



THE VOTER

LWVUS President Visits Columbus



The League's national president, Elisabeth MacNamara, traveled Ohio the week of Oct. 4 on a national election season tour. She visited Leagues around the state, including a stop in Columbus. While here, she observed the LWV-Ohio-sponsored Supreme Court candidate forum, was a guest on All Sides with Ann Fisher, and attended a reception at a local restaurant with representatives from LWV-Metro Columbus, LWV-Delaware County, and LWV-Ohio. MacNamara, who was elected to a two-year term at National Convention in June, also met with Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and election officials across Ohio.

Read more about Elisabeth MacNamara and her blog entry about her visit in Columbus on page 9.



Pictured above: Back Row: Scott Britton, Hallie Serazin, Chuck Wolfe, Meg Flack, Ann Henkener, Karen Rainey
Front Row: Katherine Gharrity, Elisabeth MacNamara, Barbara Crabill, Nancy Brown
Pictured to the Left: Elisabeth MacNamara and Meg Flack

From Board to Beyond

Reports from the LWVMC Board and Committees



LWVMC Board Report Mim Brierley Vice-President Membership

League members, have you noticed? The non-partisan political spirit of LWVMC has been pervasive during and even before the pre-election season began. Although Buckeye fervor and the hallowed spirits of October are swirling around in the Greater Metropolitan area League action is very much in evidence.

In August questions about the wording of two issues on the November ballot demanded LWV attention. After appearing before the Franklin County Board of Elections to make a statement about City Council's proposed change in open meeting policy and the Metro Library's levy request, Ann Henkener was invited by Ann Fisher to discuss the issues on "All Sides," the WOSU 820 AM radio public affairs program. This action was 'aired' for in Columbus Dispatch reports.

Soon after agreement was reached on ballot wording the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government (FCGG) began planning for *Meet the Candidates Forums*. LWVMC co-sponsors and staffs the Forums which are happening now eleven locations around the county. MC gained a new partner, Kids Voting Central Ohio (KVCO), to recruit high school students as volunteers for the Forums. Student volunteers will certainly keep the spirit of League 'young at heart.'

A word about KVCO = The organization, a non-partisan organization affiliated with 18 public school districts in Central Ohio, focuses on

educating and engaging school aged students K-12 in the political process. Curriculum guides are available for elementary, middle school and high school and students at every level cast ballots matched to those in their parents' polling place. A Youth Council meets once a month for high school students to meet with local and state elected officials, hear their views on running for office and governing and discuss related issues. Council members also have the opportunity to intern/shadow with an elected official. An annual Summit for HS students is held at the Statehouse in October. The format this year is a town hall meeting with the leaders of the Democratic and Republican Parties. And young people you see working the polls on Election Day are Youth at the Booth students recruited and trained by the KVCO staff.

The Membership Committee enjoyed co-sponsoring the September kick-off event at the Arena Grand Theater with another first time partner, the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). This organization advocates for issues affecting women and children. Lucy Buzzee from MC and Jean Krum from NCJW coordinated the screening of the emotion packed "Iron Jawed Angels" documentary about the Suffrage Movement. Our members filled allotted seats and more, thanks to extras ceded by NCJW and all in attendance were moved by the film. Some noted a challenge in the dedication, strength, and persistence shown by early 20th century leaders, Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt and their colleagues. Can we attain their level motivation in pursuing our purpose in the 21st Century?

continued on the next page

LWVMC Board Report Continued Mim Brierley, Vice-President

The WBNS TV Phone Bank on Election Day won't be the last of the 2010 election activities as LWVMC volunteers will participate in an audit of the vote in November which LWVO is coordinating.

We'll celebrate League's productive Fall season at the Holiday Party in December at Bob and Nancy Brown's lovely Miranova condo. Volunteers, Lucy Buzzee, Pat Lawson and Jan Patton are preparing now for the Raffle and Auction. Think about helping with the party and plan to bring a guest for some good food, good fun and good company.

All the while the campaign to renew memberships will continue through October. My thanks to those of you who already have renewed your commitment to the League for another year. All the events and activities described above are made possible by MC volunteers who give their time and know how in the spirit of LWV to carry out its mission.

My congratulations to Al Rosenfield! He renewed his membership in time to qualify for the drawing and then won the Cameron Mitchell Gift Card. Happy dining, Al.

It's not too late to renew. Dues and donations as well as volunteering help in accomplishing our goals. Catch the spirit. Respond with the reminder card that recently came your way or go online at www.lwvcols.org to renew your membership.

Welcome to new members Jeff Cabot, Suzanne Helmick, and Riek Oldenquist who said yes when ask to join the League. Try the 'ASK' - invite a friend or colleague in your

network to join, go with you to a Candidates' Forum, a Unit or Special Committee Meeting, an Educational event. Help keep the spirit alive.

Mim Brierley
Vice-President Membership

A Side Bar

The recent event, "Iron Jawed Angels" co-sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women reminded me of another woman that was a trailblazer in women's suffrage movement. Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) was an early feminist who disputed society's views of women's rights. Ms. Gilman spoke at the 1896 conference of the National

American Woman Suffrage Association and testified before Congress.

She asserted that women would not be equal to men unless they were economically independent. She reasoned that women should work outside the home, men should help with the housework, and boys and girls should be raised with the same clothes, toys, and expectations. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Alice Stokes Paul, Carie Champman Cats all spoke so we may now speak.



Jean Byrd

Reference: 'The Nation'. October 4, 2010 edition

From Board to Beyond,

Continued

LWVMC Voter Service
Committee Vice-President
Barbara Crabill

Nationwide Insurance's RISA event

The Metro League had an information table at Nationwide Insurance's Annual RISA® (Raising Interest in Spanish Awareness) event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Voter registration information was available as well as information prepared by Metro's Advocacy Committee regarding Issue 12: the proposed Columbus City Charter Amendment and the Issue 4: the Columbus Metropolitan Library levy. League membership information was also available.

Fall Candidates Forums

After holding 2 successful candidate forums at the end of September, the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, of which the League is a sponsor, hosted 8 Candidate Forums and one Issues only forum in October. Thanks to all the site sponsors and volunteers who make these forums possible year after year.

Franklin County Consortium for Good Government 2010 Annual Awards

Since 1988, the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government has given two annual awards to recognize individuals or groups

who show a deep commitment to our democracy and reside or work in Franklin County. The 2010 Good Government Award was presented to Matthew Damschroder, Deputy Director of the Franklin County Board of Elections.

The 2010 John Schrak Award was presented to Earl Wurdlow. For over 10 years, Wurdlow has held community leader forums at the First Unitarian Universalist Church to provide a platform for community leaders and scholars to examine issues of the day.

VIB

The Voter Information Bulletin (VIB) will be published in the Dispatch October 17 edition. The Dispatch may also publish the VIB in its ALIVE publication. Amy has delivered 20,000 overruns of the VIB to local libraries and other establishments.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are still needed to answer phones at WBNS-10TV Election Day phone bank.

Volunteers are also needed to be observers for the post-election audit conducted by the Franklin County Board of Elections. Training will be provided by State League for the 1-2 day audit observation project.

Contact Amy at the League office if you are interested in helping out with either of these activities.

Barbara Crabill



Committee Reports

LWVMC Land Use Study Committee Progress Report Ellen Haider

The Land Use Committee has met four times. And we still don't know what we are doing! We haven't been spending our time (for the most part) telling jokes, gambling or engaging in other nefarious activities. In fact, we have learned a good deal. We're finding it very difficult, though, to narrow the scope of the study. (In fact, it's looking like we are probably talking about a two year study.)

Here is some of what we have learned so far:

Because Home Rule is the law in Ohio, with some exceptions, each municipality has the say over regulations within its boundaries. That makes cooperation among various corporate entities extremely difficult. Interestingly, Home Rule was considered an important improvement over what preceded it. In the nineteenth century, cities were subordinate to state government and could accomplish almost nothing. Columbus didn't even have a city charter. There were three municipal codes that were a part of state law, for use by different sized municipalities. Reform candidates fought for Home Rule, maintaining that local self-government is the basis for democracy. An Ohio Constitutional Convention in 1912 gave each municipality authority to make decisions regarding what happens within its borders. Cities were able, then, to attack many long-standing problems.

The land use planning process starts at the local government level. Each township, village, city, and county has the authority to develop land use plans.

There are 12 counties in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. MORPC is a voluntary organization made up of 48 local governments. The actual power of MORPC is limited. It has the authority to facilitate, convene, educate, and attempt to convince local governments to support ideas and policies. But in the end, the power to implement any change lies with its members, the local communities.

The Columbus Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is housed within MORPC. It covers a smaller area than MORPC, Franklin and Delaware counties and parts of Licking and Fairfield counties. The MPO determines how federal funding for transportation projects will be distributed. It is required to develop a transportation plan every four years that addresses how land use policies impact the transportation system. So they go over the plans from local governments and combine them into one land use forecast. They combine that with population forecasts, use a travel demand model and decide on a list of transportation projects that will receive federal funding. The MPO recently adopted a Complete Streets Policy, so any transportation project that uses federal funding must take into consideration all modes of transportation. The transportation plan is updated every four years. So, through this process, the MPO has the power of the purse.

We interviewed Vince Papsidero, the administrator of the Columbus Dept. of Development Planning Division. The Columbus Comprehensive Plan of 1993 set goals that extended into 2010. There are no plans to update it at this time, primarily due to a shortage of staff. The recently produced City of Columbus Planning Guide 2010 is a guide to neighborhood planning, which is where his department is now focused. The guide is a continued on next page

Committee Reports, Continued

detailed manual of policies and best practices for neighborhoods to follow when participating in the planning process. One goal of this process is to engage citizens so that they have public input and support quality neighborhoods. The department averages completion of about five plans per year.

Given all of this, do you think that we should change the name of our study to Land Use Planning with a question mark at the end? Seriously, if you would like to have input as to what topics we should focus on in order to achieve our goal of adopting a meaningful land use planning position, feel free to contact Judy Brachman (jybrachman@columbus.rr.com) or me, Ellen Haider (ellenhaider@yahoo.com). We realize the clock is ticking.

Ellen Haider
October 2010

✳ League Holiday Brunch ✳ Set for December 5, 2010

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus will host its annual Holiday Brunch, featuring “Raffle Mania” and a “Live” fund-raising auction on Sunday, December 5, from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. Join your League friends and bring your other friends to support the League, have some fun and enjoy a tasty brunch.

What is Raffle Mania? Each person will receive \$10 worth of raffle tickets. More raffle tickets can be purchased at the event (and we encourage you to do just that!). There will be many items to be raffled. You can choose to put your

raffle tickets towards one item or mix it up and put tickets towards more than one item. The more tickets you put towards any item, the better your chances of getting that item.

The ever popular “live” auction returns in what has become a much-anticipated event. It features our talented auctioneer extraordinaire, Brent Taggart.

The Holiday Brunch will be held at the home of League Members, Nancy and Bob Brown at Miranova, One Miranova Place, Columbus 43215. Parking is available at the adjacent garage, other nearby surface lots, and on the street.

Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes \$10 worth of raffle tickets. To purchase a ticket, simply contact the League office at 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.

Lucy Buzzee

✳ **Editor Comment:** The League Holiday Brunch is a pleasurable holiday event. You can enjoy conversations with League friends that do not include the words “land-use and/or tax-base or Supreme Court,” or the date of the next board meeting; you can meet up with League friends that you have not lately been in contact; or you can bring along a non-League friend to share a bit of holiday spirit.

Jean Byrd ✳

Committee Reports, Continued

A Word From the Office

September Ohio Update
Renewable Energy Database
Al Rosenfield
LWVO Energy Specialist

According to Rosenfield, the fuel for the majority of Ohio's renewable electricity is waste from farms, factories, and landfills. Wind and solar now comprise only about six percent of renewables. There has been little change in renewable electrical energy since the May report, and while not much is expected before the end of the year, Rosenfield indicated that 2011 promises construction of large wind farms by several companies and a major increase in solar energy by American Municipal Power. Taken together, these projects should at least double the state's renewable electricity capacity. The complete report is posted on the LWVMC at <http://www.lwvcols.org/miscfiles/Database1-10-09.pdf>

A Word From the Office
Amy Pulles, LWVMC Administrator

Fall season always means busy busy busy around the League and this year has been no different. Over the past couple of months I have sent out several volunteer requests and the membership has come through for me (and the League). I'd like to thank all those that have volunteered so far, including Esther Connors and Cheryl Markino who stood in the cold rain early Sunday, October 3 to register voters at the Buddy Walk to benefit the Down Syndrome Association. Meg Flack, Jeanine Michael, and Barbi Crabill also deserve a big thank you for registering voters at other area events over the past month. Ann Henkener, Jan Patton, and Jane Young also delivered VIB's this year to area libraries, United Way Agencies and businesses. Thank you to all of you for your volunteer efforts and also to all those who have signed up to assist voters on Election Day by staffing the WBNS 10TV Phone Bank. We are still accepting volunteers for the phone bank, so if you are interested, please let me know by calling 614-837-1089. Amy Pulles

Know the candidates and issues. The Voter Information Bulletin(VIB) already can be found on the LWVMC webpage: www.lwvcols.org. The (VIB) will be published in the Dispatch October 17 edition. Amy and her army are delivering 20,000 overruns of the VIB to local libraries and other establishments.

Make sure all your friends, family, and neighbors have a VIB.

The LWVMC did not take a stance on either Issue 4: Columbus Metropolitan Library Levy or Issue 12: Columbus City Charter Amendment.

Consensus on State Tax Policy Requires Members' Participation at October Units

Do Not Miss This Opportunity

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010

and/or

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

9:30 am - 11:00 am

5:30 pm dinner with program to follow

Wesley Glen

Wing's Restuarant

5155 North High Street

2801 E. Main Street

Columbus, OH 43214

Bexley, OH 433209

Please RSVP David McCoy,
davidomccoy@yahoo.com
for the dinner meeting.

Taking into consideration the multiple changes to the Ohio tax structure since the last LWVO study and following recommendations from multiple local Ohio leagues during the 2007 LWVO Convention for an update to the State Government Finance and Tax Positions the LWVO initiated a study and are now asking local leagues to come to a consensus on changes to the current positions.

Study Timeline:

- 1969 the first LWVO state finance study focused on services such as education, welfare, and mental health
- 1981 LWVO conducted a study of state taxes
- 1983 reached consensus on support for the property and sales taxes
- 1989 Consensus reached to support the corporate franchise and income taxes
- 2007 the LWVO appointed a study group to review and make recommendations to update its positions considering the new CAT tax and the phasing out of the corporate franchise and personal property taxes.

Members of the LWVO State Finance Update Committee:

Don Mottley, Columbus, chair Joan Callecod, Bowling Green Vicki Kline, Kent Kurt Miller, Shaker Heights Roslyn Talerico, Cleveland Stuart Wright, Columbus

For More Information on LWVO State Government Finance and Taxation Study

Go to the Ohio League webpage, lvvohio.igpr.com/site.cfm/Member-Area/Taxation-and-Finance.cfm, for a complete packet for the Finance and Tax study. The packet will have the proposed updates to the LWVO Finance Positions and the Consensus Questions. If you do not have access to a computer for these documents please call Amy, 837-1089, to request a hard copy be sent to you in the mail.

Elizabeth McNamara's blog entry on October 5, 2010

...Then it was on to Columbus where I had a front row seat for the taping of a debate between two candidates for Ohio's supreme court. It was a real pleasure to see that both candidates are women. The taping was at the public television studios on the campus of Ohio State.

A meeting with the Ohio secretary of state (SOS) was also interesting. A lawsuit brought by the League of Women Voters of Toledo, Lucas County and individual Ohio voters has resulted in a settlement that is being scrupulously honored by the SOS. Key to the settlement is pre-election planning and we got some good information this afternoon as to how those preparations are going. The good news is that preparations are well in hand, the better news is the key role that the Ohio League is playing in ensuring that elections here are fair and that every vote is counted....

For more of MacNamara's blog about her travels go to: <http://participate.lwv.org/blog/Election2010>

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara's League History

Elisabeth MacNamara joined the League in 1983 and since then she has served in leadership roles at both the state and local levels. In 1983, Ms. MacNamara was invited to join the Board of directors of the LWV of Georgia as the Courts/Criminal Justice chair. She served on the state Board until 1991, also serving as vice president for Program and as secretary. In 1984, she joined the Board of directors of the DeKalb League, serving as Courts/Criminal Justice chair, Education Committee chair, vice president, and secretary between 1984 and 1997. In 1997 she was president of the DeKalb League. Ms. MacNamara rejoined the Board of directors of the LWV of Georgia in 1999, and has served as president of that Board since 2001.

Ms. MacNamara has lived in DeKalb County, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta.



Franklin County Consortium for Good Government

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 (Evening Session)

Reception 6:30 pm/Program begins 7:00 pm
Prairie Township Senior Center
Lincoln Village Plaza
4565 W Broad St (43228)

Thursday, October 21, 2010 (Evening Session)

Reception 6:30 pm/Program begins 7:00 pm
First Unitarian Universalist Church
93 W Weisheimer Road (43214)



LWVMC Holiday Brunch Party

(Rafflemania + "Live" Auction)

Sunday, December 5

12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m.

Nancy and Bob Brown's home at One Miranova Place

\$20 per person (\$10 worth of raffle tickets included!)

Tuesday, October 19	6:30 pm	Meet the Candidates Prairie Township Senior Center
Thursday, October 21	9:30 am	Morning Unit Wesley Glen
Thursday, October 21	6:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting Jewish Community Center
Thursday, October 21	6:30 pm	Ballot Issue Forum First Unitarian Universalist Church
Tuesday, October 26	11:30 am	Lobby Lunch Columbus Metropolitan Library, third floor
Wednesday, October 27	5:30 pm	Dinner Unit Wing's Restaurant, Bexley
Tuesday, November 2		WBNS-10TV Election Day Phone Bank
Tuesday, November 9	11:30 am	Lobby Lunch Columbus Metropolitan Library, third floor
Tuesday, November 23	11:30 am	Lobby Lunch Columbus Metropolitan Library, third floor
Sunday, December 5	12:00 pm	Holiday Brunch and Auction Miranova
Tuesday, December 14	11:30 am	Lobby Lunch Columbus Metropolitan Library, third floor
Thursday, December 16,	6:30 pm	Board of Trustee Meeting Jewish Community Center

League of Women Voters of
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