

March 2008

## LWVMC to Host Town Hall Meeting March 12

Building on the success of last year, LWVMC is hosting another Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 12.

“Election Reform in Ohio” is the topic and the speaker will be Professor Dan Tokaji from the Moritz Law School at The Ohio State University. He and other law school faculty members just recently completed a study of the voting systems of several mid-west states, including Ohio, and authored a book, *From Registration to Recounts*.

Do you think Ohio’s election systems are fair, honest, and responsive? Can they be made better? Come to the Town Hall Meeting for a lively and informative conversation and find out how you can make a difference!

The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Columbus Jewish Center at 1125 College Avenue.

## Democracy in Action 2008 Honors Three League Members

by Sara Meyers

In focusing on grassroots democracy in action this year, LWVMC will proudly honor **Judy Brachman**, former director of the Ohio Department of Aging; **Lou Briggs**, a former Worthington City Council member; and **Peg Rosenfeld**, an activist in promoting fair elections. Having dedicated their lives to furthering democracy in central Ohio, our three honorees exemplify active civic participation in conjunction with committed League membership and activities.

The Democracy in Action ceremony and reception will be held Thursday, May 8, 5:30-7:00 PM, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please call me at 614-204-0558, or you may contact League Administrator Amy Pulles at 614-837-1089 or [lwvcols@iwaynet.net](mailto:lwvcols@iwaynet.net).

Join Us on March 26

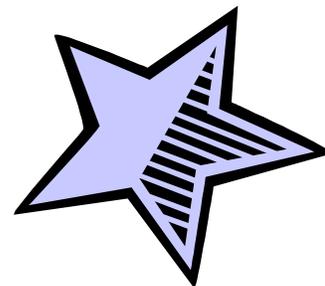
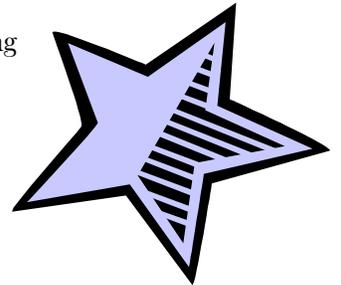
## All Invited to Annual New Members Brunch

by Mary Helen Hart

LWVMC will host its annual “New Members” meeting on Saturday, March 26 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at the Panera Bread, 875 Bethel Road, Columbus. It’s in the shopping plaza at the corner of Olentangy River Road and Bethel Road.

The informal get-together provides an opportunity for newcomers to get acquainted with the League, hear a presentation about the organization’s latest activities, get involved, ask questions, and—most importantly—meet current members. Therefore, all League members are invited to attend to enjoy lively conversation and share your LWV experiences with new members.

Coffee, tea and assorted breakfast items will be served.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Kitty Burcsu

In mid-February, LWVUS announced a new tool for researching congressional votes for the



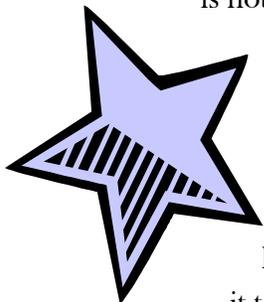
first session of the 110th Congress (2007), listing House and Senate votes on key good government issues. This tool, searchable by member of Congress as well as by issue area, includes key votes on

LWVUS legislative priorities. To access this new resource, visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and click "Take Action."

You will see the League has compiled the results of recent congressional votes on key legislation ranging from ethics reform to civil liberties, from children's health care to global climate change. *Our Key Votes* page provides you with the opportunity to enter your zip code and to find out how your Representatives and Senators voted on certain legislation. Additionally, you can click on any of the key votes to understand more about the legislation, as well as to use a map of the country to find out how all the members of Congress from one state voted.

On *Our House Votes* page you will find a comprehensive chart of key legislation that is important to the League's priorities in the House. *Our Senate Votes* page provides the same information for the Senate.

Please note the purpose of this new resource is not to "grade" or "score" members of Congress, but instead to provide an accurate listing of key federal votes. It's one more tool to help League members become and stay informed on key legislation. Check it out today and use it to help take action on the issues important to the League and to you.



## Voter Service News

by Janyce C. Katz

We have been offered a unique opportunity to do candidate interviews and to possibly start a league radio program on a regular basis.

Simply Living has asked for our help interviewing candidates running in primaries in the 12th and 15th US Congressional Districts. The interviews will air on Simply Living's radio station WCRSFM, 102.1 FM and rebroadcast on 98.3 FM. This radio station airs everyday of the week from 3:00-8:00 PM. The website for the radio station is [www.wcrsfm.org](http://www.wcrsfm.org).

This is last minute. In fact, it is being planned as I write this article. Whatever happens will be history by the time you read this issue of the newsletter.

The League has also been offered several other opportunities to work with other groups to help register voters and to interest younger voters in the electoral process. More on that as information comes forward.

Then, we need a meeting to get started for next year. Please note that League Administrator Amy Pulles will be busy with her new adopted daughter - bringing her home and getting her used to her new life - for the month of March. We are on our own. I propose that the Voter Service Committee (new members welcome!) meet on Sunday March 9 at 3:00 PM at my house, 2725 Floribunda Drive. I am hoping that perhaps daytime hours this time of year would be easier than evening meetings. I promise hot chocolate (or tea or coffee) and something tasty.

**Get the VOTER by E-mail**  
*(and get it sooner!)*

**Just e-mail your request to [LWVCOLS@iwaynet.net](mailto:LWVCOLS@iwaynet.net)**

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# Health Care Tops Agenda for National Study

by Scott Britton

Rather than asking LWVUS to undertake a new study, the Metro Columbus board followed the recommendations of its members and the state lobby corps and suggested the position on health care be reviewed for update.

LWVUS will meet in National Convention, June 13-17, in Portland, Oregon, to decide - among other things - whether to study a new issue or update an existing position. Local Leagues across the country engaged in a program planning process this winter to make recommendations. LWVO's state lobby corps reviewed the national positions and developed a list of timely changes needed (available under "Resources" at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)).

Instead of scheduling another meeting this winter - the schedule was already booked - LWVMC took the unusual step of conducting program planning through a survey that was mailed or e-mailed to each member. (If you did not receive the survey by e-mail, contact the office to make sure we have the correct address.) A plurality of the responders to the three-question survey indicated an interest in updating the health care position.

The current position was adopted in 1993 when the focus was on a national single-payer publicly funded health care system. Although momentum is gaining to reform the country's health care system, a single-payer structure is unlikely. In order for LWVUS to have a voice in this important debate, Metro recommends that interim steps be considered, for example:

1) supporting state-based health care systems, given that the federal government has not addressed a national health care system, and 2) identifying ways to pay for state-based universal health care systems other than public funding, given that state resources are not sufficient to provide necessary funding.

Thanks to Metro member and LWVO lobbyist **Eleanor Pearlman** for her analysis.

## League Members Attend FOCO Event

by Jean Byrd

The Metropolitan Columbus League had a strong presence at the recent Freedom of Choice Ohio banquet. The MC group, along with the Delaware League, filled two tables at the event on January 31.

Freedom of Choice Ohio (FOCO) is a pro-choice coalition that advocates for reproductive rights and provides member organizations and the public with information and education. The

## Why Survey Monkey?

SurveyMonkey.com is the LWVMC's newest mechanism for responding to the needs of members. Recently used by the League Board to conduct the LWVUS program planning, Survey Monkey is an online tool that enables people of all experience levels to create surveys.

The Board looked to Survey Monkey to get feedback quickly and easily. When members complete a survey, the "Monkey" keeps the results and tabulates the findings. This makes it very simple—and fast—to get the data and analyze the results.

The Board is not planning to use the computer or Survey Monkey to replace regular membership meetings. Engaging our members is still a top priority in conducting League business. Using technology in new and different ways is just another method to include and expand member input.

What do you think? Let us know. Contact **Jean Byrd**, [jeanbyrd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeanbyrd@sbcglobal.net), or 123 W. Kenworth

League is a member of the FOCO coalition.

After the chicken and tortellini meal, attendees heard a presentation from Susan Wicklund, MD.

Dr. Wicklund has been an abortion doctor for over 20 years and has a new book, *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor*. Her talk deftly wove her own story with the personal stories of the many women she has treated over the years. She spoke frankly about abortion policies that she sees as misleading and unsafe.

It was an informative meeting with food and friendship.



# League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus

*invites you to join us for*

*An Evening of Frank and Spirited Political Discourse*

**Town Hall Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Leo Yassenoff Jewish Community Center  
1125 College Avenue, Columbus

**Speaker: Dan Tokaji, Associate Professor of Law at the Moritz Law School and  
Co-Author of the timely book, *From Registration to Recounts***

Topic: Election Reform in Ohio

Get engaged in Civic Life  
Join the League in this discussion on How Citizens Can Make an imPact  
on the Political Life in Ohio  
...because it Matters that Your Government is

**FAIR**

**HONEST**

**RESPONSIVE**

For more information, contact **Amy Pulles** at **614-837-1089** or [lwvcols@iwaynet.net](mailto:lwvcols@iwaynet.net) ([www.lwvcols.org](http://www.lwvcols.org))

Cosponsored by AAUW, Common Cause Ohio, Ohio Citizen Action, & Columbus Urban League

**Free & Open to the Public**



Ohio  
**COMMON CAUSE**  
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Columbus  
Urban League

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*



**money in politics**  
a project of Ohio Citizen Action

# LWVMC Hosts Successful Consensus Meeting

by Jean Byrd

After months of study MC Leaguers gathered to lend their voice to a new LWVUS position. The results of that January 28 meeting are as follows. (If you no longer have a copy of the questions go to the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).)

**Question 1a)** Lower Priority, **1b)** Lower Priority, **1c)** No Consensus, **1d)** High Priority, **1e)** Lower Priority, **1f)** High Priority, **1g)** No Consensus, **1h)** No Consensus, **1i)** High Priority, **1j)** High Priority, **1k)** Lower Priority

**Question 2a)** Disagree, **2b)** Lower Priority, **2c)** No Consensus, **2d)** High Priority, **2e)** Disagree, **2f)** Disagree

**Question 3a)** High Priority, **3b)** Lower Priority, **3c)** High Priority, **3d)** High Priority

**Question 4a)** Disagree

**Question 4bi)** Disagree, **4bii)** Lower Priority, **4biii)** High Priority, **4biv)** High Priority, **4bv)** High Priority, **4bvi)** High Priority, **4bvii)** High Priority, **4bviii)** High Priority

**Question 5** Consensus      **Question 6** Consensus

Thanks to all those who worked on the consensus information gathering meeting in November. Special thanks to League Members **Nancy Brown** and **Scott Britton** (*pictured*) for their expertise in guiding members through this process.



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METROPOLITAN COLUMBUS



### MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES! I am interested in joining the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus

- \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ for a year's individual membership
- \$90 \_\_\_\_\_ for a year's household membership (*two members at one address*)
- \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ for a year's membership for person on limited income
- \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ for a year's student membership



Make check payable to LWVMC and mail to address below.

Member(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



**League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus**

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## Mark Your Calendar...



- March 3**      **LWVMC Board of Trustees Meeting**
- March 4**      **Ohio Presidential Primary Election**, polls are open 6:30 AM-7:30 PM
- March 9**      **LWVMC Voter Service Committee**, 3:00 PM, home of Janyce Katz  
([mglazman@sprynet.com](mailto:mglazman@sprynet.com)), 2725 Floribunda Drive, new Committee members  
welcome
- March 11**     **LWVO Lobby Lunch (NEW LOCATION FOR 2008!)** Columbus Metropolitan  
Library-Main Branch, 96 S. Grant, **Conference Room 1**, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, All in-  
vited, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- March 12**     **LWVMC Town Hall Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Yassenoff Jewish Community Center, 1125  
College Avenue, Columbus
- March 25**     **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
- March 26**     **LWVMC New Members Brunch**, 9:00-11:30 AM, Panera Bread  
Community Room, 875 Bethel Road, Columbus
- April 7**        **LWVMC Board of Trustees Meeting**
- April 29**      **LWVO Statehouse Day**
- May 8**         **LWVMC Democracy In Action Ceremony & Reception**, 5:30-7:00 PM, Ohio  
Statehouse Atrium



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