

October 2009

Metro League Mourns Loss of Terry McCoy

Terry McCoy, who served as president of the Metro Columbus League from 1991-1994, president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio from 2001-2005, state legislative director and is credited with establishing the highly successful State League Lobby Corp, died in her sleep overnight, October 2. She was 70 years old.

Terry and her husband **David McCoy** were recently selected by the Metro League as recipients of the 2010 Democracy In Action award.

Terry worked passionately on a number of public policy issues throughout her career, including hunger, but is most closely associated with judicial independence. She led an ultimately unsuccessful ballot initiative in the late 1980s to change the Ohio Constitution to require merit selection of judges. She garnered significant funding for the state League to educate the public about judicial impartiality, including a national conference on the subject in 2002 and a reform summit with Chief Justice Thomas Moyer in 2003.

In addition to her many contributions at the local and state level, Terry served on the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States from 1994-1998. While on the national board, she co-authored *Empowering Citizens: A Guide to Influencing Public Policy*, parts of which were translated into Russian to use with one of the League's Global Democracy projects. Terry was also part of the League's official delegation to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

About the League, Terry once wrote, "League has a proud heritage, an invaluable base for the future. League must regularly assess its strengths and employ those strengths in its mission to shape better communities worldwide. Our communities need us; we dare not fail!"

Terry was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in early September. She is survived by her husband, David, who is also an active League member, and two children.

Memorial contributions may be made in Terry's honor to the League of Women Voters of Ohio (non-deductible) or the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (tax deductible), or to the Hunger Network in Ohio.



LWVMC Endorses Issue 4

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus endorsed Issue 4, the Franklin County Children Services levy, on the November 3 general election ballot.

The League examined the issue thoroughly before deciding to support its passage. The League has a longstanding public policy position supporting services for abused and neglected children. With the agency's revenue from state government shrinking fast, the League recognized the property tax is one of the only options available to ensure adequate funding for such critical services.

It is important for voters to understand that even though the levy is referred to as a "replacement-with-reduction," it will actually cost homeowners more. Currently, the owner of a \$100,000 market value home in Franklin County pays \$116.99 a year in property taxes to support FCCS. Passage of a 3.10 mill replacement-with-reduction levy will increase this tax by \$28.48 a year to \$145.47 beginning in 2010. (See the League's explanation and pro/con arguments in the *Voter Information Bulletin* at

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Janyce C. Katz, Esq.

September 27....I am writing as the month is drawing to a close. So much has happened and there is more still to come!

Tiffany Dixon's leadership of the Educational Committee made the first educational event of the year at the Lincoln Theatre on September 24 was almost perfect. Mike Curtin, retired from *The Columbus Dispatch* and Fred Andrlé, retired from WOSU, spoke about the changes in the news industry. **Lucy Buzzee**



chose a caterer who made a rather warm, friendly room look better and the food was ever so tasty. Lucy, joined by **Dorothy and John Whitcomb**, dressed as if they had arrived from ninety-one years ago, and handed out invitations to the 90th birthday party in cute little bags Dorothy had made especially for the occasion.

One problem, a very bad problem, with the event at the Lincoln Theatre is that a car hit **Gloria Davis** as she crossed Long Street to get from the parking lot to the Theatre. As of today, she is resting not too comfortably in Grant Hospital, starting to mend from surgery on the broken femur bone in her hip. The problem is that for too many years, the Theatre was dark and traffic raced down Long Street. Now, a busy Theatre needs a light to slow down and stop the cars so that people can safely cross the street. The result of no light - Gloria in the hospital, a very upset young lady who hit her and a cloud marred what could have been a perfect evening for the LWVMC. Who wants to advocate for a light and a crosswalk? Scott: does your Committee look into crosswalks?

The first candidates forum was also packed - standing room only at the Prairie Township Senior Center on September 22. The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, co-chaired by Voter Service Vice President **Barbi Crabill** and Dave Paul have



worked hard for months to organize the nine candidates forums planned for this year.

Thanks to **Amy Pulles'** hard work and the

work of many editors, the *VIB* will soon be ready to go. It will again be printed by *The Dispatch*.

By the way, volunteer to give election day information on camera at TV10.

Mary Helen Hart will be chairing the event and she needs volunteers.

I could go on about the excitement and energy this fall. Plan to celebrate 90 years of LWV this spring. Help plan the event. Think about getting a costume for the May 13 birthday party. They really looked good. Help us get members.

The year has started. It should be a good one. I hope you are signing up for committees and events and bringing along your friends.

We're on Facebook

The Metro League is now on Facebook. To visit the page, simply go to our website, www.lwvcols.org, and click on the FB widget at the bottom of the page.

If you don't have a Facebook account but are interested in learning more, contact **Scott Britton** at sbritton@wowway.com.



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League Endorses Issue 4

www.lwvcols.org for more information.)

The League has made a commitment to monitor the agency and its expenditures over the next five years leading up to the 2014 replacement levy.

In recent elections, the League has endorsed the Columbus school levy/bond, the Metro Parks levy, and the Columbus income tax, all of which passed with strong support from voters.

The League took no position on other local ballot issues in the upcoming election. The League of Women Voters of Ohio took positions on the three statewide ballot issues. Go to www.lwvohio.org for details.

Membership Report

by Lucy Hadley Buzzee

Thank you to all members who returned their membership surveys. Thanks to our consultant, Sheri Chaney Jones, President and CEO of Measurement Resources, the responses are being compiled and Sheri will report the results to the Board of Trustees in October. We will also be able to pull the information from our database to be able to better serve our member's interests.

Congratulations to **Jane Young!** Jane's name was entered into the drawing for the \$100 Cameron Mitchell restaurant gift card for returning the survey by September 14. Her name was drawn at the General Meeting held on September 24 at the marvelous Lincoln Theatre. A long-time League member, we thank Jane for her support.

At this time, LWVMC boasts 271 members. However, there are 82 members who have not renewed as this issue of the *Voter* goes to print. A reminder letter is going out to all those who have not renewed, and then a phone call will be made if we still haven't received their renewal. We would like to know if there are particular reasons for members not renewing and if there is a way we can address their needs.

We also know there are some members who do not have an e-mail address. We will also be trying to find a way to best serve them as we strive to get more "electronically" efficient with our communication to our membership.

We are always looking for people who might be interested in joining the Membership Committee. If you feel strongly about the League and either have ideas how to reach our current members and/or want to recruit new members, or just want to be involved a bit, please consider joining the committee. You can join by contacting **Amy Pulles** at the League office, vote@lwvcols.org or 614-837-1089.

Speaking of recruiting new members... Welcome to the New Member Campaign!

After all, it is the time for political campaigns and do we have a campaign for you (non-partisan, of course)! In honor of the League's 90th Anniversary Year (1920-2010), we are kicking off the Membership Campaign to get 90

new members by May 13, 2010 —a very important date, the 90th Birthday Celebration and the date for Democracy In Action 2010. We will be keeping track of new members and hope to reach our goal with your help. Please consider inviting your friends, co-workers, people you know who are in other organizations, people who have similar ideas - "To encourage informed and active participation in government" and "to make democracy work for all citizens." We have brochures that we can give you to give to your colleagues or just give us the names of your colleagues and we will make sure they get an invitation to join your League of Women Voters. We have found that a personal invitation is the best way to get new members. A personal invitation coming from you to your friend, neighbor, or acquaintance is absolutely the best way. Think back to when you joined the League. Chances are, someone invited you to a meeting, to join a mutually interesting task force or to a League social event because they thought you would be the kind of person who would be interested in the League of Women Voters. Do someone else a favor and invite him or her to come with you to the next Unit Meeting or General Meeting. What better time to become a member? Celebrating 90 years of the League of Women Voters!

Again, contact Amy at the League office.

Welcome to our two newest members:

Kelley Youman Truxall

Adam Duberstein

Save the date because you're invited...

HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Come for Brunch

12:00 - 2:30 pm

at the Miranova home of
Nancy and Bob Brown

Enjoy the same wonderful
party with a new twist!



Lobbying for an Energy Bill

On September 22 **Scott Britton** and **Al Rosenfield** of Metro's Advocacy Committee met with Sen George V. Voinovich's Columbus staff. The League is lobbying the Senate for strong climate change and energy legislation -- which passed the House in June as the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act.

Voinovich had spoken the previous day at a climate change dialogue sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, which Rosenfield attended. The League was concerned with the Senator's claim that ACES will lead to huge job losses. This claim is based on an analysis that Dr. Margo Thoning performed for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). Actually, her estimate is that there will be a large number of job losses between the years 2020 and 2030.

Other economists have taken issue with Thoning's estimates for two reasons:

- They do not take into account any economic damage caused by inaction on climate change.
- It is not possible to predict economic performance 20 years in advance, especially in an area subject to rapid technological change.

Rosenfield addressed the second point, saying that he could not have predicted 2009 based on what he knew 20 years ago. At the time he was working in an advanced-research laboratory. Thirty people shared one mini-computer, which was the size of a small adult. He got about one e-mail a week. The internet was primitive -- no YouTube, Facebook, or Twitter. There were few cell phones; Blackberrys, iPods, and GPS systems were a thing of the future. Based on what we experienced then, how can we predict the future with any certainty?

However, we cannot conclude that innovation will automatically cure climate change. Perhaps, new technology will come along that will do it. But the prudent approach is to do the best we can today with today's tools.

The meeting with the Senator's staff was helpful in that it opened a dialogue with his office, even though Voinovich will be retiring at the end of his term. The Senator believes that action is necessary to combat climate change,

but like Ohio officials on both sides of the aisle is reluctant to harm the economy, particularly the coal and electricity sectors. The League is hopeful that, even though the Senator has taken a public stand against cap-and-trade, his past leadership in the areas of international development and security will bring him to an acceptable compromise on the bill as the Senate debates it this fall.

In-Person Absentee Voting; Sample Ballots Available

The Franklin County Board of Elections has opened in-person absentee voting for the November 3 General Election, and voters may view a sample ballot online.

In-person absentee voting will take place at the Board of Elections, 280 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Absentee voting ends November 2.

In-person absentee voting hours are Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm; and Saturday, October 31: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

View a sample ballot at the BOE website at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov> and use the search by name function.

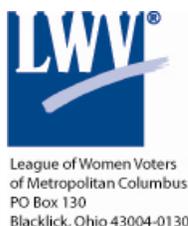
Volunteers Needed for Phone Bank

Help educate voters by staffing the League's phone bank at WBNS-10TV on Election Day, November 3. Two-hour shifts are available from 6:30 am through 7 pm.

Training materials will be provided, and experts will be on hand throughout the day to assist with unusual questions.

To volunteer for two hours (or more), contact **Mary Helen Hart** at maheha57@gmail.com and indicate your preference for a shift.

Volunteers will report for duty at WBNS-10TV, 770 Twin Rivers Drive, Columbus.



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