



THE VOTER

LWVMC Leaguers Have Their Say

Members turned out on February 7 for hot homemade soup and state program planning.



What does it mean when members of League speak of program?
“Program is the League’s reason for being, the basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.” (In-League, a LWVUS publication)

Before members got down to the business of program planning at the February 7 meeting, they were first awarded a dinner of hot soup, then a game show with our own Scott Britton as host with the lovely Ann Henkener as his assistant. Or maybe it was the other way around.

Three teams competed in a quiz bowl designed to increase member understanding of state advocacy positions – ending in a three-way tie.



Taking advantage of the soup were, above, Donna Marie Lossing Jones, Barbara Crabill, JoAnne Grossman, and Eleanor Pearlman. To the left, is David McCoy.



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LWVMC February Meeting

Program Planning

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After the excitement of the game show, members engaged in discussion around whether to drop, update, or retain LWVO's state government, social policy, and natural resources positions.

The Metro Columbus League's input will feed into a process that will culminate at the 59th State League Convention May 13-15 at Maumee Bay State Park. Members interested in attending State Convention as Metro delegates should contact Amy at the office.

After much consideration members also reached consensus on recommended priorities for the state League over the next two years:

- Redistricting
- Ohio Constitution and the Constitution Revision
- Capital Punishment
- Water

Members did not recommend any new areas for study, though there was a strong suggestion to share soup recipes.



Know Your State

Positions

The publication "Agenda for Action" contains the LWVO positions on state governmental issues that are the basis for League action at the state level. These positions were on review during the League MC February meeting. Redistricting was recommended as a top priority by local members. The Ohio position was adopted in 1980 and amended May 2005. This position is as stated:

LWVO supports an impartial districting process that may include, but not limited to:

1. Districting for Congress and state legislature based substantially on population equality with a variance of no more than plus or minus 5 percent among districts.
2. Use of a bipartisan commission comprised of an odd number of members to determine congressional and state legislative district lines.
3. Congressional and state legislative districts that are compact, contiguous, bounded by a non-intersecting line and follow local political boundaries as much as possible.
4. Opportunity for citizen participation.
5. No more that 99 House districts and 33 Senate districts within the Ohio legislature.

"When a just cause reaches its flood-tide, as ours has done in this country, whatever stands in the way must fall before its overwhelming power."

Carrie Chapman Catt

LWV Ohio Lobby Corps

League program sets the positions for action by the League. The best place to watch the utilization of the positions is Lobby Lunch. You can join the Ohio Lobby Corps every second and fourth Tuesday for lunch on the third floor of the MetroLibrary downtown.



Members of the LWV Ohio Lobby Corps: Anne Smead, Nancy Brown, and Stuart Wright.

LWVMC Advocacy Committee

A Call of Volunteers

The Advocacy Committee is looking for volunteers to interview their legislators using a League questionnaire.

Every two years, the national League asks local Leagues to interview members of Congress (Rep. Pat Tiberi, Rep. Steve Stivers, and Rep. Steve Austria). Also, the state League asks local Leagues to interview state senators and representatives (12 altogether for Franklin County, but members in contiguous counties are encouraged to interview those legislators too).

Because it is often more effective for constituents to interview their personal legislator, the League is seeking volunteers to interview their elected officials. Contact Scott Britton at sbritton@wowway.com or 614-848-4291 if you have questions or want to volunteer to conduct an interview.

Land Use Study Committee

Another advocacy opportunity at the local level is the League's study of regional planning and land use in central Ohio. The study committee is co-chaired by Ellen Haider and Judy Brachman. The meetings are open to all.

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
CornerStone Deli 3296 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio

LWVMC Members

Starting in 2011 the VOTER will meet one established member and one new member each issue. Enjoy their stories and enjoy meeting them in person at a League event.

Natalie Wise, new to the League

I was raised on a family farm in Northwest Ohio, built nearly 100 years ago by my great-great Grandmother Carrie. Her farm, passed down from generation to generation, is still going strong today at the hard-working hands of my father, Roger. He currently harvests and sells corn, soybeans, wheat and sweet corn. From an early age, my younger sister, Nadine, and I were instilled with a sense of steady hard work, and an unwavering value of honesty and integrity, which we learned from our parents' example. We were also blessed to grow up just down the road from my grandparents' farmhouse, where the bus dropped us off each day after school.

I think back to those late afternoons with my Grandma Joyce and my Grandfather Charles with such fondness – now so aware of the warmth, strength, and love they added to our young lives. There, we would engage in great conversations about current affairs, politics, and the world as it stretched well beyond Fremont, Ohio. Both my grandmother and my grandfather taught me that I could achieve anything I set my mind to – that no goal was out of reach; and the heights to which I may succeed were bound only by my willingness to work for them.

I first became familiar with the League of Women Voters while I was only in grade school, when my Grandma Joyce would take me along with her to meetings. She was a member of the Fremont League of Women Voters from 1968 until 1995, at which point that local chapter unfortunately disbanded. At those meetings I observed an impressive group of intelligent, compassionate and strong female role models from my hometown community – a powerful image to a young girl. I know now that witnessing those positive figures

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Carolyn L. Piper, 50 year LWV member

My years as a member of the League of Women Voters have been long and rich. While I have always had an interest in history and government – remember Civics, anyone? – my membership began when a friend said after the birth of our third child that I had enough baby stuff and she gave me a year membership in the LWV. I became part of the Hopkins Minnetonka unit (Minneapolis, MN) and they were studying mosquito control (they just wouldn't stay in any one area). That was probably 53 years ago because that daughter is now 54. I was delighted when Korene Hausman called from the OH LWV office and invited me to come downtown, meet some new people and help stuff envelopes. My membership had transferred and I was so excited because I had been unpacking boxes for six weeks and met very few people. The MN League did introduce me to a very special opportunity for women who had been out of college at least 15 years sponsored by a Ford Foundation grant for "Rusty Old Ladies." We chose a class on China, had a special professor from the U of MN and learned to be students again. That was when the US did not recognize China but the League did and we used Canadian newspapers as well as texts. I expected to return to the academic community but moved to Ohio instead.

Before I returned to school the League became my academic and social community. Human resources, especially housing, was my focus and our group was instrumental in helping residents of several CMHA Senior units have the safe and clean facilities they deserved – it is amazing how a call to the Dispatch can lead to investigative reporting and publicity. I helped our Columbus League guide the program process at a State League Convention that added the word "sex" to

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Natalie Wise, continued from page 4

then significantly reinforced the lessons of determination and purpose so carefully nurtured and developed during my childhood.

After high school, I traveled four hours south-east to the opposite corner of our state where I attended Ohio University. There I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and International Relations, with a minor degree in Political Science. Following four dynamic years of higher education, including an inspiring year studying abroad in Spain, I decided to continue my work at OU, where I achieved a Master of Arts degree in Political Science.

Seeking an extraordinary challenge, and an opportunity to do something truly big, I journeyed to Lanzhou, China, in 2004 with the United States Peace Corps, where I taught English to young adults for nearly three years. This once-in-a-lifetime experience was both grueling and full of struggle, while remarkably rewarding and full of beauty. It strengthened my belief in service and commitment, and introduced me to friends I remain close with today.

After I returned to the states in 2006, I began working for the Ohio House of Representatives as a Legislative Aide for State Representative Timothy DeGeeter. While in this role, I focused my efforts on constituent services, as well as the legislative priorities of the House Criminal Justice Committee, of which Representative DeGeeter was the Ranking Minority Member. In 2008, I transitioned into my current position as Manager of Client Advocacy Services with the Columbus-based lobbying firm Thomas P. Pappas & Associates. Here, I've become acutely familiar with the inner workings of state government, and have been honored to serve well an interesting and diverse set of clients – including The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Association of City Career Technical Schools, and Autism Speaks to name a few.

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the Human Rights list. I think Mary Lazarus was then our president. Later I represented the League on the Citizen's Advisory Council for MORPC and served as president for one year. Lou Briggs opened that door for us. While I was a Seminarian and Pastor my League activity, except for some programming leadership, reduced but I paid my dues and attended the annual meeting. I retired gradually and resumed League activity by serving on the Ed Fund Board and then as treasurer for our Columbus League when Mim Brierley was president. I continue to be active in the morning unit. I echo the voices of many others in thanksgiving for the many women and now men with whom I have worked and served in the League. Creating community continues to be an important part of my life and the LWV is an excellent organization for combining study, action and relationships.

“May our/her tribe increase”.

Natalie Wise, continued from first column

I was thrilled to be asked to introduce myself to our Columbus League of Women Voters' membership as a new member with this article. Just as the strong women in my life – my mother, Sandra, my sister, and my grandmother – have provided me with a solid foundation of support, values, and guidance by which to live my life, the League of Women Voters represents an educated and empowering voice for all Ohioans. Their advocacy of issues dealing with fairness and openness of government, international peace and respect, and equal rights and social justice for all exemplifies a philosophy of thoughtfulness I embraced as a child. I look forward to meeting other LWV members in the Columbus area, and am truly excited to be a part of this wonderful organization.

League Activities

Land Use

Michael Wilkos, Grants Officer with the Columbus Foundation, is slated to present the strategy for neighborhood revitalization and address the complex issue of gentrification and displacement in one of Columbus' most challenged neighborhoods, Weinland Park.

Morning Unit
Thursday, February 17
9:30 am
Wesley Glen

Evening Unit
Wednesday, February 23
5:30 pm
Wing's Restaurant on Main Street

The Role of Money in Elections

Join the League of Women Voters of Delaware County for a community forum. The forum will cover such topics as: the high costs of campaigns, influence of lobbyists, making contributions transparent, giving individual voters a greater say in elections. The keynote speaker is former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner. Panelists include Catherine Turcer of Ohio Citizen Action Money and Politics Project and Dennis Stapleton, Delaware County Commissioner. The discussion will be moderated by Jo Ingles of Ohio Public Radio. For further information: Karen Rainey, Co-President, (740) 368-9001, Diane Badertscher, Co-President, (740) 363-7162, E-mail: info@lwvdelawarecountyohio.com, Website: www.lwvdelawarecountyohio.com and on Facebook. The forum is part of imPACT, the League's project on political accountability.

Thursday, February 24, 2011
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Willow Brook Delaware Run, Summit Room
100 Delaware Crossing West Delaware, OH 43015

Central Regional Meeting

All League members are encouraged to attend a regional meeting for LWV-Metro Columbus, LWV-Delaware County, LWV-Marion, and LWV-Lima. Led by Metro's own Ann Henkener, the meeting will focus on advocacy and include a 12-step approach developed by the LWVUS Streamlining the League Committee. From there, the discussion will most likely touch on what has worked best for each League. RSVP to Jean Koznarek, 216-702-8430, or jkozlwv@aol.com. There is no cost to attend the meeting, but donations are welcome.

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Delaware County Public Library
84 East Winter Street Delaware, OH 43015

League Activities

One Nation? Under God?

David McCoy, winner of the 2010 DIA Award, which he received with his wife, Terry McCoy, will be the speaker.

Wednesday, March 23

Dinner at 6 pm Program at 7 pm

Topic: One Nation? Under God?

Harrison Park Condominium, Community Room on First Ave.

U.S. Immigration Policy

Join the League and the Columbus Metropolitan Library for a candid look at U.S. immigration policy and its impact on Ohio. Panelists will include OSU professor Tony Mughan, director of international studies, and Joe L. Mas, Attorney at Law, representing the Ohio Hispanic Coalition.

Tuesday, Apr. 5, 2011 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Columbus Metropolitan Library 96 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215**

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day

Join us in Columbus – and bring a friend - as the League of Women Voters of Ohio presents

2011 Statehouse Day, a discussion of Civil Discourse

April 7, 2011

31st floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and Arts

Columbus, Ohio

Registration will begin at 8:30 am

A reception with legislators will end the day and conclude around 3:00 pm

The day will be focused on the hallmarks of Civil Discourse that include an objective review of issues and solutions and the avoidance of hostility and direct antagonism of those participating in the conversation.

Workshop topics for the day include healthcare, education, regionalism, local advocacy tools and juvenile justice. Legislators will be invited to attend the workshops to share their input on where the state is heading as it relates to these and other issues. This year, attendees will have the option of requesting a meeting with their legislator through the LWVO office and be teamed up for the meeting with a member of the Lobby Corps.

Civil Discourse, in addition to being the theme for 2011 Statehouse Day, will be the subject presented by our keynote speaker, Fred Andrie. Mr. Andrie is a retired WOSU public radio host from the Columbus area.

Registration is due by March 30. The registration fee of \$35 (\$20 for students, \$40 for non-members) covers a continental breakfast, lunch, and coffee/tea throughout the day.

Amy will be sending our registration material or go to www.lwvohio.org to register.

LWVMC Activities

Thursday, Feb. 17	Morning Unit	9:30 am	Wesley Glen
Thursday, Feb. 17	Board of Trustees	6:30 pm	Jewish Community Center
Monday, Feb. 22	Lobby Lunch	11:30 am	Metropolitan Library 3rd floor
Wednesday, Feb. 23	Dinner Unit	5:30 pm	Wing's Restaurant, Bexley
Thursday, Feb. 24	Role of Money in Election	7:00 pm	Delaware, Ohio
Saturday, Feb. 26	Central Regional Meeting	1:30 pm	Delaware County Public Library
Wednesday, March 23	One Nation? Under God?	6:00 pm	Harrison Park Community Room
Tuesday, April 5	Immigration Forum	5:30 pm	Columbus Metropolitan Library
Thursday, April 7	Statehouse Day	8:30 am	Vern Riffe Center

see www.lwvcols.org for full event information

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and Educational Fund
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League of Women Voters of
Metropolitan Columbus
P.O. Box 130
Blacklick, Ohio 43004-0130

614-837-1089
614-837-1263 fax