

Summer 2008

League Meeting Slated for September 17

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus will kick off the new program year, Wednesday, September 17, with a lively discussion and dinner.

A Conversation about Women, Government, Elections, Democracy, Advocacy and Civic Engagement features LWVMC's 2008 Democracy in Action award recipients, **Judith Brachman, Lou Briggs,** and **Peg Rosenfield.** **Joan Lawrence** will moderate the discussion.

The meeting will be held at the Clintonville Woman's Club (3951 N. High Street, 43214). Dinner begins at 6:30 PM and the program starts at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$18. Members and guests may attend the program portion of the evening at no cost.

RSVP to the League Office by September 12 at 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org. Please indicate if a vegetarian meal is needed.

Get Ready for October Units

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.*

Voting Information & Reminders

- All voters must be registered by October 6 to be eligible to vote in the November 4 General Election.
- To vote an absent voter ballot in person before Election Day, go to Franklin County Veterans Memorial (300 W. Broad Street, 43215). Weekday hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM beginning September 30 and ending November 3. Saturday hours are 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1. On Sundays (October 5, 12, 19, 26, and November 2), voting is available 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.
- Voters must take identification to the polls.



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), 614-256-4335 (cell), maheha57@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Janyce Katz

It is a beautiful Monday morning with the promise of perfect weather, a perfect day, following an equally spectacular Sunday. Oh, how difficult it is on such a lazy summer day to plan for the colder months!

Yesterday, in the middle of that above mentioned beautiful Sunday, the LWVMC Board "retreated" to plan the 2008-2009 year.

It is important that we plan programs for the year.

LWV believes people must be educated about issues and encouraged to participate at all levels of government if we are to continue to be a democratic state.

We have been planning to educate voters about candidates and about issues and to advocate for a few issues that our Advocacy Committee targets as the most important within the parameter of those previously studied by League.

Then, we are planning voter registration drives and planning to encourage people to vote.

We even talked a little about how to make people understand the importance of educating themselves about issues and candidates.

But, the morning after our major planning event, I saw beach mentality on the television news shows rather than solid, informative news.

It was as if the lazy day had permeated the entire news industry. There seemed to be news as light as the novels most of us read while we sit by the pool or on the beach.

I saw one short piece about a decision to bail out Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae using taxpayer dollars. This story was quickly

followed by a much longer piece about Ms. America's fall at the Ms. Universe contest.

Oh yes, there was a story about a star in Hollywood who delivered her babies in France. And, another story described in glowing terms how one country in the Middle East is using oil money to buy the Chrysler building in New York City and to outspend the rest of the world on skyscrapers, art museums and expensive hotels.

That's where we come in. Not to join the

Middle Eastern country in its buy up of American landmarks and businesses, but to help Americans become better citizens by encouraging them to educate themselves on issues and candidates and then to vote.

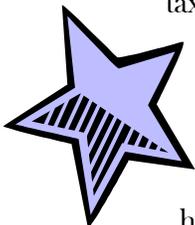
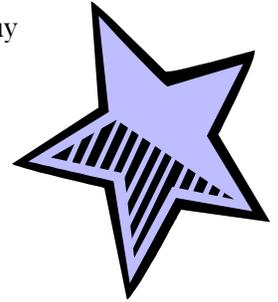
But, in an era where a Miss America's fall generates more national air time than does an issue directly impacting all of our pocketbooks, we have a much harder task ahead of us.

I encourage you to help on one of our short term projects. There are many: the Ukrainian visitor project needs help with housing, planning the days, assisting each day; voter registration projects; advocacy projects; membership; and public relations all need help also.

Of course, without fundraising, we are limited in what we can do. The various fundraising events need volunteers as well.

Sign up as a volunteer for LWVMC's fall activities. There's information in this issue of the *Voter*. Or simply contact the League Office.

Let's see what we can do together to build a stronger democracy with better educated citizens.



Did You Participate in a Local Study that Led to a Current Metro Position?

If so, the Advocacy Committee would like to talk to you!

The committee seeks members who helped research the studies that resulted in Metro positions on education, justice, and metro services (planning, mass transit, levy-funded agencies, FCCS, community-based treatment, and addiction services). If you were involved, please contact LWVMC Administrator Amy Pulles at 614-837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.

The Columbus Voter (USPS 318-990) (Vol 40, Issue #1) 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@ee.net.

The Monthly Membership Must-Read

by *Lea Madry*

The Membership Committee is gearing up for the year with a new Vice President, many plans, and hopefully you as a part of the now-forming committee!

Allow me to introduce myself: my name is **Lea Madry** (contact: madry.5@osu.edu) and I'll be serving as Vice President of Membership; I am an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University and will be heading to law school in two short years. I'm very optimistic about the great strides Membership can make this year and I'm pleased to announce that **Dorothy Whitcomb** will be co-leading the committee as our co-chair.

What are these plans about which I'm so excited, you ask? Just a few of this year's membership initiatives include updating the membership form to encompass the suggestions of the League Membership Marketing Plan, creating membership packages (brochures, a display, past VIBs and *Voters*, etc.) for the League Vice Presidents who put on events, creating a buddy plan to pair new members with Board members, celebrating League membership anniversaries at the Annual Meeting and holding new member orientations both in January and April. It's going to be a terrific year for membership.

Join us in making progress towards best practices to retain and recruit terrific League members like yourself. The Membership Committee is truly in need of your participation and perspective in shaping these practices. With monthly meetings on Mondays at 6:30 PM where Panera Bread soup is provided and great conversation is guaranteed, how can you resist? The first committee meeting will take place Monday, September 22 at the Panera Bread at 4519 N. High Street. If you plan to attend or have any questions, please contact me at madry.5@osu.edu.

Last, but certainly not least, let us welcome our newest League members: **Annette Boer**; **Heather Brown**; **Ruth Conone**; **JoAnne Grossman**; and **Cathy Novak**.

LWVUS Prepares Voters Guide

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) invited presidential candidates to provide their perspectives and solutions to a range of policy issues for a General Election Voters Guide.

Only those candidates who met LWVUS criteria were invited to provide answers to the questionnaire. They include John McCain, Ralph Nader, and Barack Obama.

The Voters Guide will be available for download at VOTE411.org.

In other news, LWVUS is planning to run a print PSA inside approximately 200 buses in ten cities: Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Denver, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Miami, Detroit, and St. Louis.

The PSA promotes voter registration and other resources on VOTE411.org. It is scheduled to run in the buses from the beginning of September through Election Day.

The advertising space, with an estimated market value of \$150,000 to \$200,000, was donated to the LWVEF.

Save the Date! You're Invited!



LWV^{MC} Annual Holiday Brunch & Auction

Sunday, 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

All Ages Can Participate

Volunteer Drivers Needed

by Cathy Elkins, 614-267-5884

At the LWVMC Annual Meeting, June 2, my granddaughter Damaris Walker read an essay she wrote for Build a Bear Workshop. This company has a program offering college scholarships for children who provide services in their communities.

Damaris, who will enter Dominion Middle school this fall, has been my helper with the Meals on Wheels route that Metro League delivers for LifeCare Alliance each Sunday. When League members volunteer for this project, they perform a needed community service; the LWVMC Ed Fund increases its financial coffers; and area residents get a hot meal. If you would like more information about this volunteer opportunity, please call me.

Here is Damaris' essay:

My name is Damaris Walker and I deliver meals-on-wheels.

Meals-on-wheels is a job where I deliver meals to people that can't get out of the house or they can't fix meals for themselves. My grandma drives because I'm ten. We always knock on the door and say "meals-on-wheels" and they say "come in" or they will come to the door. We give them hot meals, cold meals sometimes too. And also bread and milk and one person gets two pureed meals.

We mostly do it on holidays and some Sundays too. I always deliver meals on Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday.

When we first go there I put the insulated meals in the car. When we get back I take the insulated meal bags out of the car.

That's what I do for meals-on-wheels.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METROPOLITAN COLUMBUS



- I am interested in joining the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus
- I am interested in receiving more information about LWVMC (if checked, please fill out the mailing address section below and return to the League office)

- \$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

PO Box 130, Blacklick, Ohio 43004-0130

614.837.1089 * Fax 614.837.1263 * www.lwvcols.org * vote@lwvcols.org

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)

September 8 **LWVMC Board Meeting**

September 17 **LWVMC General Meeting & Dinner**

September 22 **LWVMC Membership Committee Meeting**

September 29 **LWVMC Voter Service Committee VIB Proof-Reading**

October 16 **LWVMC Morning Unit**

October 22 **LWVMC Dinner Unit**

October 30 **LWVMC Evening Unit**

November 4 **Election Day**

December 7 **LWVMC Holiday Brunch & Auction**

LWVMC HAS A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:

vote@lwvcols.org

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of Metropolitan Columbus
PO Box 130
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