

October 2008

Plan to Attend an October Unit

Know the issues before you go to the polls and you can help alleviate long lines in November. And LWVMC can help you do just that. In October, the Units will take a close look at the state ballot issues. Members from the LWVO Lobby Corp will discuss the issues and look at the State League's pros and cons. Bring friends, family, and neighbors to an October Unit meeting:

Thursday, October 16 - Wesley Glen, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, October 22 - Wings Restaurant, 5:30 PM

Thursday, October 30 - Grandview Public Library, 7:00 PM *Note the different date.*

You Be In Charge of Who is Elected

Concerned about the economy, the cost of gas, or what is going on in Franklin County? Why depend on ads or "gotcha" reporters' analysis of races for elected offices important to you. Come meet and question candidates yourself, with your written questions asked to all candidates in a particular race by a well-known and well-respected news personality. The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government has just the solution - become an active questioner of candidates, not a passive observer.

The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, along with many sponsoring and supporting organizations including LWVMC, is sponsoring twelve candidate forums this general election season. They will be moderated by representatives from WBNS 10TV, NBC-4, and WSYX-TV Channel 6. Franklin County, US Congress and judicial candidates, as well as candidates for the Ohio House and Senate, will be invited to attend the forums. The forums feature a half-hour reception before starting - 9:30 AM for the JCC and for the first Northland Community center event. All other forums start with a reception at 6:30 PM and candidate forums starting at 7:00 PM.

"Please put the forums on your must-do list and urge all your friends and relatives to come with you," said LWVMC President **Janyce C. Katz**, who serves as co-chair of the Consortium. "Consider volunteering to help us increase the number of people attending or volunteering at the events."

See inside for a complete schedule of forums.

**Volunteers
Needed!**



LWVMC - WBNS 10TV

PhoneBank

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 • 6:30 AM - 7:00 PM • WBNS-10TV • 770 Twin Rivers Drive, Columbus

To volunteer, contact **Mary Helen Hart**
614-262-8461 (home), 614-256-3225 (cell), maheha57@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Janyce Katz

The September 14, 2008, wind storm changed quite a few things as it tore through Central Ohio with its 75 mile per hour winds.

Close to two million people in Ohio had no electricity and many went without what we consider an essential of modern life for close to a week.

We had to postpone our exciting September 17 event, planned by our dynamic program dual, **Jean Byrd** and **Ann Henkener**, and featuring not only our own LWVMC stars/DIA awardees, **Judy Brachman**, **Peg Rosenfield**, and **Lou Briggs** hosted by **Joan Lawrence** but also LWVUS President Mary Wilson.

The same winds forced a delay in the publication of *The Voter* and a piecemeal sending to *The Columbus Dispatch* of the copy for the *Voter Information Bulletin* (VIB). With no electricity, computers didn't work and copy, like the first version of this column, sat frozen within them.

While we were watching branches and garbage cans blow around our backyards on Sunday, September 14, another wind blew through Wall Street, bringing additional uncertainty to the financial market.

As a consequence of the unknown financial situation, we must work harder to get our fundraising where it needs to be for us to keep expanding our programming.

With gas and food prices high and investments perhaps too heavily based on exciting new products like derivatives and securitized sub-prime loans, we need to make certain those corporations and people who will be making donations in the 2008-2009 year know about LWVMC and LWV Ed Fund and why what we do is important.

With that in mind, **Sara Meyers** and **Kitty Burcsu** have already started work on Democracy in Action 2009. They could use your help on one or more of DIA's many committees, from fundraising to event set-up and planning.

Lucy Buzzee has started work on our December holiday party and would love ideas and donations for this year's silent auction. Want to lend a hand, please contact Lucy.

Our September program will be rescheduled at some time in November. By then, the

electricity should be on and the hardships of this week forgotten. Hopefully, LWVUS President Mary Wilson will be able to return for that event.

The wind changed our direction but did not stop us. As Mary Wilson was in town for our dinner on the 17th, some of the Board did go to a restaurant with electricity and food and met with her. She also had a press conference with LWVO about key issues for this fall.

Our fall season keeps moving even though the wind tried to blow us off the map. Don't think that the only excitement this fall is the historic Presidential race. LWVMC is making history with its exciting new website (thanks VP **Scott Britton** and committee), membership campaign (thanks to VP **Lea Madry** and **Dorothy Whitcomb**), geared-up advocacy committee (again Scott), and multi-projected voter service committee (VP **Barbi Crabill**).

Speaking of events not to miss, Barbi Crabill's subcommittee, temporarily staffed by **JoAnne Grossman**, has been developing a week of interesting and fun programs for our Ukrainian guests and for those paid members who reserve a place. Some programs are wide open with no limits to how many can attend, other programs are limited by space. Contact **Amy Pulles**, our essential staff person at vote@lwvcols.org or 614-837-1089 to make certain you are on the list for events. As of the time of this writing, we are still waiting to hear if we will be at the Governor's mansion during the October 17-25 period. Watch your e-mail and be sure your dues are current so you can attend!

Voter Service is registering voters at a series of venues this fall. In addition, Voter Service, along with the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government is sponsoring 12 forums to help educate people about local candidates and issues. Please feel free to volunteer at one or more of the events or just come and listen.

This fall, Amy has been assisted by **Sheila Fuhs** in the office.

Although the wind blew us in a different direction than we had originally hoped to go, we have a strong program this year. With your help, it will be even better.

The Columbus Voter (USPS 318-990) (Vol 40, Issue #2) is published ten times a year by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus, PO Box 130, Blacklick, Ohio 43004 for \$5.00 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus OH. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Voter*, PO Box 130, Blacklick, OH 43004. President: Janyce Katz. Editor: Cheryl Markino. Deadline is the 13th day of the month for the following month's issue. Submit copy and photos to cherylmarkino@att.net.



FREE TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

**The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government
presents**

“MEET THE CANDIDATES”



FORUM 2008

www.franklincountyconsortium.com

See website for the list of races covered at each forum location

All forums moderated by local news anchors from

NBC 4 ~ **WSYX-TV 6** ~ **WBNS-10TV** ~ **WOSU**

Thursday, October 2 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Peace Lutheran Church - 455 Clark State Road, Gahanna 43230

Friday, October 3 - (Morning) 9:30 am reception/9:45 am program
Jewish Community Center - 1125 College Avenue, Columbus 43209

Sunday, October 5 - 1:30 pm reception/2:00 pm program
St. Thomas More Newman Center at OSU - 64 W Lane Avenue, Columbus 43201

Monday, October 6 - (Morning) 9:30 am reception/9:45 am program
(Evening) 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Haimerl Center, Ascension Lutheran Church - 1421 Morse Road, Columbus 43229

Tuesday, October 7 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Prairie Township Senior Center - 4616 W Broad Street, Columbus 43228

Wednesday, October 15 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Corpus Christi Church - 1111 Stewart Avenue, Columbus 43206

Thursday, October 16 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church - 1636 Graham Road, Reynoldsburg 43068

Thursday, October 23 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Broad Street Presbyterian Church - 760 E Broad Street, Columbus 43205

Monday, October 27 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
First Unitarian Universalist Church - 93 W Weisheimer Road, Columbus 43214

Tuesday, October 28 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
Brookwood Presbyterian Church - 2685 E Livingston Avenue, Columbus 43209

Wednesday, October 29 - 6:30 pm reception/7:00 pm program
St Joan of Arc Catholic Church - 10700 Liberty Road S, Powell 43065

THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION EVENTS OF THE SEASON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (614) 837-1089

League's Ukraine Program to Focus on Civil Rule of Law

by Barbi Crabill

LWVMC is excited to host a group of six visitors from Ukraine, October 17-25, 2008, through a program sponsored by Open World. This program enables emerging leaders from Eurasia and the Baltic States to experience US democracy and free enterprise in action in communities in the US. Columbus is one of three US cities chosen to host this year.

During their visit, participants will learn about the roles and relationships of the three branches of government at all levels, and how elected officials and civil society organizations in Columbus (which is representative of the entire country) work together to address social issues. They will also examine how the private and non-profit sectors help meet social and civic needs.

Throughout the week, League members in good standing (dues paid for 2008-09) will have opportunities to participate in activities, although attendance will be limited with RSVP required. Watch your mail and e-mail for details. Contact League Administrator **Amy Pulles** at 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org to RSVP for the events.

As this is written, the schedule is still being firmed up, so the tentative itinerary listed here is just a sample.



LWVMC Annual Holiday Brunch & Auction

December 7, 2008 * 12:00-2:30 pm
Miranova Place
at the home of Nancy & Bob Brown

\$15/person; \$25/couple

Featuring Silent & Live Auctions
with Auctioneer Brent Taggart

Ukraine Program Tentative Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 18, 6-9 PM

A weenie roast in the country. League members are invited to bring their families to this evening of bonfire, s'mores, and an American sing-along with guitar and banjo. *Open to all paid members and their families. RSVP required.*

Sunday evening, October 19

The Ukrainian American Club will host the delegation. *Open to all paid members. RSVP required.*

October 20 - City Government Day

- Tour of Columbus City Hall *Open to all*
- Presentation by Rick Pfeiffer, Columbus City Hall *Open to 20 League members*
- Worthington City Council Meeting *Open to all*

October 21 - State Government, Volunteerism & National Service Day

- Discussion with Ohio legislators focused on ethics in government, transparency in government and the role of the media
- Work with Americorps volunteers at the YWCA Family Center *Open to 10 League members. RSVP required.*

October 22 - Day at the Ohio State University

- Office of International Affairs
- John Glenn School of Public Policy
- College of Law
- OSU Ukrainian Student Organization
- Wexner Center for the Arts

October 23 - Court System

- Center for Child & Family Advocacy
- Franklin County Municipal Court discussion with judges
- Overview of election process including a panel discussion with youth activism in the democratic process
- Candidates' Forum at Broad Street Presbyterian Church *Open to all*

October 24 - Legal System

- Tour of the Ohio Supreme Court and meeting with Chief Justice Thomas Moyer
- Discussion with members of the Ohio State Bar Association
- **Farewell Potluck at Harrison Park Recreation Center 7:00-9:30 PM. Open to all paid League members. RSVP required.**

**LWVMC HAS A
NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

vote@lwvcols.org

New Website Helps Voters Make Informed Decisions

An 88-year-old organization made a 21st-century splash with an improved website unveiled last month.

LWVMC has redesigned its website to better serve the voters of central Ohio in the months leading up to the November election. “Our new look is really driven by our desire to help voters more easily find the information they need,” said LWVMC President **Janyce C. Katz**. “Our goal is to ensure that every voter can make an informed decision. Now the trusted nonpartisan information we provide is easier to access than ever before.”

Katz noted that with hundreds of members across central Ohio, and more than 150,000 across the country, the League remains the original grassroots citizen network. “Our membership is made up of women and men of all ages and political persuasions who come together to prove that sensible, responsible civil discourse and action – based on substance rather than partisanship – are essential for civic improvement,” she said. “Our new-and-improved website is one more tool we can use to continue this important work.”

Scott Britton chaired the committee that revamped the site. Visit it at www.lwvcols.org.



PHOTO CREDIT JEAN BYRD

*The hard-working Technology Committee (l-r) **Joy Rose**, **Stuart Wright**, **Scott Britton**, and **Laura Bidwa**, are responsible for LWVMC's newly-designed website. The new-and-improved site, launched just in time for the 2008 election season, transforms the League's look and ability to communicate with central Ohioans—and members—on issues of voting, citizen education, and advocacy. A schedule of Candidate Forums, the Voter Information Bulletin, news articles, and volunteer opportunities are among the items available on the site.*

The Monthly Membership Must-Read

by *Lea Madry*

\$10 – What's it worth to you? Now-a-days, that might get you couple cups of fair trade coffee or maybe a day's worth of gas. No matter how you'd spend it, an extra \$10 certainly doesn't hurt. Now, as a new League membership practice, \$10 is yours when you bring just three new members to the League!

New members must simply cite your name on the amended, new membership form (details below) that asks “Were you referred to the League by a member? If so, who?” If three new members cite you on their membership form as referring them, then \$10 will be deducted from your dues for the following year!

Speaking of dues, please be sure to pay yours. It may be tough to forget, though, with so much happening with the League. For example...

We have a terrific new website; we have a new Financial committee; and we'll participate in Candidates Forums throughout October. Plus, we have a variety of new Membership practices including a buddy program where new members are matched up with current and past Board members. We have a Board that is full both of new faces with innovative ideas that propel us forward and seasoned souls with the pragmatic perspective that keeps us grounded.

Knowing it's such an exciting time to be a part of the League, I'm sure it'll be easier than ever to remember to pay those dues!

We have new membership brochures. A special thanks to **Amy Pulles**, **Janyce Katz**, **Laura Bidwa**, and **Scott Britton** for making this update possible. The new brochure features membership options, referral information, and a variety of optional, personal information such as birth date and anniversary. These changes were made primarily to make a League member's experience more personal and valuable. Many of the changes were suggested in the Membership Marketing Plan.

It's not too late to join the Membership Committee. The next Committee meeting is October 27 from 6:30-7:30 PM. Send an e-mail to madry.5@osu.edu if you're interested in attending.

Mark Your Calendar...

2nd & 4th Tues **LWVO Lobby Lunch**, All invited, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Columbus Metropolitan Library-Main Branch (96 S. Grant Street)

October 2-29 **"Meet the Candidates" Forums**, throughout Franklin County

October 16 **LWVMC Morning Unit**

October 17-25 **LWVMC Ukraine Program**

October 22 **LWVMC Dinner Unit**

October 27 **LWVMC Membership Committee**, contact Lea Madry, madry.5@osu.edu

October 30 **LWVMC Evening Unit**

November 4 **Election Day / Election Day Phone Bank**

December 7 **LWVMC Annual Holiday Brunch & Auction**



Travel with the League to Discover the New Russia, May 11-22, 2009

LWVUS is seeking 10-15 members who want to travel to Russia as part of the League's Global Democracy Program. The 11-day tour includes three days in Moscow, three days in St. Petersburg, and five days in a hosting city. The estimated cost for participation is \$3,500. For details, contact Manuela Campbell at mcampbell@lwv.org.

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