



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS of the CINCINNATI AREA

# THE VOTER

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November/December, 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, leadership and programs.



LWVCA Education Fund is a member of Community Shares

**NOVEMBER UNIT DISCUSSION:  
OUR POSITION ON THE DESEGREGATION  
OF CINCINNATI'S SCHOOLS**

*By Burt Roehr, Education Committee Chair*



At the 2012 Annual Meeting, League members asked for an update of a portion of our local position on Cincinnati Public Schools. The position, adopted in 1976, iterates our support for various methods of desegregating the Cincinnati Public School (CPS) system.

How quickly time flies! Now, almost two years later, we will examine events that led to our position, what has occurred since the position was adopted, and how CPS has changed in the ensuing decades in order to comply with the order to desegregate.

Using the information in this *Voter's* Study Guide, members will decide in their November unit discussions precisely what they want to do with our position. Once the Units have discussed and recorded their thoughts, and returned their Recorder Forms to the office, the Education Committee will summarize the Unit responses for the Program Development Committee (PDC). PDC will advise the Board of members' responses, and the Board will then propose what action on the position is recommended at our Annual Meeting in 2014.

Use the Study Guide in this issue to prepare for your November unit meeting. Then be sure to attend your unit to participate in the discussion and decision. We look forward to hearing from a lot of members on this important topic!



**League Tees, Sweats,  
Stickers**

*By Nancy Dawley*

During the election season you may want to advertise the League of Women Voters. Remember, we now have tee shirts, sweatshirts, pins, and stickers with for your comfort and enjoyment.

Take a look, and see if there is something you want for yourself or a friend. The League gets a small amount from each purchase. The address is:

[www.cafepress.com/lwvcincinnati](http://www.cafepress.com/lwvcincinnati)

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



The League of Women Voters has been front and center during October, and Sandra Mowell and her Voter Service team deserve a huge “thank you” for all of the effort they put forth to present the issues and candidates to the public. Administration Manager Phyllis Nesselroad and Ohio SmartVoter Coordinator and member, Melissa Currence, produced our online election guide ([www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org)) which, though very labor-intensive on our end, has become quite popular with residents and candidates in Hamilton County.

As you read this issue of the *Voter*, you will find many instances of League members helping to make our organization grow and make a difference in the community. An example is Susan Steele’s current work with "Act One" (a collaboration with Woman's City Club) to increase membership, provide mentors for new members, and find ways for them to make meaningful contributions to the League.

We still need members to step up and fill some needs that were left unfilled, and the Nominating Committee is beginning its job of recruiting. Please let the Nominating Committee know if you are interested in a particular position or committee. Melissa Currence is the Chair.

Perhaps you could help us with fundraising or the annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon. This year the luncheon will be held in the Hall of Mirrors at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Please save the date. It’s a beautiful setting, and you won’t be disappointed in the event.

Are you interested in foreign affairs? So far this year we have had three groups of foreign visitors (Poland, Armenia, and Iraq) come to learn about the way our government works and the role the League plays in the community. Those of us who have participated found them to be great learning experiences, and we need someone to coordinate these hour-long visits.

In past years in January and February, the League hosted a series of eight discussions based upon the Great Decisions series published by the World Policy Association and led by members who attended the series. Please note the article in this *Voter* concerning this. If you are interested in helping to organize a Great Decisions group to meet at the League office (or somewhere else), please call the League office. The topics are timely and the information is up-to-date.

Reservations will soon close for the League post-election celebration on the Cincinnati Dinner Train on November 23. The first 60 people to make reservations will dine together during a relaxing three-hour round-trip that Saturday evening before Thanksgiving. Please call the office for information.

**In League,**

*Helen and Don Rhoad*

**2013-14 Co-Presidents**

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## DON'T MISS A MINUTE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

*By Susan Steele, Membership Chair*

Please continue to support your League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area by REMEMBERING TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The LWVCA makes a real difference in our community through Education, Advocacy, and Visibility. The League of Women Voters does not support nor oppose candidates or political parties.

We encourage active participation in Government and equality of opportunity in our election laws. Your League is active at all levels Local, State, and National. Your continued support is essential to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area.

***Please remember to RENEW before December 31, 2013!***



## WRAPPING UP ANOTHER GREAT VOTER SERVICE SEASON

*By Sandra Mowell, Vice President, Voter Service*

As we wrap up another election season, it is always gratifying to reflect on the amazing things our volunteer organization accomplished. With the help and dedication of the following list of members we were partners on two mayoral debates, one city council candidate forum, one school board forum, our Anderson Unit organized an extremely successful trustee candidate forum, and Voter Service organized our issues forum. The community called on us a number of times to provide volunteers for voter registration and moderators for several more candidate events.

**All this while we also produced our candidates and issues guide** “Who & What of Elections” and distributed nearly 100,000 copies to the public.

*Many thanks* to Glenda Bernstein, Carolyn Miller, Alice Schneider, Melissa Currence, Alva Reid, Janet Steiner, Nancy Forbriger and Mary Kay Gardner.

*Kudos* to Jane Anderson, Liliana Bramasco, Ruth Hardy, Eleonora Fusco, Cheryl Meadows, Ernest Mowell, and Don Rhoad,

*Muchas Gracias* to Malcolm Bernstein, Burt Roehr, Gail Wick, Susan Steele, Phyllis Vogel, Fred Heyse, Helen Rhoad, Shirley Jason, Ann Gilton and Joan Honeck.

*Grazie* to Marjorie Davies, Linda Winslow, Kathy Helmbock, Cecilia Kloecker and Susan Howell.

*Mahalo* to Chris Moran, Janet Smith, Dottie Cowan, Rose Kearney, Pinky Kocoshis, Nolan Jason, Judy Dunning, Mary and Chot VanAusdall, Sherrie Heyse and Sara Johnson.

*Merci Beaucoup* to Ursula Hassel, Jan Evans, Jan Michele Lemon-Kearney, Nolan Jason, Nancy Dawley, Lucia Hudson, Rebecca Algenio, Gerry Kraus, Sarah Gideonse, Elizabeth Brown and Doreen Quinn.

Each of these members took time and effort to make sure our voter service work was carried out. We are an amazing organization with super members who care about our communities. For those of you reading this who are not yet members, I ask one question—Why not join us? We make democracy work!

Spearheading our voter service activities this fall has been like a wild rollercoaster ride—at times I have been frazzled, at times I have been joyful, at times I have been frustrated, at times I have been exhilarated by our accomplishments. I apologize if I am missing any member who has helped get us through this election season, but as crazy as I have been at times, I would not doubt that I might have overlooked you.

Thank you to you, too!!



*Mark Yates (co-owner of The Greenwich), Daniel Bockrath, Publisher CityBeat, Danny Cross, Editor CityBeat, and Sandra Mowell at the City Council Candidates forum Oct. 5, 2013*

## LWVCA ATTENDS PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

*By Sandra Mowell, Vice President of Voter Service*

On September 19 and 20, two public meetings were held in Cincinnati by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

On the first day the commission heard from experts on voting technology. On the second day testimony from experts in election administration, industry experts and members of the public was taken. The Commission has been tasked with identifying ways to help ensure that all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots without undue delay and to improve the experience of voters facing other obstacles. Its mission is to identify best practices in election administration and to make recommendations to improve the voting experience.



*LWVO's Carrie Davis testifying at Presidential Commission on Election Administration*

Several members of our local league here in the Cincinnati area attended and Carrie Davis, Executive Director of LWVO gave testimony on behalf of the League of Women

Voters of Ohio. Davis touched on the improvements Ohio has made in conducting elections since the problematic 2004 elections and the League's lawsuit against the Governor and Secretary of State, as well pointing out areas that still need attention.

The development and use of an Election Administration Plan (EAP) by each Board of Election in the state has continued to improve the accuracy and efficiency of Ohio elections. The League urges that these EAPs become permanent and mandatory and be reviewed and changed as needed. Davis urged there be no cuts to early and absentee voting days, we should keep the broad variety of documents currently accepted for voter identification and a priority should be the modernizing of voter registration and changes or updates to that registration including online options. The constant confusion over the ever changing elections rules and laws is also a source of concern. Davis asked the Commission to provide guidance and share the best practices it is gathering across the country to help strengthen the election process for all.



*: Left to right: LWV Members Fred Heyse, Phyllis Vogel, Jane Anderson (moderator), Ruth Hardy, Pinky Kocoshis, and Sherrie Heyse*

## ANDERSON UNIT HOSTS CANDIDATE FORUM

*By Sherrie Heyse, Anderson Unit Chair*

The Anderson Unit hosted a Township Trustee Candidate Forum on September 18. The event was attended by over 100 township residents who turned out to hear 4 of the 5 candidates running for two Township Trustee positions. One candidate was unable to attend due to a family issue but sent written answers to the questions presented from the League.

The forum gave candidates an opportunity to share their views on issues of importance to the township. They covered a variety of topics from transportation projects, the updating of the Beechmont Corridor, the controversial limestone mine and the relationship of the township trustees and the Forest Hills Board of Education.

The candidate forum was covered live on ATC-TV (Anderson Township Cable TV) and will be rebroadcast several times before the election. The Anderson League wishes to thank Lisa Wakeland from the Community Press for serving as Emcee; League member Jane Anderson for moderating; and League member Ruth Hardy for working so hard to make the event a success. The League appreciates the support of the community and the candidates in helping us to provide our residents with crucial information before they vote.

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETINGS REPORT

*By Janet Steiner & Susan Lehman, LWVCA Board of Elections Liaisons*

LWVCA representatives have attended multiple board of elections meetings throughout September and October. Here are the current reports as of press time.

### **Monday, September 9**

Ballot language of City of Cincinnati Charter Amendment about pension reform was discussed. Both sides had arguments about the ballot language approved by the Board of Elections (BoE), but no agreement was reached by attorneys from both sides. Later, COAST filed a lawsuit objecting to the language, sent to Ohio Supreme Court with a decision to change the language made in mid-October.

Challenges – 26 challenges were presented of 10 citizens who have voted in the past couple years.

### **Saturday, September 21**

Letters objecting to firing of poll workers were read. Joe Mallory explained that a bi-partisan staff committee decided to assess poll workers per precincts. The committee developed a set of criteria, looked at precincts that had a lot of mistakes; if the precinct had a score higher than 15, all poll workers were removed. For precincts that scored within mid-range, education materials and quizzes were given before the poll workers could be hired again. The answers to quizzes were contained in the material given. It was said this was to be an educational mission and not a way to eliminate workers. From this action, 168 poll workers were dismissed. Several people spoke in objection to this process at the meeting. The Board's decision will stand for the upcoming election but the process may be reconsidered after this election.

### **Monday, October 7**

Voter challenge was made by Mary Siegel. In the challenge to Randall Simmes, Mr. Estil is subpoenaed. He is not present but has legal representation at the meeting. Challengers wish to look at all Mr. Simmes' and Mr. Estil's email. Mr. Estil's attorney objects, saying she will provide relevant messages, but not all emails. Mr. Burke asks emails be given to Mr. Stevenson, the Board's attorney, and he will decide what is relevant. Caleb Faux objects, stating that going through people's emails is too intrusive. He further says this is the first challenge based on someone changing his or her address, and he feels Mr. Simmes is being targeted because of political positions he has taken on his blog, [urbancincy.com](http://urbancincy.com). The hearing will continue to the following week when Mr. Estil can attend. Mr. Simmes is working in Korea for the next two years and cannot be present, but is represented by his attorney, Mr. Mooney.

Tim Burke notes absentee ballot requests are down significantly, because the Secretary of State will not allow the BoE to send them to all registered voters.

### **Monday, October 14**

Ballot language approved by Ohio Supreme Court was slightly revised by Dave Stevenson, Board attorney, and Tim Burke, Board president. These changes were emailed to the Secretary of State. Later in the meeting they discussed how to handle the absentee ballots already sent and those who voted early at the BoE. Director Amy Searcy said it would not be possible to send out a ballot with just the one issue, that an entire new ballot would need to be sent and people would need to completely revote and the second ballot would be the one counted. If someone does not send back the new ballot, then their first ballot will be counted, but not their vote on the pension amendment issue. Approximately 3,000 voters have received absentee ballots or voted at the BoE.

The voter challenge to Mr. Randall Simmes, blogger at [urbancincy.com](http://urbancincy.com), was a major focus of this meeting. After a brief executive session, it was announced 222 emails of Mr. Estil were received via subpoena; no decision about accepting the emails in making a determination will be made until after both sides are heard. The challenge to Mr. Simmes was made by Ms. Mary Siegel, Ohio Voter Integrity Project. When Mr. Simmes' attorney, Mr. Mooney, asked how and where Ms. Siegel got information to challenge Mr. Simmes, her attorney said she didn't have to answer. Ms. Siegel said she went over Mr. Simmes' social media channels to figure out he wasn't living in Cincinnati when he registered to vote here which was before he moved to Korea for work. Mr. Simmes has been using Mr. Estil's address as his home address and was staying there while in Cincinnati. Mr. Simmes has his mail sent to Mr. Estil's address and plans to return to Cincinnati after his work in Korea is completed. It was said Mr. Simmes was working in Chicago but has left his apartment in Chicago. Mr. Estil said he and Mr. Simmes work together on their blog, [urbancincy.com](http://urbancincy.com), and Mr. Simmes is welcome to stay with him in the future. Mr. Mooney provided a letter from Mr. Simmes with a timeline of his past addresses.

Mr. Hartman, Ms. Siegel's attorney, states Mr. Simmes did not have a 'fixed' residence in Cincinnati and had registered illegally so he could support Roxanne Qualls for mayor, should not be allowed to vote in the November election and should vote in Illinois.

**Motion passes 3 to 1 that the challenge not be upheld with Alex Triantafilou voting no.**

## GREAT DECISIONS SERIES IS COMING: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2014

*By Helen Rhoad, Co-President*



The Great Decisions series of discussions for 2014 is prepared and published by the World Policy Organization. Groups usually discuss the eight topics over the course of January and February, preparing in advance and sharing the leadership of discussion, although the timing can be adjusted to fit the groups' schedules.

Eight half-hour, in-studio interviews on a DVD, each tackling a different challenge facing America today may be used as an introduction for each of the topics and as a jump start for discussion. Each episode of the 2014 series features a single one-on-one interview (non-documentary) with host David Rohde.

The following topics will be included in the discussion booklet for 2014: Defense Technology, Israel and the U.S., Turkey's Challenges; Islamic Awakening; Energy Independence; Food and Climate; China's Foreign Policy; and U.S. Trade Policy.

Please call the League office at 281-8683 with questions or to indicate your interest.

## MEMBER INPUT NEEDED ON FUTURE OF *THE VOTER* NEWSLETTER

*By Judy Dunning, LWVCA Communications Committee*

The Communications Committee is developing a plan to change the way we produce and distribute the League newsletter, *The Voter*, for our 2014-15 year. As technology changes and people change the way they receive information, we are researching ways we might be more efficient and timely with the information we share with our members. The ideas being considered include going to fewer printed newsletters (currently we publish 10 times a year) and incorporating a digital newsletter that would be shorter but delivered more frequently during the year.

The Communications Committee will be discussing the opportunities and challenges of any changes at the next meeting scheduled in early December. We welcome member input into this process by your presence at the meeting. There are many considerations for a change of this nature. How do we best ensure our members without email access continue to receive League information? Are there new applications that could streamline the process and reduce workload? What are the opportunities to provide more in-depth information to our members through electronic linking? What is the optimum frequency for efficient communication with our members? If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to provide input or suggestions, contact Judy Dunning (contact information in your membership directory).

Please join us for our meeting on December 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVCA Office.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SUSAN B.  
ANTHONY  
SILENT AUCTION  
and  
LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, February 8, 2014**

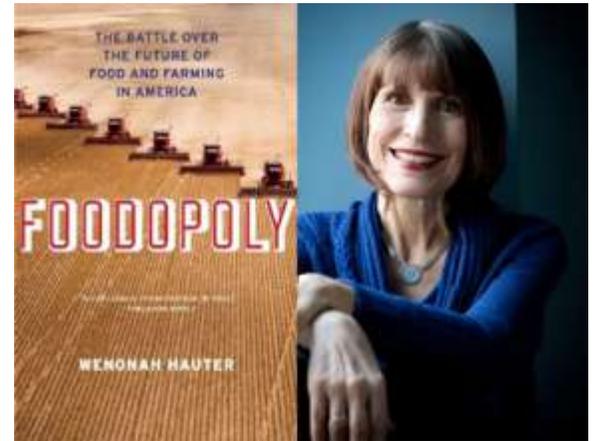
*By Helen Rhoad, Co-President*

Our annual fundraiser will be Saturday, February 8, 2014 in the Hall of Mirrors at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. It's a beautiful setting, and you won't be disappointed!

We need items for our silent auction and are asking that you begin acquiring gift certificates and other items to donate. **A good barometer of the item's appeal is whether or not you would bid on it.** Once you acquire a donation, please let the office know, and we will make arrangements to store it for you until the event.

## BOOK REVIEW: *FOODOPOLY* BY WENONAH HAUTER

Review by Nancy Dawley



Wenonah Hauter, author of *Foodopoly: The Battle Over the Future of Food and Farming in America*, grew up on a farm near Washington D.C. in the 1960s when her farm didn't have electricity or indoor plumbing. Now it is a farm completely surrounded by suburbia. Her husband farms the land, and she is Executive Director of Food and Water Watch.

The food system that we have originated after World War II when certain men foresaw a future when young men would leave farms to supply cheap labor for manufacturing jobs. They saw a few large industrial farms eventually providing all the food, then food production being globalized for enough cheap inputs to processed food. This has been accomplished over the years through federal farm policy and in global trade agreements.

The book discusses:

- U.S policies and what changes they brought about.
- What's happened to the food chain.
- Putting profits before people.
- Deregulating food safety.
- The story of factory farms.
- Corporate control of the gene pool.
- Building the political power to challenge the Foodopoly.

"The food system is in a crisis because of the way that food is produced and the consolidation and organization of the industry itself. Solving it means we must move beyond the focus on consumer choice to examine the corporate, scientific, industrial, and political structures that support an unhealthy system. Combating this is going to take more than personal choice and voting with our forks---it's going to take old-fashioned political activism." --Wenonah Hauter

## SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION FUND THROUGH COMMUNITY SHARES

By Sherrie Heyse

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Education Fund is a member of Community Shares. Community Shares is a partnership of 25 local nonprofit organizations building social and economic equity and a healthy environment in Greater Cincinnati.



Community Shares raises awareness and support for its member organizations through workplace-giving campaigns, professional enrichment, community education, and a variety of innovative initiatives.

Each year the LWVCA Education Fund receives revenues from workplace-giving campaigns to sustain our mission of serving voters by providing nonpartisan educational materials about candidates and issues. Individuals may also donate to any of the 25 organizations. Check out the webpage below for detailed information about all the great organizations involved with Community Shares. You may choose to donate online or by mail.

Go to [www.cintishares.org](http://www.cintishares.org) today and show your support.

## IN MEMORIAM...

It is with regret we note the recent passing of League Member **Mel Martin**. Mr. Martin, who joined the League in 1993, passed September 17, 2013. He was husband to the late Dorcey Martin and a member of Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission for over 30 years and a former member of Madeira School Board and mayor of Madeira.

## SAVE THE (NEW) DATE: 11/16/13 RIVERFRONT TRANSIT CENTER OPEN HOUSE

*By Chris Moran*

The open house to showcase the Riverfront Transit Center was scheduled for October but is rescheduled for November 16, 2013. Come and see this Transit Center under second street and the mosaic art panels and other artwork and features. There will be music, giveaways and guided tours.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO LWVCA PROGRAM FOR 2013-2014

*By Carolyn B. Miller, Vice President, Program*

We hope you are looking forward to the following discussion topics at our unit meetings.

November - Cincinnati Public Schools Position on Desegregation

December - Units' Holiday Celebrations

Jan 2014 - Program Planning: National & Local

February - Susan B. Anthony Luncheon

March - Agriculture Update

April - Affordable Housing

May - Annual Meeting

Note: These Programs and topics are subject to change. Every effort will be made to give as much notice as possible for any changes.

## ‘GIRLS RUN THE WORLD’: ENCOURAGING POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN YOUNG WOMEN

Women make up only 18 percent of the US Congress. Why? Women don't run. Why? As young women they are not encouraged to run, according to a recent study, "Girls Just Wanna Not Run." (American University School of Public Policy, March 2013).

After reading the study, Camille Borders, a senior at Ursuline Academy, set out to change that by encouraging young women to become more politically active, beginning with her corner of the world.

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, Camille rolled out her one-day non-partisan seminar, "Girls Run the World: Encouraging Political Activism in Young Women (GRTW) on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. Over 30 girls from high schools throughout Greater Cincinnati and even Toledo attended.

The agenda for the day included a history of Women Activists presented by Dr. Deborah Meem, a keynote address themed "Finding Your Passion" by Ohio State Senator Charleta Tavares. The afternoon program included a panel discussion with a cross-section of female political voices including, Gina Maglionico (AFL-CIO), Denise Driehaus (State Representative), Bernadette Watson (Political Consultant), Judge Joyce Campbell (Fairfield, OH Municipal Court), Barbara Myers (Chair & Treasurer, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus) and Nancy Dawley (Action Director, League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area).

The day ended with a two-part presentation on Speaking Up and Speaking Out – featuring Dr. Jane Anderson, Political Science Professor, University of Cincinnati and Kari Armbruster, former US Congressional Staffer & former City Council Legislative Aide. Women across the Ohio Legislature sponsored the lunches.

Camille's vision is bigger than a one-day, one-time event, and to make sure the seminar is offered next year (and for years to come), she joined forces with, The League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area, The Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, and University of Cincinnati's Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies Department. "This event is just the start," said Camille, "and the groups I brought together are committed to doing this event in the future. I envision this happening annually."

"My love for politics started in elementary school and my hope was that this seminar would help me develop my political voice by helping others do the same," Camille said.

The seminar was Camille's Girl Scout Gold Award project. The Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Camille's GRTW 2013 Committee members included: Dr. Jane Anderson, Carolyn Coley (Girl Scout Gold Award Project Mentor), Dr. Deborah Meem (Girl Scout Gold Award Project Co-Advisor), Rose Kearney (Girl Scout Gold Award Project Co-Advisor) and Daniel Traicoff.



*Camille Borders, Seminar Creator*

# NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE NEWS

## RESOURCES FOR THE AGRICULTURE POSITION UPDATE

*By Nancy Dawley, Natural Resources Committee Chair  
and LWVUS Agriculture Update Committee*

Agriculture has changed dramatically since the League of Women Voters developed its Agriculture Position in 1988. See the policy in full at [www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-policy](http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-policy)

We have a listing of documents and multimedia to provide useful background for members that are not familiar with agriculture issues as we prepare to update the position in late-winter 2014. To see a complete list of documents and multimedia sites as resources on this update, visit our website at <http://lwvcincinnati.org/files/agstudyresources.pdf>

Other resources include reading about one of the 105 farm incubators in North America that provide land to farmers in training. They serve a range of new farmers--immigrants and refugees, to college-educated youth, to career-changers, to elders looking for retirement income.

Eva Agudelo runs the [National Incubator Farm Training Initiative](#) out of The New Entry Sustainable Farming project at Tufts University in Massachusetts. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/tuftsfarm](http://tinyurl.com/tuftsfarm)

"Becoming a farmer in this economy, doing the kind of farming that we're doing, makes sense in a future where oil has gotten so expensive that we can't actually use it anymore," Eva Agudelo said. "We're not there yet, so it's still challenging for small-scale farmers to compete with the industrial food system." Read the full story at [tinyurl.com/yesmagfarmer](http://tinyurl.com/yesmagfarmer).

## CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

*By John Hunter, Natural Resources Committee*

In little more than a century, industrial activities and urbanization powered by fossil fuels have raised Earth's temperature by 0.8 degrees Celsius. At plus 2 degrees C, scientists project that catastrophic climate effects could be inevitable. Reducing CO2 emissions may not be enough since CO2 remains in the atmosphere for many decades. This has led to increased national and international focus on reducing atmospheric levels of other powerful short-lived greenhouse chemicals such as methane and hydrofluorcarbons (HFCs).

The European Parliament has urged its 28 members to adopt policies targeting these powerful pollutants. Last year the US, China and a number of other countries agreed to reduce the use of HFCs. USEPA has issued regulations requiring the capture of methane during fracking for natural gas but the rules don't take effect until 2015 and apply only to new wells.

Methane leakage from oil and gas wells must be kept below 2% to have a climate advantage over coal according to the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Recent measurements by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found leakage rates of 2.3% to 17% of annual production. There is concern that displacement of coal by low cost natural gas from fracking will not deliver the hoped for reduction in greenhouse gases.

Green energy production is growing rapidly but is limited in impact by distribution and production systems that were designed for fossil fuels. Fortunately, newer technologies for dramatic improvements in energy efficiency are appearing. For example, LED lighting controlled by new information systems affords energy savings for commercial warehouses in excess of 90%. Estimates of the impacts of future energy-efficiency technology exceed that of the total oil reserves of Saudi Arabia.

A full range of new and improved green energy technologies including better integration into energy delivery systems are beginning to be commercialized as well. Longer term, non-CO2 producing energy production and increased energy efficiency may be the only ways to stabilize global warming. Perhaps there is reason to be optimistic that we will find a way to a sustainable future.



## LEAGUE MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT AGRICULTURE AT A LOCAL FARM

*By Nancy Dawley, Natural Resources Committee Chair*

Though the sky threatened rain at the beginning, it turned into a beautiful day on the farm.

Turner Farm has been part of Indian Hill since 1873. It is the hub of sustainable organic agriculture in our region. League members enjoyed viewing gardens and barns in the comfort of hay bales on a wagon drawn by Ben, a very large draft horse. Ben got impatient when we talked too long at the okra patch or the just-sprouting carrots. He wanted to work! Besides farming, Turner Farm provides educational opportunities for school and camp children, and various classes for adults. It's a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

The farm rotates its crops over a 3 – 4 year period to fertilize the soil naturally. Mulch and human labor keep the weeds down. Wet summers like this year are a challenge for weeds. But the, dry years are an equal challenge. Turner Farm uses Community Supported Agriculture. People exchange a few hours of work each week for seasonal vegetables and flowers.

Our group met Tulip, a very young gray donkey in training to protect the ewes. When she senses danger from dogs, foxes, or coyotes, she herds the sheep together and scares off the intruder. We heard her braying a welcome to Ben, her friend. The farm raises eggs, pigs, chickens, and lamb, with the animals roaming fields, pastures, and woods.

Before and after the tour, we enjoyed browsing through the shed to pick up fresh produce and eggs. Go to Turner Farm's website if you want more information about what they sell, how to buy it, and what classes you might enjoy. The farm is open for visitors every day except Sunday. [www.turnerfarm.org](http://www.turnerfarm.org).



*Carolyn Meyers-Hughes, Ursula Hassel, Becky Algenio, Cecilia Kloecker, Nancy Dawley, Carolyn Miller, Sept 21, 2013*

## FRACKING FORUM TO BE HELD DECEMBER 4

*By Nancy Dawley, Natural Resources Committee Chair*

**Wednesday, December, 4, 2013; 7 – 9 pm.**

**Rockdale Temple Social Hall; 8501 Ridge Road, Amberley Village, 45236** (south of Ridge Rd exit off Reagan Hwy)

Last year the League had a unit program discussing the many aspects of fracking for gas and oil. Hydraulic fracturing is constantly in the news media as some people say we need it to meet the demand for energy, while others fear the consequences of global warming and pollution. Many members asked that we continue the discussion, so here is such an opportunity.

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, along with the American Jewish Committee and the Brueggeman Center at Xavier University, is planning a forum to educate all of us on the use of this technology and any consequences, positive and negative. Four experts in the field will form the panel, which will inform, debate, and answer questions on fracking. About half of the evening will be allotted to questions. You can even provide some ahead for the panelists by sending them to [frackingquestions@lwwcincinnati.org](mailto:frackingquestions@lwwcincinnati.org).

The forum will be moderated by Carolyn Miller, using League procedures for giving everyone an opportunity to be heard on a sometimes contentious subject. The panelists are (alphabetically) Michael Miller, aquatic ecologist and water quality scientist; James O'Reilly, environmental and regulatory attorney and author; Benjamin Schlesinger, consultant to the natural gas industry; George Ten Eyck, petroleum and environmental geologist.

All people are invited, and we hope attendees will stay a bit after the official program and talk with each other and with the panelists -- a great way to learn even more.

## MOVING CINCINNATI PAST PLASTIC: SHOULD WE SUPPORT A FEE ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS?

*By Jeanne Nightingale*

Plastic bags are everywhere. They follow nearly every purchase we make from groceries to take out. Yet few people are aware that our plastic habit creates massive toxic pollution at every stage of its existence. In one year, American families dispose of 100 billion plastic shopping bags requiring at 12 million barrels of oil in their manufacture. In that same year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. That's over one million plastic bags per minute.

The Earth cannot digest plastic. Plastic bags do not biodegrade. Each bit of plastic that has ever been manufactured still exists in our environment. So much plastic has found its way into the oceans that in some places there is more plastic than plankton ranging from 6:1 to 40:1. Over 267 species of marine wildlife have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of plastic debris. This harms the rest of the food chain, and in fact many harmful chemicals found in plastic end up in the human blood stream.

Not only are single-use plastic bags detrimental to our environment and health, they also cost the City of Cincinnati money in costly clean-up efforts. They find their way into trees, gutters, streams, parks, and the landfill. Rumpke reports spending \$100,000 annually on the removal of plastic bags from their equipment.

What can we do to solve this problem? Two UC students have taken on the challenge. Myra Morehart and Johnna Jackson have initiated a grassroots campaign called Cincinnati Past Plastic which has been adopted by the Cincinnati Sierra Club as an official action campaign.

Passionate about creating positive change in their community, Kyra and Johnna showed the award-winning documentary, "BAG IT! Is Your Life Too Plastic?" at St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church this past Sunday in its monthly series of public programs addressing Global Climate Change as a crisis of human conscience. The series is sponsored by St. John's Green Sanctuary Partners, League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, Woman's City Club, the Sierra Club, and ECO.



The touching and often flat-out-funny film BAG IT! follows "everyman" Jeb Berrier as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic's effects on our oceans, environment, and bodies.

Through such education efforts and awareness actions, Myra and Johnna are working to create a network of advocates ready to lobby for the cause. Their ultimate goal is to introduce legislation in City Council implementing a 5-cent fee on single-use bags. This will greatly reduce the city's plastic waste and rank us among a growing network of cities worldwide taking similar progressive steps to create a greener world.

### Agriculture, Food, and Safety Proposed Rules Comment Period Through 11/15

The 2010 Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was the first upgrade in federal food safety laws since 1938. The Food and Drug Administration has now released its proposed (draft) Produce Rule and Preventive Controls Rule under FSMA and is seeking public comments. The deadline for comments is November 15; comments may be made online or by mail.

To read more background about the FSMA, see:

- <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm>
- [sustainableagriculture.net/fsma/overview-and-background/](http://sustainableagriculture.net/fsma/overview-and-background/)

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE "IN THE KNOW"? BECOME AN OFFICE VOLUNTEER

*By Mary Kay Gardner,  
LWVCA Office Volunteer Coordinator*

You too could join the "elite" group of folks who work in the League office. For a few hours a month you could be "the voice of the League" on the phone to the public.

Hours are only from 9:30 - 12:30 (except for October when you are in the office until 1:30 before Election Day) and training is provided. We are always also looking for subs in the office for unfilled mornings. If you can help for a few hours a month, please call Mary Kay (681-2794) or the League office.

## STATE NEWS

### LWVO AND LWVCA MEDICAID EXPANSION CAMPAIGN: WE HOPE ALL MEMBERS WILL JOIN IN!

*By Nancy Dawley, Action Director*

Both the LWVO and the LWVCA Boards have endorsed working on the Medicaid expansion campaign with a coalition named Healthy Ohioans Work. This coalition includes individuals, community organizations, labor unions, businesses, associations, coalitions, health care providers, insurers, medical professionals, philanthropic organizations, religious organizations, consumer groups and advocates who support Ohio Medicaid expansion.

Below is more background on the campaign from Carrie Davis, Executive Director of the LWV of Ohio.

There are three options for attaining Medicaid expansion:

1. The Legislature passes a bill to authorize expansion. -- This is unlikely given the current political stalemate, but we'll keep pressing for it all the same.
2. The governor could issue an executive order expanding Medicaid. The governor could do this (he could have all along), but he cannot authorize the funding. Normally, funding decisions are made by the legislature. But, some funding decisions for existing programs are approved by the Controlling Board (see <https://ecb.ohio.gov/public/About.aspx> for more info). The Controlling Board authorizes release of money for existing programs, such as paying vendors. Since Medicaid is an existing program with a budget, the Controlling Board could sign off on funds. As of October 11, Governor Kaisch has said he will use this option.
3. An initiated statute. The process is a little different than an initiated constitutional amendment (last year's issue 2). See <http://healthyohioanswork.org/blog/> for details of the process. The campaign circulates petitions and has to turn in 115,500 valid signatures by December 6. This puts the proposed statute before the legislature in January, and they have four months to act. If the legislature does not pass the bill, makes changes to the bill, or doesn't take it up at all; then we go back to the petitions, collect another 115,500 valid signatures (additional registered Ohio voters from those who signed the earlier petitions) to put it on the Nov. 2014 ballot for voters to decide. The downside is that it wouldn't go into effect until Jan. 2015, so we'd miss out on the first year of federal funding. But it's a back-up plan in case the statehouse refuses to act."

Coalition and League members are preparing to execute option 3 in the event that the other 2 do not succeed. Please volunteer to take a petition to friends, family, and neighbors between now and December 6. Call the LWVCA office at 281-8683 to volunteer, and someone will contact you. Or you can go to the Healthy Ohioans Work site <http://healthyohioanswork.org/volunteer/> and request some. The LWVO will not be a source of petitions.

Time will tell which one is used.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### FIRST CALL TO LWVUS CONVENTION IN DALLAS

*By Carolyn Brown, LWVUS Convention Chair*

October marks the "First Call" to Convention 2014 in Dallas, TX on June 6-10, 2014. Please plan to join national, state and local League leaders from around the country for this lively biennial event - to hear nationally known speakers, learn more about the issues important to the organization and the nation, participate in training sessions and join in the discussion and networking that make the League a strong and vital force in our democracy.

The Convention 2014 webpage begins today with this "First Call." The Convention 2014 webpage will be the place you'll want to go for convention information during the next 8 months as we gear up for an outstanding event next June. Beginning in November look for information on how to register, and a lot more.



We look forward to seeing you in Dallas in June 2014! Find more at [www.lwv.org/member-resources/convention-2014](http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/convention-2014)

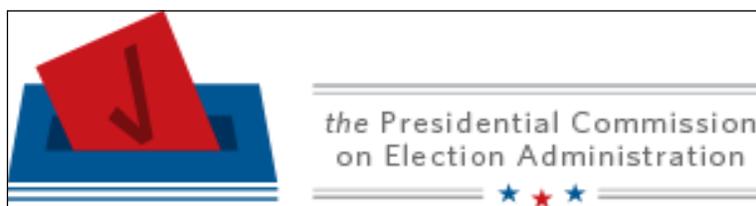
## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS URGES PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT FIVE-POINT AGENDA

*by LWVUS*

In a statement submitted before the final public hearing of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA), the League of Women Voters of the United States urged the commission to improve the polling place experience so that all eligible citizens can become active participants in our electoral process.

“Major improvements in election administration would let voters know that they are the central actors in our nation’s democratic system, just as customers are central to any business enterprise,” Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President stated.

“Accurate, up-to-date voter registration lists are key to efficient management of the polls and to ensuring that voters are not faced with confusion, long waiting times and excessive numbers of provisional ballots,” MacNamara said.



Chief among the League’s recommendations to the PCEA was a call for all states to develop and implement secure online voter registration systems that serve all voters. “While the League is encouraged that 15 states have begun to upgrade their voter registration systems, we must do all we can to be sure that these programs are designed for all eligible citizens,” MacNamara said.

[www.supportthevoter.gov](http://www.supportthevoter.gov)

“Unfortunately, many states currently restrict online voter registration to those who have a driver’s license, which means that millions of eligible voters, particularly younger citizens who already are disproportionately unregistered, cannot register or update their registrations online. Not only does this limitation substantially reduce the effectiveness of online registration, it also raises concerns about the discriminatory effect.” (LWVUS PCEA statement)

The League outlined four additional key areas that election officials could implement to significantly improve the polling place experience for voters including:

- permanent and portable statewide voter registration
- expanded early voting
- improved polling place management
- electronic streamlining.

The PCEA is co-chaired by attorneys Robert Bauer and Ben Ginsberg. When President Obama gave his acceptance speech on election night 2012, he pointed to some of the challenges that voters faced when casting their ballots earlier that day, saying “we have to fix that.” The President later appointed this commission to examine the problems and propose solutions, particularly those that could be adopted at the state and local levels. The commission is to report this year on its recommendations.

## **MONEY AND INFLUENCE IN AMERICAN POLITICS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT SUPREME COURT**

*By LWVUS*

On Oct. 8, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*. The case challenges aggregate contribution limits that are imposed on individual donors to candidates and political committees in order to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption. The League has joined an amicus brief in this case.

“The importance of the result in this case cannot be overstated,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. “While *McCutcheon* deals with a technical and arcane matter of campaign finance law, it boils down to more money, more influence.”

“Yes to corruption or no to corruption: that is the question the Supreme Court will decide,” said MacNamara.

Chief Justice Roberts will likely be the key vote in *McCutcheon*. Previously he has allowed contribution limits both on gifts to candidates and to political parties. “Justice Roberts would likely have to reverse himself to block the aggregate limit and rule for *McCutcheon*. He would also likely have to reverse the long-standing precedent of *Buckley v. Valeo* that upheld contribution limits. The stakes are very high in this case,” said MacNamara.

“Overturning the aggregate limit would ignore the real world effects that abolishing the limits would have. Absent an aggregate limit, individual donors would essentially be allowed to donate millions of dollars to candidates and political parties and corrupt our political system,” according to MacNamara.

“Abolishing aggregate limits would also allow the party and PAC systems to become a funnel for candidates across the country and circumvent the other existing limits,” MacNamara said. “Given the state of our political system right now, there is no need to increase the corrupting role of big money in elections.”

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROGRESSIVE GROUPS OFFER STRONG SUPPORT FOR OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, EPA PROPOSAL TO LIMIT CARBON POLLUTION FROM NEW POWER PLANTS**

*By LWVUS*

September 20 - Following today’s EPA proposal of the first-ever national carbon pollution standards for new power plants, a coalition of environmental and progressive groups, supporting strong clean air standards, pledged their support for this important action.

The groups issued the following joint statement:

“Today the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first national standards for carbon pollution from future power plants. This sets the United States on a course to address the largest source of carbon pollution in the nation, America’s aging power plants. While public health safeguards against mercury, arsenic, soot and other dangerous pollution from power plants exist, there are no federal limits on the carbon pollution that is responsible for climate change and fuels extreme weather, droughts and wildfires. Until now.

“This proposal is a major step toward meeting our obligation to protect our children and future generations from the growing threat of climate change. When this policy is finalized, the President and the EPA will ensure that no future power plants can dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution in the air.

“We applaud President Barack Obama and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy for proposing this important public health and clean air safeguard. Along with millions of Americans, we encourage the administration to next move forward with strong carbon pollution standards for existing power plants.”

The following groups have signed onto the statement: Center for American Progress, Environment America, Environmental Defense Fund, EarthJustice, League of Conservation Voters, League of Women Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club

## LWVCA STUDY PAGES - NOVEMBER 2013

# EDUCATION AND DESEGREGATION: LWVCA POSITION UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

At the LWVCA's Annual Meeting of 2012, members voted in favor of updating our local position on Cincinnati Public Schools. This position, adopted in 1976 when the desegregation case was still active in the courts, has been retained by the membership since that adoption.

The portion under review reads as follows:

**“Support of Policies and Programs Leading to Improved Educational Opportunity.**

**Position:** The LWVCA supports different approaches to achieve high quality integrated education for every child. Methods of desegregation that the LWVCA supports include: alternative schools, open enrollment, pairing of schools, redistricting. The LWVCA supports a program of educating the public for school desegregation. We support the League's participation in the desegregation plan. The LWVCA supports open enrollment in all Hamilton County area schools if there is no financial burden to the receiving district.”

*Note: The part of our position pertaining to CPS levies and bond issues is not included in this update.*

It is now the responsibility of the membership to decide how they wish to respond to this “mandate” from the 2012 Annual Meeting. Should we retain the position as it is stated? Should we drop it? Should we have a new study on Cincinnati Public Schools, and if so, what should it cover?

Information in this study guide presents information on what led up to the desegregation suit and its resolution, what the immediate impact was, and what the situation is in Cincinnati Public Schools at the present time.

### LAWSUITS CONCERNING CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recall the famous *Brown v. Board of Education*, the case that ended “de jure” segregation in the United States, was settled in 1954. It ended the ability of states to require legally that African-American students to attend “separate but equal” schools, and the ramifications of that decision were and are still well known. However, another form of segregation was that of “de facto”; this form separated African-American and white students by matching building attendance assignments to neighborhoods of residence. It was this later form of segregation that was the subject of the lawsuit in Cincinnati.

The “modern day” battle to desegregate Cincinnati Public Schools was begun in 1963 when the NAACP filed suit on behalf of Tina Deal and 44 other black children. The suit alleged that the district maintained an illegal segregated school system. In 1965, U.S. District Judge John Peck ruled that the Board did not intentionally segregate the schools, a ruling that withstood appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case in 1971.

In December, 1973 the Cincinnati school board voted, 4-3, to adopt a district-wide busing plan in an effort to diversify the racial composition of the district's buildings. However, School Board elections had taken place in November, 1973, and a new majority had been elected. These new Board members took office in January, 1974 and rejected the plan of the outgoing Board. The newly installed Board members adopted their own plan which was designed to desegregate the system voluntarily through alternative-school programs and open enrollment. On May 29, 1974, the NAACP filed *Bronson vs. Board of Education*, the Bronson suit, seeking desegregation, a halt to school construction and racial balance in staff assignments.

This lawsuit followed a torturous path that wound through the system until October 27, 1993, when the “Board adopted a settlement agreement the NAACP that ended the consent decree. The Board promised to maintain efforts to racially balance the schools, improve education on low-achieving schools and have unbiased disciplinary practices.” (*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 10/28/1993)

Two further efforts to improve racial balance in the schools came in 1996 when the Bronson Agreement expired and the district turned its attention to improving neighborhood schools. Then in 1998, the NAACP, displeased with the progress of that improvement, asked the Court to retake supervision because of high dropout rates and poor test results among black students. Although the judge in the case granted the request in part and the parties involved submitted their arguments, court records do not describe any further activity in the case. (*Enquirer*, 4/22/2010)

**MAGNET SCHOOLS AS A TOOL FOR DESEGREGATION**

Meanwhile, the Board and the administration of Cincinnati Public Schools had created “magnet” schools in the system; the hope was that the district could achieve racial balance and would both attract and retain students by offering parents and students the opportunity to attend schools with specially designed programs. The initial offerings were limited in number and type— Montessori, School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Elementary College Preparatory, language and even physical education. In 1984, when the Bronson Case was settled, CPS’s magnet program expanded. (Note: there were, however, appeals, refilings, and further requests to the courts until 2008, when the case file was closed without explanation.)

In 1993, the Board settled with the NAACP on all issues and the consent decree officially ended. Federal oversight had come to an end, which meant that racial balance was no longer a primary focus within each building. (Note: A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision declared that race cannot be used as an admission standard in schools.) At present, CPS has nine magnet programs spread among 20 elementary schools (high schools are all choice buildings), and they focus on content (e.g., language,), STEM, teaching styles (e.g., Montessori, Paideia, online), arts. Admission is on a “first-come, first-in” basis, although siblings of students in a given school are automatically admitted. Hoping to attract white students from the suburbs, Cincinnati public schools enacted open enrollment policies in 2013, allowing students from outside the district to register for Cincinnati schools at no cost.

Since the district initiated its program of magnet schools, there has been controversy about them. One of the complaints is that the regular neighborhood schools were neglected when it came to funding and staffing. Critics claimed that these schools had become more racially and socio-economically isolated and that educational goals in these areas were not met. On the other hand, several of the magnet schools have become award winning schools that attract students from throughout the region.

**CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS**

Over the period of time that the implementation of desegregation measures was instituted, the composition of CPS’s student body changed both racially and numerically. Many middle-class families left Cincinnati Public Schools for other educational systems (e.g., private schools, charter schools, suburban districts). According to a talk given by former Board member John Gilligan, in 1975, the district had roughly 90,000 students of whom 70% were white, and 30% were black, and less than 20% were economically disadvantaged. In the 1979-80 school year, enrollment had decreased to 55,947 of which 56.22% were black and 43.26% were white. By 1989-90, the enrollment was 50,832, with 64.02% black and 36.9% white. For the 2011-12 school year, the student enrollment was ±33,000, the demographic composition was 65.4% black, 25.3% white, and 72.6% economically disadvantaged. Chris Wolff of the CPS Public Relations Department advised that during the past two years, enrollment has stabilized at about 33,000 students.

**LEAGUE POSITIONS AND ACTION**

Since we adopted our local position on desegregation in 1976, the district has grappled with the challenges posed both by the suit and the changing school population. While the LWVCA had an active role in supporting the desegregation plan in the 1970s, League action on this position has been nonexistent for many years--in part because the solutions came through the courts, not through legislative action. We do act on the part of the position that deals with levies and bond issues by examining finances, meeting with the CPS Treasurer, and preparing recommendations for our Board.

However, most of our recent action on education has dealt with state funding issues, vouchers, and charter schools, as these are products of the Ohio Legislature. For these we depend upon our LWV Ohio positions on education, which allow us to advocate on issues involving Ohio’s State Education Standards and the legislated funding methods.

In March, 2012, the LWVUS Board adopted a position on the “Federal Role in Public Education.” That position states “The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students ... In accordance with the League of Women Voters’ position on Equal Rights, we continue to support equity in public education for all ...

The League of Women Voters believes a basic role of the federal government in funding education should be to achieve equity among states and populations on the basis of identified needs. This should be done with full understanding that equity does not mean equal, given that some populations are more expensive to educate than others and some localities have specific needs.” This fairly new national position on education may or may not provide opportunity for taking action at both the state and local levels as well as the federal level.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

**With this background information in hand, members must decide is whether or not our local position on desegregation in Cincinnati Public Schools is still relevant.** Should it be *retained? Dropped?* Are our LWVO and LWVUS positions sufficient to address League issues within Cincinnati Public Schools? Should we consider a new study of Cincinnati Public Schools? If so, what should that study encompass? On what should we concentrate our efforts for Cincinnati Public Schools in the future? Do we want to expand our efforts into other school districts in Hamilton County? If so, what would we want to examine in those districts? We look forward to members’ responses to these questions in November.

## ***ALL ABOARD THE DINNER TRAIN!***

### ***Saturday, November 23, 6 p.m.***

After all our work informing Cincinnati area citizens about the candidates and issues, we're planning a special League evening celebration following the November election.

Saturday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will enjoy dinner together as we ride downtown and back on the **Cincinnati Dinner Train!** We have negotiated a special price for the first 60 Leaguers (members and spouses) who indicate in writing that they wish to join the group. A wait list covering interested friends will be created to enable them to join us if space permits. We will have a 60-person dining car all to ourselves – it'll be "The League Car" that night!



Here are some additional details:

- The Dinner Train departs at 6:00 PM from its boarding location adjacent to the BBQ Revue restaurant, 4725 Madison Road.
- Each person will enjoy a meal that includes four courses with a choice of three entrees – hickory smoked prime rib, salmon with hoisin glaze, or boneless chicken breast sautéed in a white wine sauce. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free meals also are available.
- The three-hour trip goes south to Lunken Airport, then west along the Ohio River to the Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse, where the locomotive relocates to the other end of the train for the trip back to the starting point.
- Your special League price will be \$55.73 per person. The only additional costs will be your tip for the servers and any beverages that you purchase (coffee, tea, and water are included). The usual Dinner Train cost is \$74.50 per person.



This is a celebration you won't want to miss! You'll enjoy good friends, excellent food, attentive service, and beautiful scenery. To reserve your place on the Dinner Train, simply call or email the office ([info@lwvcincinnati.org](mailto:info@lwvcincinnati.org)) with the number of people in your party, then follow up with your payment, made payable to "LWVCA." This needs to be received at the office no later than November 15. A waiting list will be established for those who express an interest after the 60-person capacity is filled, in the event of cancellations.

Don't let the train leave without you! Call and email your reservations now!

(Check out the Cincinnati Dinner Train website at [www.cincinnati-railway.com/dinnertrain/](http://www.cincinnati-railway.com/dinnertrain/))

# LEAGUE LINGO

## Otherwise known as "do you understand what I'm saying?"

One of the best things about the League is its long and rich history. All those years of working out procedures and terms can sometimes leave newer members at a loss, however. Here is a glossary to help all the newcomers get up to speed!



**ACTION:** Expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or her/his authorized representative.

**ACTION ALERT:** Request from state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position.

**CONCURRENCE:** Agreement of League members with position reached by a small group or another League.

**CONSENSUS:** Collective opinion of League members on a particular subject. Also, process used to arrive at positions on issues.

**CONVENTION:** State and national League meetings held biennially. Delegates adopt program, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming year, and act on proposed by-laws changes.

**COUNCIL:** State and national meetings held in the years between conventions. Limited delegate body adopts budget for the coming year; may discuss program.

**DPM:** Stands for Duplicate Presidents Mailings. Any member may subscribe and receive the same material contained in a national mailing to local League presidents.

**EDUCATION FUND:** The tax-deductible arm of the LWV. Education funds may be established at all three levels of League. Education monies may not be used for position support activities (action.)

**ILO:** Acronym for Inter-League Organization. Leagues in a geographic area may join for joint activities and have a governing board.

**LOCAL LEAGUE LIAISON:** State board member assigned to receive and read local League minutes and Voters. Primary contact for the local League presidents with the state board.

**MAL:** Meaning Member-At-Large, this is a member who does not belong to a local League.

**NON-PARTISANSHIP:** League policy of never supporting nor opposing any candidate or political party.

**PMP:** Acronym for Per Member Payment, which is the amount of money paid to the state and national on behalf of each member. The amount of the PMP is determined by delegates to state and national Conventions and is assessed based on the membership count as of January 1 each year.

**PORTFOLIO:** The particular job assigned to a board member of off-board chairperson i.e. membership, finance, secretary, etc.

**POSITION:** League's point of view, arrived at through member study and consensus (or concurrence.)

**POST-BOARD MAILING:** Reports of regular state and national board meetings including: action taken on current program issues, updated information on current program issues, board of directors activity, other information of interest to local League members.

**PRINCIPLES:** Governmental standards and policies supported by the League by which all proposed or adopted local, state or national issues are measured.

**PROGRAM:** Selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state and national levels for study and action.

**STUDY:** The process (one-two years normally) of research and educating ourselves on an issue prior to consensus taking and arrival at a formal position.

**TAX STATUS 501 (c) (3):** Not-for-profit organization that is exempt from federal taxes. In addition, corporate and individual contributions are tax deductible.

**TAX STATUS 501 (c) (4):** Not-for-profit organization that is exempt from federal taxes. Contributions are not tax deductible.

**UNIT:** Division of the membership into groups of a size that will provide maximum participation by members in discussion of League program and activities. Units can be time-oriented or geographically oriented or both. Most larger Leagues have units.

**VOTER:** Newsletter for members and other subscribers, published by local, state and national Leagues.

**VOTER'S GUIDE:** Nonpartisan publications giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

**VOTER SERVICE:** Activities to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process.

## ***The Voter*** **Collating Schedule\*** **2013 – 2014**

August 22  
September *Voter*  
**LWVCA Board**

September 19  
October *Voter*  
**Warren/Butler**

October 24  
November/December *Voter*  
**Central Evening**

December 19  
January *Voter*  
**Anderson**

January 23, 2014  
February *Voter*  
**Eastern Day and Office Volunteers**

February 20  
March *Voter*  
**Hilltop North**

March 20  
April *Voter*  
**Metro Day**

April 17  
May/June *Voter*  
**Northeast Evening**

June 19  
July/August *Voter*  
**Hilltop North**

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

## **Join the League of Women Voters**

***Because democracy is not a spectator sport!***

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 LWVCA and LWVO.

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

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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 and Marty Harrington

Layout/Design:

Marty Harrington and Phyllis Nesselroad

***Please submit articles to:***

[newsletter@lwcincinnati.org](mailto:newsletter@lwcincinnati.org)

**Next deadline: Friday 12/06/13**  
for the ***January 2014*** issue



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

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**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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 check our online calendar at [www.lwvcincinnati.org](http://www.lwvcincinnati.org) for the most up-to-date meeting and activity information)

Thursday	Nov 7	2 pm	LWVCA Board Meeting
Monday	Nov 11	Noon	Housing Committee
Monday	Nov 11	7 pm	Northeast Evening Unit - Madeira Public Library, Miami and Euclid Roads
Tuesday	Nov 12	Noon	Hilltop North Unit - Friendship UMC, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd.
Tuesday	Nov 12	7 pm	Anderson Unit - Government Center, Community Room, 7850 Five Mile Rd
Tuesday	Nov 12	7:30 pm	Warren/Butler County Unit - Mason UMC, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd
Wednesday	Nov 13	Noon	Eastern Day Unit - Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Community, 3550 Michigan Ave.
Wednesday	Nov 13	7:15 pm	Central Evening Unit
Thursday	Nov 14	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee
Tuesday	Nov 19	7 pm	County Government Committee
Wednesday	Nov 20	Noon	Metro Day Unit
Wednesday	Nov 20	7 pm	Program Development Committee (PDC)
Saturday	Nov 23	6 pm	LWVCA Night on the Cincinnati Dinner Train, 4725 Madison Rd
Thurs-Fri	Nov 28-29		<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> - Office Closed
Tuesday	Dec 3	2 pm	LWVCA Board Meeting
Wednesday	Dec 4	6:30pm	Communications Committee
Wednesday	Dec 4	7pm	Fracking Forum - Rockdale Temple, 8501 Ridge Rd., Amberley Village, 45236
Friday	Dec 6		Submissions deadline for January 2014 Voter
Monday	Dec 9	Noon	Housing Committee
Monday	Dec 9	7 pm	Northeast Evening Unit - Holiday Dinner at Ferrari's, Madeira
Tuesday	Dec 10	Noon	Hilltop North Unit - Friendship UMC, Springfield Pike & Fleming Rd.
Tuesday	Dec 10	7:30 pm	Warren/Butler County Unit - Mason UMC, 773 Mason-Montgomery Rd
Wednesday	Dec 11	Noon	Metro Day Unit - Holiday lunch - location <i>ibid</i>
Wednesday	Dec 11	Noon	Eastern Day Unit - Marjorie P Lee Retirement Community, 3550 Michigan Ave.
Thursday	Dec 12	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee
Week of	Dec 23-27		<b>Winter Break</b> - Office Closed
Saturday	Jan 4, 2014	10 am	Discussion Leader Briefing for January (No Wednesday session)