



THE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2024

LIGHTING THE FIRE,
LEADING THE WAY,
SINCE 1915

- WOMEN FOR CHANGE -

WITH SPEAKER **RACHEL ROBERTS**
KY STATE REP 2020-2024

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15 ~ 7 to 8:30 PM

MT. AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ GEIER ROOM
103 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT ROAD, CINCINNATI

OUR MISSION

Woman's City Club is committed to building a strong Greater Cincinnati community through educating, empowering, and engaging all citizens to participate in promoting the common good.

OUR VISION

We envision a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged as informed stakeholders in the shaping of our shared future.

OUR VALUES

Collaboration - Citizen Empowerment
Equity and Justice
A Thriving City of the Future

WOMAN'S CITY CLUB is pleased to host the Charter Committee's Centennial Celebration program with Rep. Rachel Roberts.



Rachel Roberts is an American politician serving as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, the first woman ever to hold the 67th district seat. She assumed office on March 3, 2020 and in 2023, became the Kentucky House Minority Whip, the fifth woman in the history of Kentucky to be elected to House leadership. Rachel is a champion for health care, children, crime victims, public schools and teachers, and as a businesswoman, she is a strong voice for economic issues and job creation.

A native of Cincinnati, Roberts lives with her husband and their rescue pets in Newport, KY. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing and business from Fort Lewis College in Colorado, and completed programs at the Harvard Kennedy School and Yale University.

The speaker for this program was originally to be former Cincinnati mayor Roxanne Qualls. We regret that due to a cycling accident, she is unable to appear on October 15, and we wish her a speedy recovery. We appreciate that Rachel Roberts is able to take Roxanne's place on such short notice and look forward to her presentation.

IN THIS ISSUE

Women for Change.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Judicial Forum.....	3
Candidates Forum.....	4
Issue 1 Rally.....	5
Feist Tea.....	6
Annual Fund.....	7
Member Profile.....	8
Civic Engagement.....	9-10
Book Club.....	11
WCC Calendar.....	12

Woman's City Club welcomes new members. Visit our website, WomansCityClub.org, to learn more about us and how to join.



THE POWER OF WOMEN VOTING

As I write this, we are a little more than a month out from the election on November 5. According to a report by the League of Women Voters of voters, in elections from 2004 through 2022, women voted at higher rates than men overall! Reports from the US Census from those years show that women registered to vote at higher rates than men. In several years, the discrepancy has been as high as 10 percentage points. (See <https://www.lwv.org/blog/report-women-voters-numbers>)

In 15 states, the proportion of women within the voter population was as high as 58% to 71%. In Ohio, the ratio of women voters is in the range of 47.0% to 52.2%, so turnout among women is very pivotal. Women have significant power over the outcomes of elections, and your vote is critically important in influencing issues that impact our lives such as reproductive rights, redistricting reform, the justice system and education.

The power of women will be featured in a talk by KY State Representative Rachel Roberts on October 15 co-presented by WCC with the Cincinnati Charter Committee. (See page 1.) Entitled "Women for Change," her remarks will discuss the significant role of women in improving the quality of life in Greater Cincinnati. She's sure to mention how Woman's City Club (WCC) contributed to reform of Cincinnati's government

through the establishment of a new City Charter a century ago. WCC was also instrumental in creation of the country's first comprehensive City Plan in 1925.

WCC is a nonpartisan organization, so we don't endorse candidates, but we are cosponsoring two election-related programs during the month of October. On October 9, be sure to watch a Judicial Candidates Forum presented via Zoom by the Cincinnati Bar Association, WCC and the Cincinnati Association. (See page 3.) On October 14, WCC will cosponsor a conversation with six women candidates for county and state offices in collaboration with Women in Film, also on Zoom. (See page 4.)

And don't forget to vote, "yes," on Issue 1 to end gerrymandering! Don't be fooled by the deliberately confusing ballot language or campaign signs that are blatantly false. Ohio, one of the worst gerrymandered states in the country, desperately needs a fair and balanced commission of citizens and not politicians who are driven to preserve their own power and ignore the will of the voters.

~ Beth Sullebarger
President





JUDGE THE CANDIDATES

HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 5:30 - 8 pm

Streaming live on Facebook and via Zoom

JUDGE THE CANDIDATES*

HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES.

The judicial forum gives voters an opportunity to virtually meet the Court candidates running for judicial office. This nonpartisan event is not a debate, but rather an opportunity for voters to hear about the candidates' experience, judicial philosophy, and plans for the Court.

THIS FORUM IS PRESENTED BY:

Cincinnati Bar Association, Committee on the Judiciary (host)
League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area
Woman's City Club
Cincinnati Association

5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Leslie Ghiz
Chris Lipps
Bernard Mundy
Steve Simon
Virginia Tallent
Robert Winkler

7 – 8 P.M.

**FIRST DISTRICT COURT
OF APPEALS**

Candace Crouse
Rich Moore
Terry Nestor
Marilyn Zayas

*These candidates have agreed to participate in the forum. For a full list of candidates, please visit the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

[Register at CINCYBAR.ORG](http://CINCYBAR.ORG)



WOMEN RUNNING FOR OFFICE – ARE WE THERE YET?

Monday, October 14, at 7pm via Zoom
Co-Sponsored by WCC and Women in Film

Join us for a non-partisan forum where women candidates discuss the unique advantages and challenges of running for office in 2024.

As a country, we have more women in politics than ever before, but are we there yet? In the U.S. Senate, 75% of seats are still held by men. With a woman running for President in 2024, just last year Pew Research found that only 18% of US adults said it’s “extremely or very important” that a woman be elected president *in their lifetime*.

In Ohio, no Latina has ever served in the Ohio Statehouse. Women hold 28.8% of Ohio’s legislative seats, ranking Ohio 36th out of 50 states, according to the Center for American Women in Politics.

Locally, the picture is brighter. In Hamilton County, women now hold more than half the elected positions, as well as 21 of 42 judicial seats. However, many still face gender discrimination they often find shocking.

Consider the experience of first-time political candidate Karen Brownlee, running for Ohio Representative in the 28th district. “When I was out campaigning with my husband, the man we were telling about the campaign said, ‘Who is going to cook dinner if you are running for office?’ We have a long way to go to support women in politics,” says Brownlee.

Judge Leslie Ghiz says she was sworn in holding one baby, with a toddler hanging onto her leg. Ghiz says, “I have wondered a million times, and still do, how in the world would a man be able to juggle that?”

Ghiz, Brownlee and many local female candidates will share stories in a nonpartisan forum hosted by Women in Film Cincinnati and Woman’s City Club, free and open to the public.

CANDIDATES



Karen Brownlee (D)
For OH 28th District
Madeira to Forest Park



Judge Leslie Ghiz (R/I)
For Judge, Common Pleas
Hamilton County Court



Mary Hill (R)
For Clerks of
Courts



Connie Pillich (D)
For Prosecutor
Hamilton County Office



Rep. Jean Schmidt (R)
For OH 62nd District
Loveland to Springboro



Viginia Tallent (D)
For Judge, Common Pleas
Hamilton County Court

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



SPONSORS





RALLY TO END GERRYMANDERING ATTRACTED 200

What began as a promise to Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor when she spoke at WCC's February 2023 program turned into a very public reality on Saturday, September 14 on Fountain Square. With the support of five other organizations, four speakers, and 3CDC, Woman's City Club held a rally in the heart of our city to educate, engage, and empower people to vote for Issue 1, the amendment O'Connor wrote to end gerrymandering in Ohio.

Because of our dedicated partners – **The Cincinnati Association, Citizens Not Politicians, Common Cause, Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative, and League of Women Voters Ohio** – the event presented a strong lineup of inspiring and compelling speakers. Thanks to 3CDC waiving or reducing fees for use of the space and equipment, and its experienced staff's advice in planning, we met all our goals. Each partner had a tented table to promote its work and sign up members. Voter registration was available. The plaza accommodated a crowd and the main stage gave great visibility to the speakers.

Whistle Stop, an acoustic duo, opened the event and drew people to the Square with their music. Folksinger **Chris Bieri** performed her original song "The Gerrymander: The Monster That Ate Democracy." WCC President **Beth Sullebarger** welcomed people to the rally and introduced **Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**, who gave an official welcome on behalf of the



Catherine Turcer

City of Cincinnati along with her strong personal endorsement of Issue 1. Beth followed up with more info about the event and why she supports the issue, and introduced **Catherine Turcer**, Executive Director of Common Cause, who got everyone fired up with chants of "Yes" and "Hell, YES!"

Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri, president of The Cincinnati Association, introduced celebrity guest **Justin Jeffrey**, who spoke of his commitment to his hometown and the importance of fairness in government. Rhonda then explained why both Cincinnati and she personally support Issue 1 before introducing **Jen Miller**, Executive Director of League of Women Voters

Ohio. Jen's passionate call to action included solid reasons to support fair districts along with the chorus of "These Boots Were Made for Walking" and a reprise of Catherine's "Hell, Yes" chant. And last, but never least, **Susan Noonan** ended the presentations with a call to visit the tables, take home a sign or flyers, get registered to vote, and join one of the "amazing groups working to save democracy." People did indeed do that.



Jen Miller

Jen Miller, who is also a pro at crowd-counting, estimated we had 200 people in the Square. The 3CDC staff members who were working the event each told us this was the biggest Saturday daytime event they have had on the Square. So it was indeed a success and worth all the time and effort so many of us put into planning and

staffing the event – but the real measure of success will be at the polls. Please post a yard sign and do all you can between now and November 5 to educate everyone you know about this critical amendment and engage them to vote "Yes on Issue 1." We won't have fair districts until we give power to citizens, not politicians.



L to R: Jen Miller, Beth Sullebarger, Catherine Turcer



~Janet Buening
Program Committee



15th ANNUAL FEIST TEA

Sunday, December 8, 2024
1:30 pm ~ Refreshments and Mingling
2 pm ~ Program

Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex
6620 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati

CELEBRATE... AND HAVE A GOOD TIME

This annual elegant and fun tea gives us a chance to celebrate Woman’s City Club and its feisty and dedicated members for their civic engagement. Join in recognizing all past presidents and honorees who have served and supported WCC across the many years and honoring the contributions of the lively, determined, and courageous individuals who embody the mission of WCC .

HOW TO NOMINATE

As always, we invite WCC members to nominate people to be honored at the Feist Tea. The nomination may be for a member or non-member of WCC whose significant contributions to WCC and/or Greater Cincinnati align with WCC’s mission.

The office emailed members the application form for nominations on September 9. Members may also email their nominations to Laurie Frank, Feist Tea Chair, at lkfrank81@gmail.com. Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Frank.

DEADLINE

Nomination deadline is October 11. A selection sub-committee, including Feist Tea Committee and WCC Board members, will meet at the end of October to select this year’s Feist Tea honorees.

PAST HONOREES

Women’s City Club hopes ALL past Feist Tea honorees will attend and be recognized. Last year’s honorees were Louise Gomer Bangel, Lydia Morgan, Jan Seymour, and David Siders.



Louise Gomer Bangel

Lydia Morgan

Jan Seymour

David Siders

PLEASE NOTE

Although Feist Tea is a free event, we welcome your donation in honor of our 2024 honorees.
A virtual invitation will be emailed to members by mid-November.

*~ Laurie Frank, Chair
Feist Tea Committee*



COUNTING ON YOU TO SUPPORT WCC'S 2024 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN!

If you are a person who is committed to civic education and engagement in your community, we hope you will respond to our Annual Fund Campaign request and **give as generously as you can to keep WCC strong and viable.**

Membership dues alone cover only about 20% of our annual operating budget. We do a lot with a little, but we have to pay our rent and monthly bills for telephone, internet, office equipment, printing and postage. All of these costs have gone up lately. In fact, our rent at Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church, which was low to begin with, just went up 40%! We rely on a volunteer working board and our paid staff—part-time Communications Manager Donna Tukel and Accountant Paul Maddox— but **we also depend on you to give!**

Think of it the way you think of contributing to public radio or public television. You may not participate in all our activities, but you can support the important role we play in the Greater

Cincinnati community, bringing the civic voice to the table on issues like voting rights, affordable housing, environmental issues, education, and more.

The easiest and fastest way to donate, on a one-time or monthly basis, is through our website, womanscityclub.org/donate. You can also mail a check to Woman's City Club or call us at (513) 751-0100 on M/W/F from 10 am to 2 pm to donate by credit card. You can set up a recurring gift through your banking institution or credit card, or work with your financial advisor to explore other ways to support us. You can lower your income tax by contributing from your required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA!

You can also specify what you would like us to spend the money on, like our annual education awards or National Speaker Forum. Your support will enable WCC to continue to **Light the Fire** of equity and opportunity and **Lead the Way** forward to a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged in shaping our shared future.



Photo courtesy of Citybeat.com



CHERI REKOW

Even though an invitation to join is not necessary, it took two to bring Cheri Rekow, WCC Vice President of Civic Engagement, into the Woman's City Club. Tommie Thompson first introduced her to the club in the 1990s, and current president Beth Sullebarger asked her again last year.

Rekow said she “loves bringing her planning skills to anything she does with WCC — be it National Speaker selection or civic engagement leadership — and discovering the skills, passions, and stories that every WCC member brings to the table.

She recently retired from the City of Cincinnati as a transportation and land-use planner, having spent 20 years in the Department of Transportation and Engineering. She gained early experience through the University of Cincinnati co-op program in the District of Columbia and Boston through the University of Cincinnati co-op program and studies abroad in Europe and the Middle East.

She lists her professional highlights as staff support for many downtown development projects, including The Banks, Riverfront, managing plans and strategies for City neighborhoods, Lunken Airport and a variety of multi-modal transportation projects. Her passion for research as data geek and Geographic Information System super-user (since 1993), was instrumental in bringing over \$388 million in funding to the city through successful grant writing.

From UC's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning, Rekow received a B.S. in science and design and M.S. community planning. A Cincinnati ever since, she grew up in Northern Kentucky. Since retiring, she continues grant writing for City neighborhoods and other worthy causes – including WCC.



Rekow and her husband, Peri Georgiades, take joy in their three now-adult children and a new son-in-law, as they grow in their own fields of industrial design, medicine, and mechanical engineering/robotics. Motivated by her children, she has been a constant volunteer for and led a variety of youth-centered, religious and educational organizations, including PTA and scouting.

Rekow's creative outlets include being a multi-media amateur painter, sculptor and seamstress, and, since 2008, a periodic blogger through which she shares her sculpture and other ventures.

As a career public servant “and self-professed GDI,” Rekow has “prided herself “on being non-partisan. Today a moderate, she sees a real need to “daylight the impacts of misinformation, extremism, and corruption on society, “especially on the least empowered.” She sees WCC as a way to do that.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As the new VP for Civic Engagement, I have exciting news, including a ‘Save-the-Date’ announcement and other noteworthy items:

- Save-the-Date for WCC’s November Forum (details below)
- Take our Civic Engagement Survey (purpose and link to quick 3-question survey below)
- Act on Issue 1, the leading State issue that Ohio voters will decide on November 5.

SAVE THE DATE for the November Forum on the Cincinnati Futures Commission Report (FCR) on **Wednesday, November 13, 2024** at 6:00 PM. Forum details and updates will be posted on our website.

WCC invites the public to join our 90-minute discussion with a panel of experts on municipal performance management, operations, and budgeting, in response to the FCR recommendations. Becca Costello, a local government reporter, on WXXU will serve as moderator. The FCR recommendations will have lasting impacts on every City resident, business owner, and City employee. We encourage citizens to take this opportunity to ask burning questions about the recommendations affecting safety, sale of City assets, economic development an overdue land-use plan, infrastructure investment and maintenance, affordable housing and more.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK. We want to know what is important to you and where you get information on significant issues. Please take the quick three-question survey on our website to help the WCC Civic Engagement Committee serve you better! Then check back for the survey results in the November Bulletin!

ACT ON ISSUE 1. Kudos to the WCC Program Committee for taking the lead in bringing 200+ Ohioans downtown to Fountain Square for the (anti) Gerrymandering Rally!!! But there is MORE TO DO...

Between now and Election Day on November 5, please reach out to voters registered in Ohio to VOTE YES ON ISSUE 1. Because of early voting, please reach out sooner than later! The WCC Civic Engagement team challenges all WCC members to remind friends and family, in person or via social media, why they should care about gerrymandering and what they should know about Issue 1:

- The Issue 1 ballot language is intentionally confusing. Voting YES on 1 will end unfair districting.
- Gerrymandering is the political manipulation of voting district boundaries with the intent to unduly favor a party, group, or socioeconomic class.
- According to *Newsweek*, Ohio is among the 11 worst gerrymandered states along with North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, Utah, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

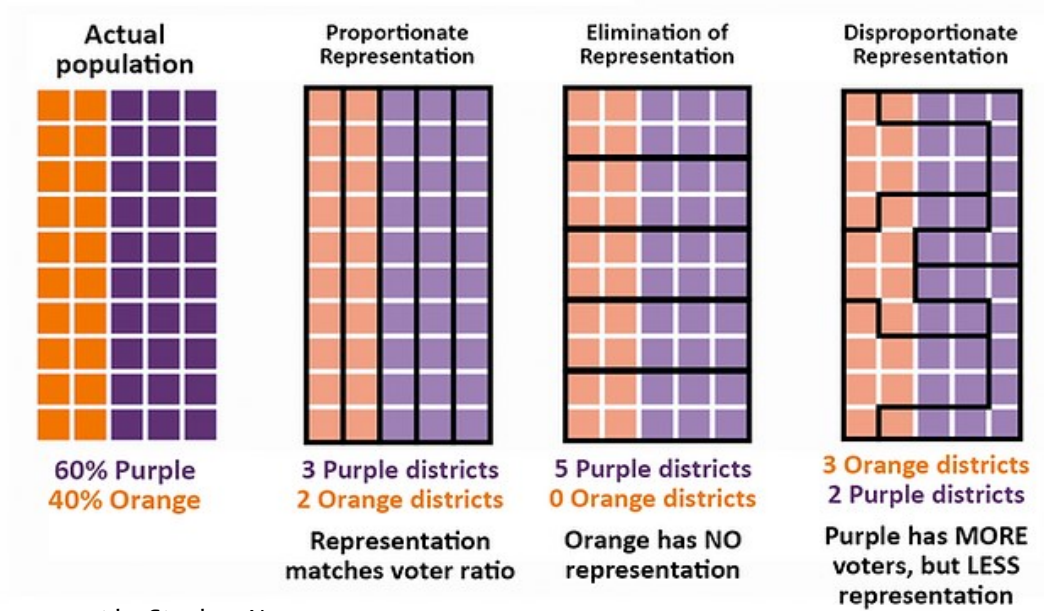
Continued on page 10



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The graphic below and the source articles explain why Ohio's First District looks like it does today.

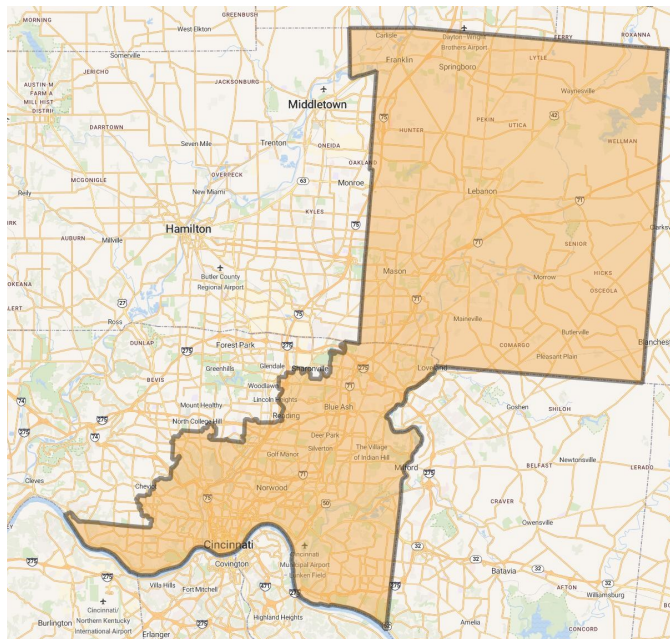
How Gerrymandering Affects Representation:



Adapted from a concept by Stephen Nass

Sources:

League of Woman's Voters - Chillicothe-Ross <https://www.lwvchillicothe.org/issue1>



Map: Ballotpedia

Cheri Rekow
VP, Civic Engagement



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

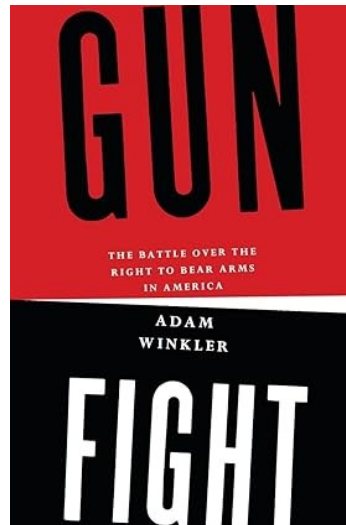
OCTOBER BOOK CLUB SELECTION

GUNFIGHT: THE BATTLE OVER THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IN AMERICA

Reprint Edition 2018

By Adam Winkler

**Saturday, November 9
10 am via Zoom**



Gunfight is a timely work examining America's four-centuries-long political battle over gun control and the right to bear arms. In this definitive and provocative history, Adam Winkler reveals how guns—not abortion, race, or religion—are at the heart of America's cultural divide. Using the landmark 2008 case *District of Columbia v. Heller*—which invalidated a law banning handguns in the nation's capital—as a springboard, Winkler brilliantly weaves together the dramatic stories of gun-rights advocates and gun-control lobbyists, providing often unexpected insights into the venomous debate that now cleaves our nation.

The book is available, likely on order, at local booksellers and through online booksellers. The Library has some hard copies of book, ebooks (currently all checked out), and audiobooks. Try to obtain the 2018 version.



Adam Winkler is a lawyer and professor at the UCLA School of Law. His work has frequently been cited in judicial opinions, including in [Supreme Court](#) and numerous local courts. cases pertaining to the [First](#) and [Second Amendments](#). Winkler's writing on the [right to bear arms](#), which recognizes both the individual right to possess firearms and the legitimacy of effective gun control. His book *Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America* details the history of the right to bear arms and efforts to balance gun rights with gun safety laws in the United States since the country's founding.

Members and their friends, or others by invitation, are welcome, but you must RSVP to obtain the link:
Sarah.Gideonse@fuse.net

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beth Sullebarger, <i>President</i>	Anne Buening, <i>VP Programs</i>
Laurie Frank, <i>VP Administration</i>	Sharon McCreary, <i>Secretary</i>
Cheri Rekow, <i>VP Civic Engagement</i>	Marcia Togneri, <i>Treasurer</i>
Nina E. Lewis, <i>VP Membership</i>	Jeff Dey, <i>Past President</i>

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Mariner Allsop	Anne Lathrop
Christy Backley	Jan Seymour
Cathy B. Bailey	Sue Wilke

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUDICIAL FORUM

Wednesday, October 9, at 5:30 pm. See page 3 for more information.

WOMEN RUNNING FOR OFFICE

Monday, October 14, at 7 pm. See page 4 for more information.

WOMEN FOR CHANGE

Tuesday, October 15, at 7 pm. See page 1 for more information.

WCC BOOK CLUB

Saturday, October 26, 10 am via Zoom. See Page 11 for more information.

WCC MEETINGS

All meetings are online, via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 29, 5 pm
 Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday.
 Contact Jeff Dey: wccpresident2022@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 23, 7 pm
 Committee usually meets monthly on third Wednesday.
 Contact Marcia Togneri: mtogneri839@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 2, 5:30 pm
 Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.
 Contact Nina Lewis: eninalewis@gmail.com

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM COMMITTEE

Monday, October 14, 4:30 pm in person
 Contact Beth Sullebarger: wccpresident2020@gmail.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 23, 5:30 pm
 Committee usually meets monthly on fourth Wednesday
 Contact Anne Buening: arbuening@yahoo.ie

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

Tuesday, October 22, 6:30 pm
 SJAG is now meeting most months on the fourth Tuesday.
 Contact David Siders: dbsiders@gmail.com



CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: For an updated list of City Council sessions and committee meetings, go to the City website at cincinnati-oh.gov/council/.

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community. Please submit all materials as they are ready to Jeff Dey at wccpresident2022@gmail.com

