



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA**

THE VOTER

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February, 2013



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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all women and men 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,



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

Join us!

The 2013 Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Saturday Feb. 23, 2013



Featuring Keynote Speaker

**Elisabeth
MacNamara**
President, LWVUS

11:00 am ~ Social hour & silent auction

12:00 noon ~ Luncheon & program

The Phoenix, 812 Race Street,
downtown Cincinnati

Please RSVP by February 16 by calling the League office at 513-281-8683 or online at www.lwvcincinnati.org.

Please note all-day Saturday parking is just \$2.00 at the adjacent Garfield Garage, 13 W Ninth Street.

Silent Auction items include:

- Two Rounds of Golf at the Blue Ash Golf Course
- Memberships to the Cincinnati Art Museum
- Tickets to the Cincinnati Symphony
- Tickets to Playhouse in the Park
- Tickets to the Shakespeare Festival
- Baskets of food and wine
- Certificates to your favorite restaurants, stores, and more!

We are excited to host our Annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon on Saturday, February 23, as we celebrate 93 years of women voting! Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), will be our special guest. This annual event benefits our Education Fund.

This year's luncheon will be at the Phoenix, 812 Race Street, downtown Cincinnati. Social hour and Silent Auction is 11:00 a.m. – Noon. Luncheon and Keynote address is from Noon - 2:00 p.m.

The cost to attend is:

\$ 40 per person

\$350 for a Table of 10

\$1,000 for a Sponsorship Table

Luncheon includes chicken or vegan entree, salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee/tea.

Register today!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings:

Happy 2013! Here we are, facing another year with a lot of the same challenges as in 2012. We continue our work in the areas of growing our membership, educating our communities, increasing visibility, and taking positions on issues while maintaining our non-partisanship.

As with any growth, the challenge of invigorating our membership with young professionals, college students, and individuals from all walks of life is crucial. It is important and imperative to incorporate new and fresh ideas to expand our mission throughout neighboring communities.

I encourage all members of the LWVCA to reach out to friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, elected and appointed government officials, retired or past officials, and candidates to support our primary fundraiser, the annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon. Our National President, Elisabeth MacNamara, will be our keynote speaker, and her topic is "Making Democracy Work."

The website also features a photo of Elisabeth MacNamara. Remember, the date for the luncheon is Saturday, February 23, 2013 at The Phoenix on Race Street in downtown Cincinnati. Doors open at 11 AM for the Social Hour and the Silent Auction. From 12 Noon to 2:00 PM we will enjoy our luncheon and keynote speaker.

Once again, remember how great it is to be a member of this long-standing and respected organization in our country, and invite others to join us this year.

In League,

Shirley A. Jason

President

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSAN B. ANTHONY KEYNOTE SPEAKER ELISABETH MACNAMARA

Elisabeth MacNamara is the 18th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). A longtime DeKalb County, Georgia, resident, Ms. MacNamara was first elected national League president in Atlanta during the 2010 League of Women Voters 49th biennial Convention and celebration of the organization's 90th anniversary. In 2012, she was re-elected as national president at the League of Women Voters 50th Convention.

Ms. MacNamara joined the League in 1983 and has since served in leadership roles at all levels—local, state and national. In 1983, she was invited to join the Board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Georgia as the Courts/Criminal Justice chair. She served on the state Board until 1991, also serving as vice president for Program and as secretary. In 1984, she joined the Board of directors of the DeKalb League, serving as Courts/Criminal Justice chair, Education Committee chair, vice president, and secretary between 1984 and 1997. In 1997, she was president of the



DeKalb League. Ms. MacNamara rejoined the Board of directors of the League of Women Votes of Georgia in 1999, and served as president of that Board beginning in 2001.

Professionally, Ms. MacNamara is an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in charge of the office's juvenile court

division in DeKalb County. Prior to this promotion, she had served as assistant district attorney since 1986. Her interest in juvenile justice arose after years of volunteering for the public high school activities of her two sons, including mock trial, academic bowl, track, marching band and cross country. She has also served as a staff attorney for the National Center for State Courts and law clerk for the Superior Court of DeKalb County.

In addition to her decades-long volunteer service with the League, Ms. MacNamara has volunteered with the High School Mock Trial Program; the Band Parents Association of Lakeside High School; University of Georgia Parents and Families; and PTA.

Ms. MacNamara graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in 1976 and a J.D. in 1979. She is a proud member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Delta Epsilon, and has lived in DeKalb County, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, since 1974.

LWVCA SEEKS VOLUNTEER FOR LWVUS CLEARINGHOUSE PROJECT

Submitted by Sandra Mowell, LWVCA Board Member

The new LWVUS Education Fund Clearinghouse website is a repository for League studies from across the country. There is a lot of time and hard work that goes into undertaking a local study. Local Leagues are encouraged to share their materials in this “clearinghouse” and there are several good reasons to participate. First, after all the time and effort put forth in a study it feels very satisfying to share results with all who are interested in the topic. Second, we could be helping a sister League in its efforts to study the same issue. We all know the incredible amount of time, talent and tenaciousness required to undertake a study. Cutting out some of the initial research time and gathering of materials is a huge help in making the decision to undertake a study. Third, we can benefit in the exact same ways from other Leagues who submit their materials to this site. The catch is that each League must share their stuff! *LWVCA is looking for a member who would be willing to put our past studies into the National Clearinghouse.*

Following is an excerpt from the site explaining the process:

“Studies must meet the following submission criteria:

- Approved by submitting League’s Board (the study, not the Clearinghouse submission)
- Published for public consumption
- Associated with currently used League positions
- Studies in progress may also be submitted but must be quickly replaced or they will be removed.
- Posting Options:
 - Study documents may include PowerPoints, multimedia files and associated consensus positions. Word files should be converted to PDFs.
 - The study documents can be either:
 - Directly submitted and posted to this national Clearinghouse website – or
 - Posted on the local League website and linked from the Clearinghouse to the local website
- THIS IS IMPORTANT: If you submit links to documents on your local League website, then you must place the documents where the URL(s) will not change for a very long time.”

If this sounds like something you have the interest and skills to undertake please contact an LWVCA Board member to volunteer.

YOUR LWVCA BOARD

Officers:

President – Shirley Jason
 President-elect – Open
 VP Fund Development – Sherrie Heyse
 VP Organization/Member Services – Pinky Kocoshis
 VP Voters Service – Glenda Bernstein
 Secretary – Sandra Mowell
 Treasurer – Kim Thompson
 Ohio Liaison – Marlene Muse

Directors:

Action - Nancy Dawley
 Planned Giving - Dee Shaffer
 Membership - Susan Steele
 Voter Service - Susan Banoun
 Unit Coordinator - Gail Wick

TIPS FOR BACKYARD COMPOSTING

By Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District

Composting is a great way to recycle all types of yard trimmings and provide a free source of compost - a nutrient-rich material that has many uses. A compost pile naturally breaks down yard trimmings into compost right in your backyard, saving you the time and energy of bagging yard trimmings, storing it, and then hauling it to the curb or drop-off center.

Compost piles require only a minimal amount of maintenance to produce a useable product that is a valuable soil amendment. Organic compost loosens soil for better root penetration, improves soil capacity to hold water, and adds essential nutrients to soil.

To download the Solid Waste District’s “Backyard Composting: a beginner's guide”, visit hamiltoncountyrecycles.org and click on “Backyard Composting” on the left of the page.



CINCINNATI'S NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT ON FEB. 16

By Carolyn Miller, City Government Committee Chair

Cincinnati's Neighborhood Summit will be February 16, 2013, at the Cintas Center on the Xavier University campus. The Summit runs from 7:30 a.m. (welcome starts at 8:30) and runs through 3:30 pm. Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

Since 2002, the Neighborhood Summit has been held annually at the Cintas Center. With a typical attendance of 500-600 people, this day-long event includes educational seminars, workshops, open discussion and lunch at absolutely NO COST to the community participants.

This year's Neighborhood Summit program focus is on leadership capacity building and attracting youth to community service. This basic training is essential to the health and sustainability of Cincinnati's Community Councils and is of interest to citizens who work to improve our city. Invest in Neighborhoods is providing a venue for education, discussion, and the exchanging of best practices to continue making our city more vibrant and attracting new residents and businesses.

There will also be discussion and demonstration of how neighborhoods can create their own future by developing form-based development codes.

Sessions will include such topics as grant writing and fund raising, communications and marketing, member and volunteer development, creating a vacant/abandoned property strategy, lessons from form-based code charities, the individual's role in implementing Plan Cincinnati, effective civil dialog, youth engagement, and the future of civic engagement in Cincinnati. Lunch will feature open-space discussion about civic engagement.

The Neighborhood Summit is a production of Invest in Neighborhoods Inc., the City of Cincinnati and the Community Building Institute.

For more information, contact invest@investinneighborhoods.com.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2013 NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT

Saturday, February 16, 2013

Cintas Center at Xavier University

Learn, Share, Network

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING QUALIFIED BOARD MEMBERS

By Melissa Currence, Voter Co-Editor

We all know how powerful the League can be in impacting our personal lives, how important it can be to strengthening our leadership skills and how vital it is in making a genuine difference in our communities on the issues we care about! It is with that spirit and pride that the Nominating Committee is offering the opportunities for leadership service within the League to candidates for Board positions!

As a League Board member, you will:

- Gain great leadership skills
- Learn in-depth about issues affecting our community
- Get hands-on experience with advocacy
- Make democracy work in the Cincinnati Area

If you or someone you know in the League would be a great fit for an LWVCA Board position, please contact the League office or Mary Kercherval Short, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

LWVCA BOARD BRIEFS FROM DECEMBER

By Sandra Mowell, LWVCA Secretary

Voters Service – Glenda Bernstein reported the goal of having “They Represent Us” (TRU) ready for distribution in time for the Susan B. Anthony luncheon on February 23.

Membership – Susan Steele reported the membership number at 321 with 64 of those members in the non-renewal category for 2013. She asked for Board members’ help in contacting these members to see if there were concerns about renewing that we could address.

Program – Sandra Mowell presented a motion from the Program Development Committee (PDC) that the LWVCA renew its membership in the Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) at a cost of \$100 as a non-profit member. Motion approved.

Human Resources – Shirley Jason reported that Phyllis Nesselroad, Administration Manager, continues to meet with Board members and she will be meeting with committee chairs in January.

Organization/Member Services Pinky Kocoshis reported on a quote from our current janitorial service for an in-depth cleaning of our office spaces. A motion was approved for this expense.

Technology – Melissa Currence reported that Megan Volkerding has completed 104 hours in an internship arranged with the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Megan has contributed to “Electing the President,” “Know Hamilton County,” and “They Represent Us” projects.

Action – A motion to amend our current policy and procedures in regards to e-mails to members so the wording “opt-in” is changed to “opt out” was approved. When the next action email is sent the policy change should be explained in it.

Unit Coordinator – Gail Wick reported on the merger of Hilltop unit with Central North unit.

Fund Development- Sherrie Heyse reported an end of year letter soliciting contributions to the Education Fund is on track to be mailed December 10. Plans for the Susan B. Anthony luncheon are moving along, but more help is needed in soliciting sponsorships. Melissa Currence reported on the grant research she has been conducting to help pay for the new Administration Manager position and the material support needed for the position.

Shirley Jason will appoint a committee next month to start research on the search for a new office space as one of the strategic plan priorities.

Sandra Mowell was appointed Secretary for the LWVCA Board to fill the remainder of the 2012 - 2013 term.

UNITS ENJOYED THE HOLIDAYS

By Gail Wick, Unit Coordinator

Many of our Units held special outings to celebrate the holidays in December. We wanted to share a few photos we received of these events. Thank you to all our Unit volunteers who help make these events happen, and be sure to share your photos!



Anderson Unit met at Gail Wick's house for the holidays

Metro Day had a pleasant time at Ferrari's in Madeira for lunch on Wednesday, December 12! There were 11 members and one guest present.



Winter Regional Meetings Saturday, February 2 ~ 10:00 am to Noon

LOCATIONS:

- LWV of the Greater Dayton Area hosts at 131 N. Ludlow St., Talbott Tower, Dayton (free parking).
- LWV of Metropolitan Columbus hosts at Upper Arlington Library, 2800 Treemont Road, Columbus

TOPICS:

1) The 2013-2018 LWVO Strategic Plan: This plan will set the direction and priorities for your state League for the next five years -- and your voice can be heard at the February regional meeting. We value your feedback -- and urge you and other League members to share your perspectives on the proposed LWVO goals, objectives and priorities!

2) The Membership & Leadership Development Program (MLD): We are excited to announce that LWVO will begin offering this national program to local Leagues this year. The program focuses on strategies for recruitment, retention and leadership development -- and has a history of success in increasing membership. Join us for a discussion of what MLD can do for your League -- and how you and your League can get involved in MLD here in Ohio.



Statehouse Day

**Tues, March 19
9:00 - 4:00 pm**

77 South High Street, Columbus
\$35 for members, \$40 non-members,
\$20 for students.

League members from across the state will gather at the Vern Riffe Building in Columbus to discuss upcoming and possible **legislation** to be introduced in this Legislative session. This is a **budget** year, so we will hear about the Governor's proposed budget. Statehouse Day is a time to meet with other League members, to hear from people from our state government, to meet with legislators and to get updated on our **advocacy issues**. Registration costs include **lunch** at the Capitol Center with an address from a keynote speaker TBA.

STATE CONVENTION 2013!

**“ENERGIZING DEMOCRACY:
WHAT WOULD ALICE DO?”**

May 4-5

Alice Paul was a true leader in the fight for women's right to vote and later continued the struggle in the fight for civil rights and women's rights. What can Alice teach us as we explore effective ways to recruit and retain members, develop leadership, and effective communication strategies? These are topics we will explore at our 60th LWVO State Convention. We hope you will be able to join us. State Convention is a wonderful time to come together in League, participate in dynamic workshops, share ideas and successes, plan for our League's future, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Location:

Tentative Schedule of Convention Events:

Friday, May 3 Early evening: Pre-Convention Meet-and-Greet

Saturday, May 4 2013 LWVO Convention

Morning: Workshops

Luncheon: Keynote speaker

Afternoon: Plenary I Workshops

Dinner: Special Event

Evening: Caucuses and Workshops

Sunday, May 5 Convention Continues

Morning: Breakfast Program

Plenary II

Convention concludes by 1 pm

Please begin recruiting your delegates today! Voting Delegates include:

1. The President (or designated alternate) from each local League.
2. In addition to the President, one delegate from each local League for each 50 voting members, or a fraction thereof, based on the records in the LWVO office on February 1, 2013.
3. One delegate from each ILO or MAL unit.
4. The members of the LWVO Board of Directors.

All other League members may attend the Convention as visitors. **Please note:** a League's delegates may only participate as voting members of Convention if that League has met its Ohio PMP responsibilities through the quarter immediately preceding the State Convention.

NATIONAL NEWS

New League Forums to replace League Discussion Lists

Submitted by Sandra Mowell, LWVCA Board Member

LWVUS has used discussion lists for all LWV members to interact with each other nationwide on issues of importance to members and to exchange information on a variety of efforts including voter service. It has been the place to discuss a wide variety of topics as well as to learn basic League information.

I have subscribed to a few of the lists for the last several years. I've gained much insight from the experiences and lessons learned from our sister Leagues. These discussion lists are being phased out as LWVUS introduces a new way for members to interact, the League Forums. The League Forums are a new online, interactive community built exclusively for League members *to share information and discuss issues*. The following is an excerpt from an e-mail from Norman Turrill, Director, Technology Chair, LWVUS

The Forums will:

Provide you with more control.

The notifications system will allow you to decide if you want to get updates from others by email from any group you join, a single discussion within a group, or just a person. The discussion structure allows you to control, edit and delete your own comments.

All messages are archived online and are easily bookmarked for future reference.

You will never need to search out an old email, it's all online. And, if you didn't bookmark it in your profile, you can find it with a simple search.

The Forums are also designed as an online community similar to Facebook or Twitter.

You will be able to build your own personal profile, interact and follow other members and share information to build a strong, online network of fellow Leaguers who share your interests.

What will happen with the discussion lists?

The League discussion lists will slowly be shut down over the next few weeks, beginning with the least used list first while the most active lists will be turned off last.

How do I get started?

Consider signing up for the forums soon! In order to begin, visit www.lwv.org, and LOGIN. If you have never logged into the national website as a member you will first have to take a few moments to register. Once logged in, use the Forums link in the left navigation bar or go to forum.lwv.org. (You will need to be logged into the lwv.org system to use the Forums.)

Members interested in learning more are welcome to view a recorded **webinar** introducing the new Forums. [Note from your LWVCA editor: **You can find a link to it at the bottom of the LWVCA home page, www.LWVCA.org**. The webinar is about 30 minutes – but you can skip the first 8:17 minutes which are technical & explanatory preliminaries.]

Currently the League Forum includes the following groups, (some with one or more sub-groups):

General Information – FAQs, help, introductions

League Roles – League leaders, membership, development, voter service, technology

Social Policy – healthcare

Representative Government - money in elections

International Policy

National Resources – climate change, agriculture update

Convention & Council

It will take some getting used to, but I think the new League Forums will be a great improvement over the old e-mail discussion lists. It should be a great place to go when our League is planning a candidate forum, fundraising event, membership event, etc. There are so many great ideas to be shared between all the members nationwide!

Text of letter from President MacNamara to members of the US Senate regarding Senate Rules Reform

January 3, 2013

TO: Members of the U.S. Senate

FROM: Elisabeth MacNamara, President, League of Women Voters

RE: The Senate Rules

The League of Women Voters urges you to work with your Senate colleagues to reform the rules of the Senate. We believe this can and should be accomplished through consensus – a consensus that will preserve the underlying values of the current rules but that will end the abuses of recent decades.

The Senate’s tradition of full debate on critical and complex national issues is important for our democracy. Quick and unconsidered action is often a mistake. At the same time, particular rules that have the effect of tying the Senate in procedural knots or that block the Senate from even debating a particular bill or subject are not consistent with this tradition and undermine the basic tenets of representative government.

While it may be possible for a simple majority to change the rules of the Senate at the beginning of a congressional session, the prospect of biennial rules changes on partisan votes would fundamentally change the role of the Senate. We share the deep concern about abuses that bring many to support this step. A better alternative would be for Senators from both political parties to agree on essential reforms and adopt them using current procedures. But it is simply unacceptable in a democracy to continue the Senate’s recent practices, which allow a small minority of absent Senators to block any consideration of a bill or nomination and to obstruct and delay action after cloture is invoked.

Over the years, Senators of both major political parties have taken different positions on cloture and filibuster procedures, often reflecting their partisan stands on the underlying issues. The League of Women Voters urges Senators now to recognize that they will sometimes be in the majority and sometimes in the minority. The Senate rules should ensure fair procedures for both.

At its best, the Senate is unique in its ability to reconcile conflicting national interests and priorities through full and open debate that respects the contribution of each Senator. At its worst, the Senate wastes incredible amounts of time doing nothing, allows Senators to indulge their individual whims, and reinforces partisan rancor. It is time to rise above partisanship and reform the Senate rules in ways that maintain the best traditions of the Senate while ensuring openness, accountability, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The following is a reprint of the introduction to the LWWUS publication:

“Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary – From Theory to Practice: A Grassroots Education Campaign”

Since 2001, the League of Women Voters of the United States has worked to bring the importance of fair and impartial courts to the attention of the public by stressing the intent of our Founding Fathers to ensure three independent branches of government. Throughout the years, this work has changed in approach, but the goal and message have always been the same: to safeguard fair and impartial courts nationwide.

During the first years of the League’s focus on a fair judiciary, the program concentrated on raising awareness of the structure and function of all levels of courts and the way that judges are selected. Leagues aimed to educate citizens about the importance of protecting access to fair and impartial courts....

To read “the rest of the story,” the full publication is available for download at www.LWV.org

COMMON CORE STANDARDS—COMING TO YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

This month we start a series on the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The LWVCA Education Committee (Burton Roehr, Chair, Donna Dansker, Fred Heyse, Sherrie Heyse and Carl Schmidt) has written an extensive paper explaining more about it. The entire paper is available at www.lwvcincinnati.org.

League members who participated in the September, 2011 consensus meetings on “The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education” will recall a brief introduction to new educational standards concurrently being introduced in most of the states under the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI). At that time, we were able only to touch on these Common Core Standards, but we are hearing more and more about them as time passes. The LWVCA’s Education Committee has chosen to examine those standards in more detail and to survey local school districts about their implementation of those Standards. The committee will share their findings with League members, other nonprofit education organizations, parents and other interested individuals. Meanwhile we thought it might be helpful to fill in a few blanks that the September 2011 discussions may have left unfilled.

BACKGROUND

Public education in the United States has traditionally been a **local** responsibility. States are mandated by their constitutions to establish a system of public schools and to support them (at least partially) in some way. Their state departments of education set standards, establish various minimum requirements, and assess student progress via state-wide tests. The actual responsibility for providing the buildings, staff, equipment, etc., is delegated to local districts throughout the state, and funding for these tasks is provided, for the most part, by local property tax levies and bond issues.

What necessitated the change? This model of educational organization had worked well at least from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century, but by a century later, our population had become much more mobile. Students in Grades K-12 who moved from one state to another would be confronted with a curriculum very different from their previous ones. There was little or no consistency between what they left behind and what they found in a new state and their new local school district.

Recognition that some change was needed also came from universities and employers. Universities found that too many of their students were failing to graduate because they had come from areas of low expectations. At the same time, employers were increasing their requirements for new hires in the new century in order to compete in a global economy. It was becoming apparent that America’s public school standards were too varied to meet the challenges students faced when they left Grade 12 for college or the work force.

A first attempt to remedy the situation came in 2001 when Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Its goal was to force states and districts to upgrade their public education standards and practices through a system of tests that rewarded improvement at many levels and “punished” failure to do so. The result was a “50-states-and-50-tests environment in public education.” Despite a great deal of tinkering with NCLB, no one seems ready to acknowledge any success with its approach.

For these reasons, The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) was launched in March, 2009 when the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) agreed to the concept of a uniform set of standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics, areas in which there are general agreement and available teaching resources among states. Their final report was issued in June, 2010, and since that time, 45 states and three territories have adopted the standards. (Note: In order to be considered for funding under the Race to the Top (RTTT), a state must adopt the Common Core Standards.)

According to the official Introduction, this set of standards was developed by “representatives from participating states, educators, content experts, researchers, national organizations, and community groups.” The developers received input from the general public, teachers, parents, business leaders, states, and content area experts. It is important to note that the Standards did not result from a **federal** initiative or mandate. Its support came from those individuals who, on a daily basis, had to deal with the problems created by 50 different sets of standards.

--continued on next page

COMMON CORE STANDARDS (cont'd from Page 9)

The plan is for every state to adopt and implement the standards by 2014. To encourage this cooperation, the Obama administration offered two incentives: 1) To compete for funding in Race to the Top, a state must agree to adopt and implement the standards, and 2) To obtain a waiver from some of the requirements of NCLB, a state must adopt and implement the standards. However, not all of the states have jumped on this particular bandwagon; Arkansas, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia, and Alaska have not, to date, concurred with the other 45 states. Some argue that adoption/implementation of these standards is voluntary, but that these incentives being pushed by the Federal government make it almost obligatory.

Resistance is based on several factors. Opponents argue that public education has traditionally been a local responsibility, and this program would take much of that control out of the hands of individual states and put it in the hands of the Federal government. Some state governors have indicated that just because other states are in the plan, they see no reason to accede for that reason alone. Additionally, the standards have not been "field tested," according to educator Diane Ravitch in an article in the New York Review of Books. "No one knows whether these standards are good or bad, whether they will improve academic achievement or widen the achievement gap." (Cin. Enq. 4/28/2012) Finally, the cost of implementing the standards and changing the existing curriculum and assessments is cited as a reason to resist adopting and implementing them. Governor Rick Perry of Texas argued that "the Race to the Top funding would only generate a one-time amount of \$75 per student, yet cost Texas taxpayers an additional \$3 million."

WHAT DO THE STANDARDS REQUIRE?

When the standards were introduced in June 2010, the presenters pointed out that college- and career-readiness standards had been incorporated into the K-12 standards and that certain criteria had been used to develop those standards:

Aligned with college and work expectations;

Are clear, understandable and consistent;

Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;

Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;

Are informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and,

Evidence and/or research-based.

Those interested in more detailed information for further individual or group action should use their computer's search engine (Google, Yahoo, Bing,) and look for -

National: Common Core State Standards Initiative

Ohio: ODE - Academic content Standards

National Standards were developed in two areas of study, Mathematics and English Language Arts to provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. Consistent benchmarks and consistent progression goals will be provided for all students regardless of where they live.

The standards are initiated in the early grades and are designed to build on learning already acquired by the student. This approach continues through high school subjects with the goal of preparing high school graduates for post-high school learning or employment with twenty-first century skills.

--To be continued...

Voter Collating Schedule 2012 – 2013

September 20*

October Voter

Central Evening

October 25*

November/December Voter

Anderson

December 13*

January Voter

Eastern Day and Office Volunteers

January 24*

February Voter

Hilltop

February 21*

March Voter

Metro Day

March 21*

April Voter

Northeast Evening

April 25*

May/June Voter

Central North

June 20*

Summer Voter

Warren/Butler

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

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

Editors:

Melissa Currence (local), Sandra Mowell (state and national), Marty Harrington (copy editing), Phyllis Nesselroad (layout and design)

Please submit articles to:

newsletter@lwvcincinnati.org.

Next deadline: Friday 2/8/13

for the March issue

*All dates are subject to change. Call Pinky Kocoshis when your Unit's time is coming up!



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the
CINCINNATI AREA**

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February 2013 - LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the League Office, 103 Wm. Howard Taft, unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend! (All meeting dates/times subject to change. Please be sure to check the calendar on our website www.lwvca.org for the most up-to-date meeting and activity information)

Saturday	February 2	10 a.m. – Noon	LWV Ohio Southwest Regional Meeting (Dayton) Visit www.lwvohio.org to register
Wednesday	February 6	5:30 p.m.	Ed Fund and Board Meeting
Thursday	February 7	4:30 p.m.	Education Committee
Tuesday	February 12	12:00 p.m.	Membership Committee
Tuesday	February 12	7:30 p.m.	Warren/Butler County Unit meeting Mason UMC, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd
Wednesday	February 13	7 p.m.	Anderson Unit meeting Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Rd
Thursday	February 14	7 p.m.	Natural Resources Committee
Tuesday	February 19	7 p.m.	County Government Committee
Thursday	February 21	9:30 a.m.	“The Voter” collating (Metro Day Unit)
Saturday	February 23	11 a.m – 2 p.m.	Susan B. Anthony Luncheon The Phoenix, 812 Race St.
Monday	February 25	Noon	Housing Committee