

February 2008

Elections and Housing on Tap for February Units

Units are a vital part of LWVMC and the best way to keep abreast of current issues. For February, you have your choice of two topics. Stay informed by attending a Unit—and bring a friend.

Coffee and Elections

by *Jean Byrd*

Hot coffee will be served along with a hot topic during the Thursday, February 21 Morning Unit meeting. Come join the group at 9:15 AM at Wesley Glen (5155 N. High Street, 43214). Serious discussion starts at 9:30 AM.

If that is a bit too early or if Thursdays are not convenient, then join the Tuesday evening unit on February 26 for hot coffee and hot discourse at the Caribou Coffee (1425 Grandview Avenue). Meet there for coffee and discussion at 7:00 PM.

Both Units will look at systemic problems with our state's election system. Leading the discussion will be long-time Leaguer **Peg Rosenfield**. Peg will help members maneuver through ID requirements, provisional ballots and voting machines. Never before has Ohio faced such an uncertain election process in the wake of a Presidential election cycle.

To prepare for these meetings and the March Town Hall Meeting, good election reform reading is happening from many different media today. Check page 3 for a list of books and articles.

Banking on Banks? "Homing" Instincts Re-Visited

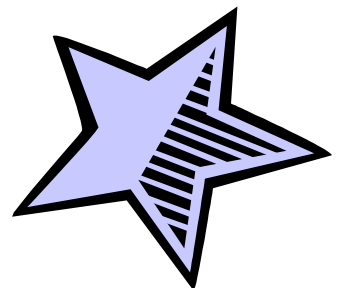
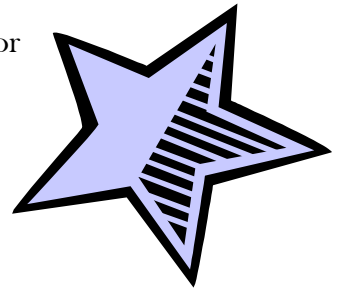
by *David McCoy*

The Dinner Unit will look at predatory lending, the debacle of sub-prime mortgages, and the prospects for help for people in need.

Karen Rainey, LWVO lobbyist for housing issues and member of the Delaware League, will lead the discussion for members who wish to join the Dinner Unit, Wednesday, February 27, at Wing's Restaurant (2801 E. Main Street, near the border of Bexley and Whitehall). Guests who want to order dinner gather about 5:30 PM; program discussion starts at about 7:00 PM and ends at 8:00 PM.

With 10,000 property foreclosures in Columbus; the stock market in continued volatility due to banks' mortgage loans causing major write-offs; new legislation regarding predatory lending, etc., in the General Assembly, the Dinner Unit will engage a major and timely topic of League concern.

Leaguers and guests are welcome. For more information, contact David McCoy, Unit Coordinator, at davidomccoy@yahoo.com or 614-205-545.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Kitty Burcsu

I am pleased to announce that LWVMC is part of an exciting project to encourage more women to run for political office. **The White House Project**, an organization founded in 1998 by Marie Wilson, is a national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors, up to the US presidency.

In order to achieve this mission, The White House Project created **Vote Run Lead**, a training program held in several cities throughout the country to educate women on how to run for and be successful in office. The training program consists of speakers/educators who 1) encourage women to set aside their fears and doubts about running for office; 2) show them how to successfully run for office; and 3) teach women how to educate themselves on issues in their area in order to gain confidence in representing their constituents while in office.

Several organizations across Ohio, including the LWVMC, have joined together to sponsor this training program in Ohio. **Ohio Go Run** will be held June 6-8, 2008, at the Riffe Center and the Hyatt on Capitol Square. If you or someone you know has ever wanted to run for office but were hesitant for whatever reason, please consider participating in the **Ohio Go Run** training. For details or to register, visit www.thewhitehouseproject.org/voterunlead/gorun/index.php.

By filling the leadership pipeline with a richly diverse, critical mass of women, we make American institutions, businesses and government truly representative.

Through multi-platform programs, The White House Project creates a culture where America's most valuable untapped resource—women—can succeed in all realms. LWVMC is proud to be a sponsoring organization of Ohio Go Run.



Beyond the Units Tour to Explore the 'Net

by Jean Byrd

The next **Beyond the Units Tour** will take MC Leaguers to the Main Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library for *Everything You Wanted to Know About League Websites But Were Afraid to Ask*.

LWVO Executive Director **Jerolyn Barbee** will be our guide through the US and Ohio League sites. She will also take us to other websites that may be informative to Leaguers. Then we will go to the MC website and take a look at what is available and find out what you may want on this website.

After this presentation you can stick around for a short course on how to get the most out of you e-mail. We may even talk about Survey Monkey and a "Virtual Unit".

All Beyond the Units participants will have their own computer.

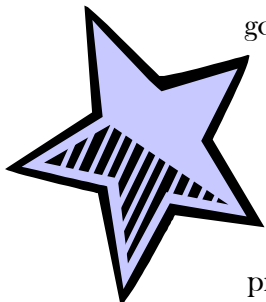
The tour will take place on Monday, February 11. Attendees will meet at 9:00 AM at the Library Café on the first floor for coffee and conversation. At 9:30 the group will move to the third floor in an area called the Loft. Space is limited to 20 so please RSVP to MC League Administrator **Amy Pulles** at lwvcols@iwaynet.net or 614-837-1089.

Surf the Web

LWVMC
www.lwvcols.org
LWVO
www.lwvohero.org
LWVUS
www.lwv.org



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Town Hall Set for March 12

by Jean Byrd

Fair Elections? Transparent Elections? Open Elections? The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus will be looking at these questions during a March 12 ImPACT Town Hall Meeting starting at 7:00 PM at the Jewish Community Center, 1125 College Avenue, Columbus, 43209.

The speaker for the evening is Daniel Tokaji, a professor at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, who along with professors Steven Huefner and Edward Foley just finished a year-long study of election systems in the Midwest. This study, *From Registration to Recounts: The Election Ecosystems of Five Midwestern States*, received support from The Joyce Foundation, which also provides funding for LWVOEF's imPACT initiative.

To prepare for the Town Hall—as well as the February Units, consider some good election reform reading.

There are a few books floating around the membership but the easiest way to read the new Moritz College project is to go to moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/joyce/index.php. Special attention should be given to “Chapter 3: Ohio’s Election Ecosystem, A Poster Child for Reform”.

For those who are a bit adventurous on the web, try Daniel Tokaji’s blog at moritzlaw.osu.edu/blogs/tokaji/. This blog includes information and insight on the laws governing federal, state, and local elections.

Do you want to know how Ohio election law compares with other states? There is an interesting feature on the Moritz Law School webpage that allows comparison between the states on election laws. Go to moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/maps/index.php.

Another option is *Democratic Renewal: A Call to Action from America’s Heartland*. Special notice needs to be given to the “Ohio State Profile” and “Democracy in Ohio: Problems and Prospects” by Leaguers **Ann Henkener** and **Peg Rosenfield** along with Herbert Asher, Daniel Tokaji, and Catherine Turcer. Read the book online at www.midwestdemocracynetwork.org.

Volunteer Drivers Wanted

When League volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels, the LWVMC Ed Fund increases its financial coffers; drivers perform a needed community service; and Columbus residents get a hot meal.

Through LifeCare Alliance, LWVMC members deliver meals every Sunday morning to a route on Columbus’ west side. You can be part of this effort, or find out more about it, by contacting **Cathy Elkins** at 614-267-5884.

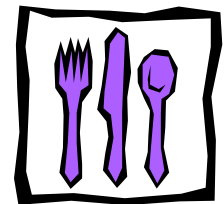
Meals on Wheels FAQ

How often will I deliver?

It depends on you, but either once a month or once every other month.

What’s the procedure?

Arrive at LifeCare Alliance by 10:00 AM on your designated Sunday. Pick up the route binder and that day’s list of deliveries. Spend a few minutes doing paperwork and then collect the cold bags and heated bags filled with meals. After delivering the meals, head back to LifeCare to return the items.



You’ll be completely finished by 12:30 PM.

What if I don’t know the west side?

No problem. The first few times you will ride with experienced drivers to get a general idea about the route. In addition, the route binder includes maps, special instructions, and phone numbers.

How many meals will I deliver?

It varies. In general, though, there are 10-14 stops. At some stops, you’ll deliver more than one meal.

What if I have a small car/trunk?

It won’t be a problem. You’ll need enough space in your trunk, back seat, and/or front seat to hold 2-3 cold/hot bags. The bags are similar to those used by pizza delivery shops, but a bit deeper.

Do I need a helper?

One person can easily handle the driving and delivery. Of course you can always make it a family affair or a way to socialize and catch up with a friend.

Mark Your Calendar...



- February 4 **LWVMC Board of Trustees Meeting**
- February 11 **LWVMC Beyond the Units Tour**
- February 12 **LWVO Lobby Lunch (NEW LOCATION FOR 2008!)** Columbus Metropolitan Library-Main Branch, 96 S. Grant, Third Floor Board Room, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, All invited, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- February 21 **LWVMC Morning Unit**
- February 26 **LWVMC Evening Unit (LOCATION CHANGE!)**
- February 26 **LWVO Lobby Lunch**, Columbus Metropolitan Library-Main Branch, 96 S. Grant, Third Floor Board Room, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, All invited, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- February 27 **LWVMC Dinner Unit**
- March 3 **LWVMC Board of Trustees Meeting**
- March 4 **Ohio Presidential Primary Election**, polls are open 6:30 AM-7:30 PM
- March 12 **LWVMC/ImPACT Town Hall Meeting**, 7:00 PM
- April 7 **LWVMC Board of Trustees Meeting**
- April 29 **LWVO Statehouse Day**



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