



THE VOTER

Beat the Winter Blues

Join Other Leaguers at the February Units

Michael Wilkos, Grants Officer with the Columbus Foundation, is slated to present the strategy for neighborhood revitalization and address the complex issue of gentrification and displacement in one of Columbus' most challenged neighborhoods, Weinland Park.

Morning Unit
Thursday, February 17
9:30 am
Wesley Glen

Evening Unit
Wednesday, February 23
5:30 pm
Wing's Restaurant on Main Street

Can We Achieve Neighborhood Revitalization and Control Gentrification?

The Weinland Park Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy

Weinland Park has often been held up as the example of what is wrong with urban neighborhoods - crime, poverty, abandoned housing, and high rates of chronic unemployment. However, a new collaborative strategy holds the promise of improving and sustaining the quality of life in this near north side Columbus neighborhood through renovated housing and educational and employment opportunities for existing residents. Weinland Park is a neighborhood of about 4,800 residents located immediately southeast of the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University, where nearly 50% of its residents live below the poverty line.

The Weinland Park Collaborative, a partnership among more than a dozen institutions and community agencies, is working with residents to develop neighborhood priorities. The collaborative strategy involves coordinated investments over the next three to five years in housing, education, employment, public safety, health, civic engagement, and a careful evaluation of the success of each component and the overall strategy. Some programs are already underway, while others will begin in the next few months to several years. Significant success is already starting to be achieved, but much work remains.

One goal of the Weinland Park Collaborative is to determine the most effective programs and replicate those in other urban Columbus neighborhoods.

The principal funders of the Weinland Park Collaborative are the JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Columbus Foundation, Campus Partners, United Way of Central Ohio, the City of Columbus, and The Ohio State University.

Find out more information about the February units on page 6.

Beat the Winter Blues, part 2

Join Other Leaguers for Program Planning

PROGRAM PLANNING OVER A BOWL OF SOUP

If you didn't attend last year's program planning meeting, then you missed out on a selection of delectable homemade soups by Metro League board members served up with a side of thought-provoking discussion. Do not miss this chance to come in out of the cold and warm up with program planning.

Monday, February 7
Soup 6:30pm, Program 7:00pm
Wesley Glen

If you can join us for soup and program planning, RSVP to Amy Pulles at vote@lwvcols.org.

Program planning is the process the League uses to review and update its advocacy positions. This year's focus is state-level positions, the positions we take for lobbying state government. These positions cover:

- Ohio Constitution
- Apportionment/Districting
- State Government Finance - See page 9 for the Updated LWVO Positions on State Finance and Taxation. This section was studied and approved by the League members of Ohio last year.
- Primary/Secondary Education
- Higher Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Capital Punishment
- Water
- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste
- Land Use
- Interbasin Transfer of Water

For more information about state positions, visit <http://lwvcols.org/action/issues.php?scope=state>.

In addition to recommending changes or updates to existing positions, members will also have an opportunity to suggest a new area for study.

"Anybody can become angry—that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not within everybody's power and is not easy." Aristotle

From the Board

Mim Brierley, LWVMC Vice-President Membership

Metro Columbus members were as surprised as they were saddened by news of Marge Turnbull's death last November. Still interested and involved after 50+ years as a member Marge was planning at the time to host an upcoming lobby lunch. At 91, her good health and energetic, compassionate advocacy gave the impression that she would go on indefinitely.

My acquaintance with Marge began when I chatted with her at parties hosted by faculty of The OSU Philosophy Department. At these gatherings when she joined husband Bob, the department chair, in informal discussions for faculty and students in their home her social nature was much in evidence. And there she was again when I became a member of LWVMC. Always Marge was available to offer direct and kindly advice that never left any doubt about how I could best do my job on the Board as a director and then as president. When my term ended she sent a gracious note concluding with a comment about how past presidents just keep going and going! How right she was about that!

Marge's experiences were similar to those of many of our members, having 'found' the League in a medium-sized, mid-western University town. She worked while her husband attended graduate school. By the time he had earned a Ph.D. she felt she "needed to get out and engage in some adult conversation and activities." In League she "found mental stimulation, a bevy of friends, and a cause." Although the amount of time and effort she gave varied widely over the years, Marge never allowed her membership to lag. The League's

impact on her life is reflected in a piece she wrote for LWVUS in 2007. It is a tribute to the League as well as to the continuous and committed service of this most unforgettable woman:

"Each step of the way I learned from the members, from public figures, from academics, and from business people. I learned both substance and process from working with coalitions. In retrospect, the League of Women Voters has been a strand in the multi-colored thread which stretched through my life -the thread which I have labeled, 'the inherent worth and dignity of every person.'

My political participation was through the League and I found satisfaction there as we succeeded in passing legislation to achieve principles and goals near and dear to me. In summary, my personal, professional, and volunteer lives have been one. Values and activities merged, supported and enriched each other. My own growth and development have allowed me to change the community and to encourage others to do likewise. Through it all I have found interesting, intelligent, committed friends. But best of all, is the progress we have made on the issues pertaining to women!"

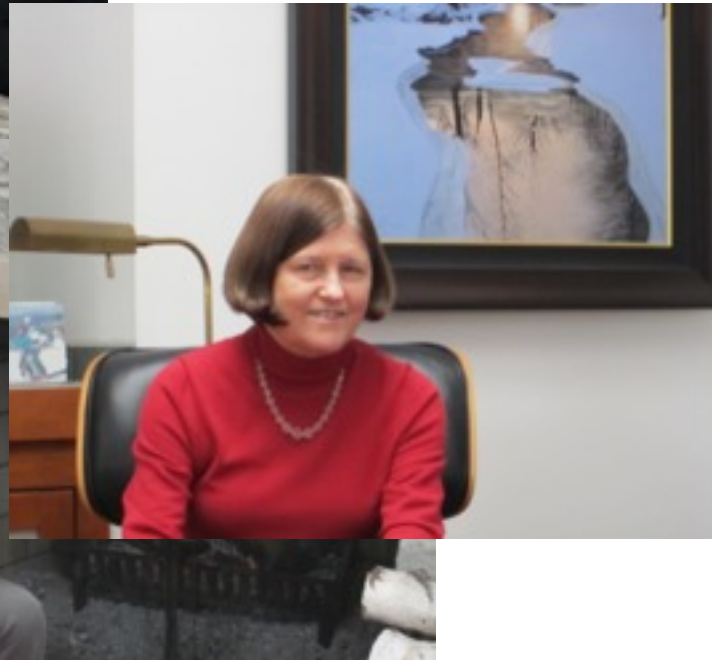
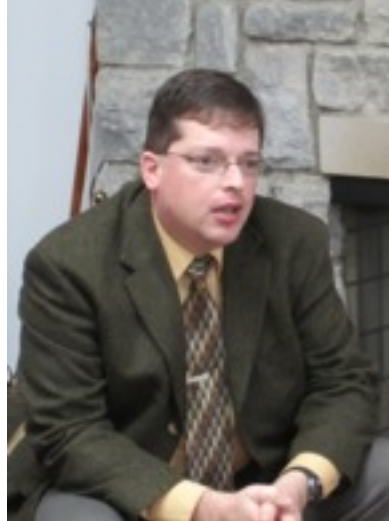
My hope for you as you continue to give your time, effort and support for League's causes and for your own is the same as Marge's, expressed in her ending sentence,

"I wish for you the same rich, educational, and rewarding experiences."

Down Time For The LWVMC Lobby Corps at their Annual Holiday Lunch



The Lobby Corps of Ohio lost a valuable member this year. Although Marguerite Turnbull left the Lobby group officially in 2004, she continued to have a say in the human services issues that she had followed for so many years. Marge also served on the COHHIO board for many years as the housing lobbyist as well until 2000.



The following limericks were written for Marge when she stepped down as League lobbyist in 2004.

Limericks For Marge

The dean of our lobby corps, Marge,
Has decided to relinquish her charge,
That's why we have the blues—
Who can fill her shoes?
We're left with a hole as big as a garage!

There once was a lobbyist: Marge,
Whose concern about poor folks was large,
In her ire at the State Reps
She swept 'em off the Capitol steps
And sent 'em down the Scioto on a barge.

There was a formidable activist, Marguerite,
With groups she often would meet,
Consistently League-like,
She'd not say, "Take a hike!"
But to the fire, she would hold their feet.

There once was an advocate, Ms. Turnbull,
Whose calendar was often quite full.
A baker of cookies
And mentor to rookies
Luckily for League, there was never a lull.

THE LWVMC Holiday Brunch



Not only was the day great fun, it also netted the League \$3473.

Event organizers included Lucy Buzzee, Mary Kaul, Mim Brierley, Pat Larson, Jan Patton, and Amy Pulles.



Members joined together in merriment at the Holiday Brunch hosted by Bob and Nancy Brown.

Land Use Committee

Our Land Use Study has morphed into a two-year study. During the first year, we want to look at two things.

1. We want to look at the region as a whole to see what we would like the Columbus metropolitan area of the future to look like.
2. We also want to look at what we would like the inner city of Columbus to look like in the future. Of course, it will be made up of a group of neighborhoods. The Weinland Park project very

conveniently came along as a real life demonstration of just what one such neighborhood might look like. (You can get a sneak peek by attending a unit meeting in February.)

By the end of this fiscal year, we hope to be able to share this vision with you and to get your feedback.

Then next fiscal year, we plan to learn about various tools that are available to bring that vision to life.
By Ellen Haider

The February Units are all about Land Use. Plan to attend.

Morning Unit

9:30 am

Thursday, February 17

Wesley Glen

5155 N. High Street

Dinner Unit

5:30 pm dinner, program to follow

Wednesday, February 23

Wing's Restaurant

Another Word on Units

The February Units are designed to inform the overall membership, as well as the committee studying land use, about ways in which initiatives that create changes in land use can impact an area.

The Dinner Unit meets Wednesday, February 23, at Wing's Restaurant, 2801 E. Main Street, beginning at 5:30 for those who want to order dinner. Conversation focuses on League items around 6:30, and the program begins shortly after that. You are welcome to come for dinner and the program or just for the program. For more information or to have a place at the table set for you, contact David McCoy at davidomccoy@yahoo.com or 614-755-3960.

By David McCoy

The Units' Speaker

Michael Wilkos, Community Research and Grants Management Officer for The Columbus Foundation, will be the speaker at both the morning unit and dinner unit meetings in February.

Michael is responsible for research, development, and provides leadership to advance the Foundation's efforts currently focused on the Weinland Park neighborhood. Michael's depth of knowledge and experience in urban planning and community development helps position the Foundation to be one of Columbus' leaders in this area of community need. In addition, he works with the Ingram-White Castle Foundation and Columbus Youth Foundation.

Prior to joining The Columbus Foundation, Michael served as senior impact director for United Way of Central Ohio and also held positions with The Danter Company, Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, and the City of Columbus.

He holds a bachelor's degree in geography and a master's degree in City & Regional Planning, both from The Ohio State University. He is a frequent guest lecturer in the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State. Michael currently resides in Weinland Park, where he takes an active role as a volunteer.

Action Alert

Don't go backwards on health care reform!

In the next few days, the House is scheduled to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act, the comprehensive health care reform law passed by the last Congress and signed into law by President Obama.

The Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in health care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a tragic step in the wrong direction.

Tell your Representative to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

In just the past few months, the Affordable Care Act has brought about positive changes: children are no longer denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, insurers can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage, adult children can stay on their parents' health plans up until age 26, and, as of this month, Medicare recipients can have a number of preventive and well-care services without being charged a deductible, co-pay, or coinsurance.

As provisions of the Affordable Care Act continue to be implemented, more and more Americans will have health care coverage while health care costs are reduced for individuals, businesses, and communities.

Take Action

1. Contact your Representative now. You can also call your Representative at 202-225-3121. Ask your Representative not to repeal the Affordable Care Act and to stand firm in support of this law which extends coverage to millions of uninsured Americans.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens: your grassroots network, your friends, and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their elected leaders.

League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus and Educational Fund Board of Trustees

Vice-President, Voter Service	Trustees
Barbara Crabill	JoAnne Grossman
Vice-President, Membership	Anne Light Hoke
Mim Brierley	Dr. Marilyn Huheey
Vice-President, Advocacy	Janyce Katz
Scott Britton	Pat Larson
Secretary	David McCoy
Ann Henkener	Sonja Nelson Jones
Treasurer	Helena Schlam
Bob Brown	

"To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization." Arnold Toynbee

A Thank You

Thank you to all our members who made year-end contributions to the Educational Fund. This year's drive was a success, raising over \$1,000 for the Educational Fund. Thank you to the following members:

David McCoy	Mary Lazarus
Janyce Katz	Bette Fay
Anne Hoke	Jeff Cabot
Marilyn Huheey	Kitty Burcsu & Ron Miller
Barbi Crabill	Janet Grubb
Scott Britton	Mary Woods
Bob & Nancy Brown	Jane Ware
Judy Brachman	Joan Lawrence
Catherine Warmbrod	Anne Smead
Kathy Dougherty	Donna Hamparian
Nancy Strause	Pamela Grandon
Alice Goodburn	

Thank you.

LWVMC Members

Starting in 2011 the VOTER will meet one established member and one new member each issue. Enjoy their stories and enjoy meeting them in person at a League event.

The League and Me!!

Jane Young

I grew up with two younger brothers on my family's dairy farm in NE Ohio. The foundation of my later League involvement was perhaps laid around the family dinner table where politics and news of the day were frequently discussed!

In 1950, I came to Ohio State, and except for three years in Philadelphia, have lived in Columbus ever since. After graduation I worked in the education department of a labor union and married John C. Young, who was then working on his Ph.D. in Pharmacy at Ohio State. He taught in Philadelphia, and we returned to Columbus when he joined Chemical Abstracts Service for the balance of his professional career. During those years, I was a "stay at home Mom", busy with four children and a variety of volunteer activities.

I joined League in the 1970's when Environmental Quality was a new study. I soon chaired the "EQ" committee and served on the Board in that role, and then as Program Vice President. In those days, each Board member had a portfolio, and Board meetings were held on weekdays and lasted most of the day!

In 1977, my League experience led to a wonderful opportunity: the all-male Columbus Development Commission was ready for a woman member and the League was asked to suggest possible candidates. I was selected and ended up serving for 16 years. Those were growth years for Columbus--an exciting time to be involved with many major area plans and rezonings.

In the 1980's, like a lot of other women, I joined the full time work world (with the Mental Health Association in Ohio) and sharply reduced League activity. I was retired and enjoying travel and our five grandchildren when, in 1999, I was asked to join the LWV Educational Fund board, and all that changed! I was once again actively

involved in many aspects of League---board meetings, VIB deliveries, Meals on Wheels, Democracy in Action fundraising, unit meetings, etc.---and remain so today.

I'm happy to have played a part in establishing the Educational Fund, allowing League to receive tax-deductible contributions, to have participated in significant League studies, and helped with Voter Service activities. But beyond question, the people I have met and worked with are the most enjoyable aspect of League membership. I hope to remain involved as long as I have something to contribute.

New to the League

Louanne Zipfel

I went to the University of Cincinnati in the 70's and never finished my degree. I met my husband and we have two children who are now raised. When I moved to Columbus I had a college stipend from my service as an AmeriCorps VISTA. I decided at 50 it was time to finish that degree. It took me 7 years but I finally got a degree in Social Work and have worked at the Clintonville Settlement House ever since. I am in the Kinship Care Program currently, working all over Franklin County as a social worker.

I have always been aware of the LWV but never took the time to join. I finally did this and even though I am not participating much I feel good to be a little tiny part of what I consider to be a great group. I have never been able to figure out politics, issues and government and that is one reason I wanted to join. I need the expertise of this group and I want to support it.

Always a late bloomer, I am trying to learn quilting and I enjoy reading, gardening, traveling, music, photography, and relationships with other women. My husband Mark and I have been living in German Village for ten years now. Thank you.

Activities In and Out of the League

Immigration

Based on speaker availability the immigration forum is now set for Tuesday April 5, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The event will be co-sponsored by the Columbus Metropolitan Library; it will be held at the Main Library on South Grant. We will assemble at 5:30 for light refreshments. The exact title (and description of focus) of the event will need to be revisited one more time by the committee.

The speakers will be: Prof. Tony Mughan, OSU Director of International Studies, Joe L. Mas, Attorney at Law, Jason Dominguez, Congressman Tiberi's office (invited).

Roe v. Wade

On Thursday, January 20, 2011 Freedom of Choice Ohio along with the National Council of Jewish Women invite you to join them in celebrating the 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. At this event, they will be honoring Barbara Avery with a lifetime achievement award and Representative Dan Stewart with a legislative hero award. Also, Michelle Goldberg will be the guest speaker. Michelle Goldberg is a journalist and author based in New York. For information about registration, please contact Jaime Miracle at 614-221-2594 or FOCOOhio@gmail.com.

Updated LWVO Position

Updated LWVO Positions on State Finance and Taxation (Approved Dec. 2010)

Criteria (Adopted July 1989)

LWVO supports the following tax principles as criteria to be used in evaluating individual taxes and the tax mix in Ohio. Taxes should:

1. be fair and equitable;
2. provide adequate funds for government programs while allowing flexibility for financing future program changes;
3. be understandable to the taxpayer and encourage compliance; and
4. be easy to administer.

Taxes on Business (Adopted July 1989; revised December 2010)

LWVO supports taxes on business as a source of state revenue especially because businesses should help pay for services received.

Income Tax (Adopted July 1989)

LWVO supports a personal income tax as a source of state revenue because it meets the fair and equitable principles. The state income tax rates should be graduated.

Property Tax (Adopted March 1983):

1. LWVO supports real property tax relief, financed by the state in the form of the Homestead Exemption, based on age, income and disability income.
2. LWVO supports the elimination of the real property tax rollbacks, both across-the-board and for owner-occupied homes.

Sales Tax (Adopted March 1983; revised June 1989):

1. LWVO supports a change in the base rather than a change in the rate of the sales tax. We favor broadening the base by reducing the number of exemptions.
2. LWVO supports application of the sales tax to nonessential services, tickets for professional athletic and entertainment events, and prepared food purchased for on- or off- premise consumption.
3. LWVO supports exemptions for food, other than prepared food, sold for off-premise consumption, prescription drugs, prosthetic and surgical devices, and items for direct use (components in manufacturing and agricultural use).

Tax Mix (Adopted July 1989; revised December 2010)

If an increase in state taxes is needed, LWVO prefers the income tax as a source of revenue because it tends to be progressive rather than regressive. Applying means testing to state property tax-relief programs would increase the revenue generated by the tax and make the system more equitable by not unduly burdening low-income individuals and families. Taxes on alcohol and tobacco are another revenue source if needed. An increase in sales tax, although less desirable, is another possible revenue source. If a decrease in state taxes is called for, LWVO supports reducing the sales tax because it is regressive and less equitable. Tax relief for those at the lower end of the income scale should be considered if there is an increase in state taxes.

LWVMC Activities

Thursday, Jan. 20	Roe v. Wade	6:00 pm	OSU Fawcett Center
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Lobby Lunch	11:30 am	Metropolitan Library 3rd floor
Monday, Feb. 7	Program Planning	6:30 pm	Wesley Glen
Tuesday, Feb. 8	Lobby Lunch	11:30 am	Metropolitan Library 3rd floor
Thursday, Feb. 17	Morning Unit	9:30 am	Wesley Glen
Thursday, Feb. 17	Board of Trustees	6:30 pm	Jewish Community Center
Monday, Feb. 22	Lobby Lunch	11:30 am	Metropolitan Library 3rd floor
Wednesday, Feb. 23	Dinner Unit	5:30 pm	Wing's Restaurant, Bexley
Wednesday, March 23	One Nation? Under God?	6:30 pm	Harrison Park Community Room

Save this Date for the General Meeting

Wednesday, March 23
Dinner at 6 pm
Program at 7 pm
Topic: *One Nation? Under God?*
Harrison Park Condominium
Community Room on First Ave.

David McCoy, winner of the 2010 DIA Award, which he received with his wife, Terry McCoy, will be the speaker.
More details such as cost, directions, and parking instructions will be provided in the coming weeks.

League of Women Voters of
Metropolitan Columbus
P.O. Box 130
Blacklick, Ohio 43004-0130

614-837-1089
614-837-1263 fax