justice Hall of Fame by Peter Dreier.

Did you know Helen Keller (1880-1968) was a strong advocate for human rights and women's suffrage? In 1916 she wrote, "Women have discovered that they cannot rely on men's chivalry to give them justice."

Once she learned that poor people are more likely to become blind and deaf, she began speaking out against injustice, including oppression of workers, women, and other groups, leading her to embrace socialism, feminism, and pacifism. She later acknowledged, "I owed my success partly to the advantages of my birth and environment. I have learned that the power to rise is not within the reach of everyone." Helen Keller was highly criticized for these now seldom-discussed stands.

Read the article in full at

www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/the-radical-dissent-of-helen-keller?utm_source=wkly20120713&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mrDreier

WOMEN AND THE OLYMPIC GAZE

By *Nancy Dawley, Action Chair*

This essay from Sojourner's blog "God's Politics" reflects a young woman's thoughts as she and her 7 year old daughter watch women athletes at the Olympics. It's a timely article as we think about Women's Equality Day. How far have we come? www.sojo.net/blogs/2012/07/31/women-and-olympic-gaze/?continueol daughter watch wom

"Throughout history, social change—abolition, suffrage, civil rights, and worker rights—has depended on the work of millions of people. We are called today to build another such movement for a just society—and each and every person can make a unique and powerful contribution."

~ Deepak Bhargava

NEW PRIVATIZATION POSITION BY LWV OF THE U.S.

Statement of Position as Announced by National Board, June 2012

Background

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue. Committee Chair Janis McMillen (KS) and her Committee: Diane DiIanni (TN), Carole Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA) and Ted Volskay (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

CALENDAR:**SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS****Discussion Topic: HOT TOPICS**

Unit meetings are our grassroots discussions, located at different places and times so that there's always one convenient for YOU! This is your chance to get involved. All meetings are open. Come, and bring a friend!

1st Thursday 9/6/12

Anderson: 7:00 pm, Anderson Government Center, 5 Mile Rd

2nd Monday 09/10/12

Northeast Evening: 7:00 pm Madeira Public Library, Euclid and Miami Avenue

2nd Tuesday 09/11/12

Central North: 12:00 noon, Friendship United Methodist Church, Springfield Pike & Fleming Road

Warren County: 7:30 pm Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason-Montgomery Road

2nd Wednesday 09/12/12

Central Evening: 7:15 pm League Office, 103 Wm H Taft Road

2nd Thursday 09/13/12

Eastern Day: noon. Brown bag or order lunch in MPL Dining Room. Free valet parking. Marjorie P Lee Home, 3550 Shaw Avenue

3rd Wednesday, 09/19/12

Metro Day: Noon League Office, 103 Wm H Taft Road

REDISTRICTING *(continued from page 10)*

petitions, voters in Ohio will have the opportunity to let the politicians know that the days of a rigged system to protect themselves and their political cronies are over. This fall Ohio voters will have the chance to replace a 'foxes in the henhouse' system with a nonpartisan independent citizens commission. In November, we will tell the politicians that it's time for the people to choose their elected officials, instead of the politicians picking their voters."

The Voters First constitutional amendment will ensure Ohio voter's right to fair, competitive elections by creating a non-partisan, independent citizens commission that will draw Ohio's legislative and congressional boundaries out in the open and in the public. Politicians, lobbyists and political insiders are prohibited from sitting on the citizens' commission.

OUT OF TOUCH?**We need your email address!**

LWVCA's email list is fewer than half our paid members. That means that many of you are not receiving up-to-date League information. Providing your email address allows us to email you the newsletter in color with links; to solicit your opinion on League policy issues; and to send reminders of a few pertinent issues or events throughout the year.

The League is very careful with our email list: we don't give or lend it to anyone; we don't allow it to be used to email solicitations; and we email events and advocacy requests only if they are a) sponsored by the League and b) came up too suddenly to be included in the Voter newsletter.

If you have an email address but are NOT receiving email from the League, please send an email with your name and email address to info@lwvcincinnati.org.

Thank you!

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS***For civility in civic discourse***

All citizens, male and female, 18 years and older, are welcome. Take the opportunity now to support our work promoting democracy and civic engagement. Dues include Cincinnati, Ohio, and National membership, including newsletters from each.

- Individual - \$60.00
- Household - \$80.00
- Student - \$25.00
- Dues pose a hardship. I can pay _____
- Optional additional deductible contribution: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to LWVCA, 103 Wm. H. Taft,
Cincinnati, OH 45219

