



THE VOTER

April 2013

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus

Honoring Senator and Mrs. John Glenn

Reserve tickets for Democracy In Action May 14

The invitations have been sent, corporate sponsors have been secured, news releases are in the mail, and a wonderful article by columnist Joe Blundo appeared in the *Columbus Dispatch* April 4. The Democracy In Action award ceremony honoring Senator & Mrs. John Glenn will be Tuesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at the OSU Fawcett Center. If you haven't received your invitation, check out our website, www.lwvcols.org, and you can easily make your reservation. The OSU Fawcett Center is centrally located at 2400 Olentangy River Road in Columbus and has plenty of free parking.

We have been busy working with Mills James and the OSU archives in preparing a short video of the Senator and Mrs. Glenn. We have engaged a nationally known pianist, David Tolley. We also have a few surprises to make this a very special event.

New this year is a private reception. Patrons at the \$500 level and our corporate sponsors will have the opportunity to meet with the Senator and Mrs. Glenn, and the Honorary Co-



Chairs, immediately before the awards ceremony.

Chuck White of WBNS-TV will be our master of ceremonies, and Matt Habash, last year's recipient, will present the award to Senator and Mrs. Glenn. We're counting on our Honorary Co-Chairs John Wolfe, Les Wexner, and Connie Schultz to share their personal sto-

ries in celebrating their friends John and Annie Glenn.

To those of you planning to attend, please volunteer for a short time at the event as greeters, hosts and staffing the name tag table. Duties are light and we only need 8 to 10 people. Please call Gloria Davis at 457-2064 or Anne Nelson at 205-4221 to volunteer.

INSIDE: Annual Meeting Materials — Proposed Budget, Nominated Slate, More for June 3 Meeting!

From the President: Amy Pulles



In this month's Voter, you'll find all the important details for the Annual Meeting being held on Monday, June 3.

At this year's meeting, you'll be asked to approve a new slate of officers and the 2013-14 Budget.

The topic at the Annual Meeting is "How to be nonpartisan while advocating on issues." Join us for a discussion facilitated by Meg Flack about what it means for LWV Metro Columbus to be a nonpartisan political organization—and the challenges *and* opportunities nonpartisanship brings in an increasingly partisan world.

You'll notice in the Nominating Committee Report that we are asking the members to approve a President-Elect position. Creating this Board position has been on our to-do list for a few years now. One problem the Nominating Committee faces when recruiting new Presidents is that many members are in-

terested in stepping up their leadership role but feel they don't know enough about the League to do so. The goal of creating this position is to give members an opportunity to receive training before taking on the President position. It is our hope that by creating this position, more members will be encouraged to serve as President of the League. Agreeing to serve as President can seem like a daunting task, but having the opportunity to first serve as President-Elect can put members' minds at ease, knowing that they will be well-prepared once their year as President begins.

This new position is going to be "tested" over the next year, and if it's a positive experience for the Board members, we'll ask the membership to approve a bylaws change to include the President-Elect position as a permanent Board position at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their tireless work to recruit what I believe will be great additions to our already terrific Board!



Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Vision

LWV of Metro Columbus leads the creation of a central Ohio community that has fair and open governments; has an engaged and informed electorate; values the votes of all its citizens; engages in civil discourse; and has citizens equipped to take action on issues they care about.

Contact

6500 Busch Blvd. #129
Columbus, Ohio 43229
614-837-1089

vote@lwvcols.org

Office Hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.lwvcols.org

[Facebook.com/LWVMetroColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/LWVMetroColumbus)



Earth Day at Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Celebrate Earth Day April 20 with other League members, the local Sierra Club chapter, and 2012 Democracy In Action honoree Matt Habash by getting your hands dirty helping at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank Community Garden.

Event Info

Saturday, Apr. 20, 2013
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mid Ohio Foodbank

3960 Brookham Drive Grove City,
OH 43123

RSVP to Elizabeth at the League
office at vote@lwvcols.org.

Defining *civil discourse* — What does it mean to you?

Goal #1 of The League of Women Voters of Metro Columbus 4 R Strategic Plan is, "Cultivate the belief in and practice of civil discourse among all community members," an ambitious goal indeed. And the priority strategies listed to implement that goal – "modeling civil discourse in all public events" and "set standards on what we mean by civil discourse" – provide equal challenges.

The Civic Education and Engagement Committee has worked on defining the characteristics of civil discourse, and the Board now seeks your comments and suggestions as a League member. What is your vision of civil discourse? How do you think the LWVMC might use a position statement on civil discourse?

One of the questions in discussing a League civil discourse definition is how might it be used – what will we do with it? Some suggestions that have been made are: develop a tag line on civil discourse that could be

used in all LWVMC publications and on the website, include the definition in as many publications as possible, use the good practice list to develop talking points for communications with legislators, and use it to develop the ground rules for LWVMC-sponsored forums and panels. What other ideas can you contribute?

Once we have received the comments and suggestions from the membership, a revised draft of the definition and good practice list will be forwarded to the Board for approval as a working document.

Definition of civil discourse

Civil discourse is dialogue which is respectful of differing opinions and leads to better understanding of points of potential common ground and disagreement. It permits more informed discussion of public issues which is a key component of the democratic process.

Good practice in civil discourse

In the good practice of civil discourse, participants:

1. Respectfully recognize opposing points of view and genuinely attempt to understand them.
2. Constructively engage in the discussion of difficult public issues.
3. Make a genuine effort to seek common ground and consensus.
4. Separate the people from the problem; avoid personalizing issues.
5. Actively listen and participate with openness to new ideas and other points of view.
6. Are willing to step back from an issue and reframe the question in order to find any common ground.
7. Thoroughly explore all ideas presented before reaching judgment or conclusions.
8. Are able and willing to explain the rationale and evidence supporting their opinions.
9. Do not accept deliberate distortion of information or diversion from the topic under discussion.

To comment on these statements and to offer suggestions as to how the LWVMC might use them, please email the League Office – vote@lwvcols.org subject line "civil discourse" – where your comments will be collected and incorporated into the next draft which goes to the Board for approval. Please respond by April 29.

DIA Invitation Stuffing Party April 1



Annual Meeting Prep Guide

Date & Time: June 3, 6 p.m.
Location: Columbus Board of Realtors, 2700 Airport Dr.
Bring a potluck dish to share!

Membership Dues

No proposed increase

Bylaws

No proposed changes

Nominated Slate for 2013-14

Board of Trustees

President: **Amy Pulles**

President-Elect: **Anne Hammerstein**

Secretary: **Lucy Buzzee**

Treasurer: **Karin O'Neil**

Trustees: **Dave Patton, Janyce Katz, Ann Hoke, Wanda Suber** (all until 2015)

Nominating Committee: **Jan Patton, chair; Pat Larson; Mary Kaul**

Many thanks to the 2012-13 Nominating Committee: **Jan Patton, chair; Ann Henkener; Pat Larson; Mary Kaul; Lisa Freeman-Williamson**

Proposed 2013-14 Budget

Members will be voting to approve the 2013-2014 budget at the Annual Meeting on June 3. As we are not expecting significant financial changes from last year, the 2013-2014 budget is very similar to the 2012-2013 budget. Listed below are a few highlights of the budget:

- The staff person is budgeted at \$14.50 an hour and is expected to work 30 hours a week, reduced to 10 hours a week during June and July. Staff expenses continue to be the top expense for the League

League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus and League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus Educational Fund									
Combined FY13-14 Budget									
Line	Item	Calculation/Notes	Metro Columbus			Educational Fund			Combined FY13-14 Grand Total
			Metro Cols FY12 Actual (3/01/13)	Metro Cols FY12 Budget	MC FY13-14 Budget	Ed Fund FY12 Actual (3/1/13)	Ed Fund FY12 Budget	Ed Fund FY13-14 Budget	
Revenue									
1	Membership Dues	Maintain: 143@\$75; 26@\$125	\$ 12,712	\$ 13,975	\$ 13,975	\$ -			\$ 13,975
2	Member Contributions	Round-ups and contributions	\$ 1,830	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 147	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 2,500
3	Other Contributions/Kroger Rewards		\$ 196			\$ 1,035	\$ 1,800	\$ 500	\$ 500
4	Democracy In Action		\$ 9,250	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 18,745	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000
5	"Friends" End-of-Year Letter		\$ -			\$ 1,900	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
6	Holiday Auction		\$ 3,173	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -			\$ 3,500
7	Meetings/Event Revenue		\$ -			\$ 1,551	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
8	Interest Income		\$ 3	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 12	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 55
9	Meals on Wheels/LifeCare Alliance	\$30/wk + \$30 x 4 holidays				\$ 1,530	\$ 1,540	\$ 1,540	\$ 1,540
11	VIB Sales					\$ 1,195	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
12	Grants	Needed for VIB, other Voter Service				\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
13	Transfer to/from Savings			\$ (3,634)	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,203	\$ 5,396	\$ 5,396
	Total Revenue		\$ 27,164	\$ 19,846	\$ 24,480	\$ 36,115	\$ 36,093	\$ 36,686	\$ 61,166
Expenditures									
14	Salary/Wages	30 hrs for 44 wks, 10 hrs for 8 wks @ \$14.50/hr	\$ 7,855	\$ 5,850	\$ 6,120	\$ 11,977	\$ 13,650	\$ 14,210	\$ 20,300
15	Employer Payroll Taxes	~10.04% of wages + \$65	\$ 468	\$ 610	\$ 631	\$ 769	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,472	\$ 2,103
16	Staff/Board Professional Development		\$ 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 1,700	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 200
17	Staff Mileage & Expenses	Mileage @ 40 cents/mile	\$ 111	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 215	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 500
18	Office	Rent, office equipment, utilities	\$ 1,233	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 740	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
19	Insurance (Liability, D&O)	Policies: \$1,189 & \$400	\$ 1,388	\$ 782	\$ 792	\$ 755	\$ 782	\$ 792	\$ 1,588
20	Telephone/Internet	Approx. \$80/month	\$ 715	\$ 360	\$ 480	\$ 899	\$ 840	\$ 480	\$ 960
21	Supplies/Postage		\$ 812	\$ 1,176	\$ 1,176	\$ 899	\$ 2,744	\$ 2,744	\$ 3,920
22	Technology/Website	Constant Contact, Website updates	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 265	\$ 280	\$ 280	\$ 400
24	President's Discretionary Line		\$ 116	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -			\$ 200
25	Convention/Council	National Convention in 2014	\$ 2,054	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 2,000
26	National PMP	PMP for 169 @ \$31	\$ 2,713	\$ 2,619	\$ 2,619	\$ 2,713	\$ 2,619	\$ 2,619	\$ 5,238
27	State PMP	PMP for 169 @ \$25- 5% early bird discount	\$ 3,281	\$ 3,011	\$ 3,011	\$ 1,094	\$ 1,002	\$ 1,002	\$ 4,013
29	Voter Information Bulletin	\$5,000 to Dispatch, \$500 delivery/postage				\$ 10,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
31	Democracy In Action	Expenses split according to income received	\$ 1,280	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,498	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000
32	Other Fundraising Expenses/Events		\$ 29	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ -		\$ 50
33	PR/Communications Committee	Community communications	\$ 52	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -			\$ 250
34	Membership Committee		\$ 121	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 55			\$ 250
35	Advocacy Committee		\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -			\$ 100
36	Voter Service Committee	Includes new programming			\$ 250	\$ 99	\$ 250		\$ 250
37	Study Committees	Consensus, program, materials	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
38	Educational Events/Units/Meetings		\$ 20			\$ 1,874	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
39	Miscellaneous	AG license, bank fees, affiliations	\$ 454	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 37			\$ 150
40	Capitalized Equipment	Copier/contract		\$ 158	\$ -	\$ 594	\$ 374	\$ 594	\$ 594
	Total Expenditures		\$ 22,921	\$ 19,596	\$ 22,409	\$ 38,532	\$ 36,343	\$ 38,783	\$ 61,166

- Expenses for Democracy in Action were increased to \$8000 to include the salaries of our two DIA event coordinators, as well as the continued increase in event and catering costs. To off-

set this cost, income for DIA is also expected to increase from \$19,000 this year, to \$25,000 next year.

- The 2014 League Convention will be held in Washington D.C. This

necessitates an increase in the budget for Convention expenses, as the League reimburses for member delegates travel expenses. The 2013-2014 budget allows for \$2000 in Convention reimbursements.

- PMPs: State dues remain the same at \$25 per person. National dues also remain the same at \$31 per person.
- The League office rent, utilities and internet is budgeted for

\$3000. Monthly rent on the League office is currently \$170. Many thanks to the MC Budget Committee members: Amy Pulles, Erin Michel, Mary Kaul, and Elizabeth Grieser.

Statehouse Day gives advocates chance to learn, share

By Kitty Burcsu

I attend and enjoy LWVO's annual Statehouse Day because it is always packed with information and updates on current issues in Ohio and the League's work in those issue areas. Not to mention the opportunity to meet Leaguers from all over Ohio!

This year was no exception. A wealth of information was provided on education funding, the Affordable Care Act and the proposed State budget and tax plan. I was particularly interested in the focus on the judicial system by Maxine Thomas of the Kettering Foundation in the opening plenary and by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor during her luncheon address. Maxine discussed the inequities in the judicial system often due to



LWVMC members attended Statehouse Day March 19. Pictured: Karin O'Neil, Joan Lawrence, Eleanor Pearlman, Anne Smead, Mim Brierley, Dave Patton, and Kitty Burcsu

the wealth and power of the defendants, the delays and technicalities that allow some to escape punishment and the lack of accountability

within the judicial system. Chief Justice O'Connor spoke about a merit selection process for judges, a long-standing League conviction.

City Council, local levies fill May 7 primary ballot

There is a primary election coming up in some parts of central Ohio on May 7, and early voting has begun.

There are contests in the following areas:

- **Columbus:** A non-partisan primary with seven candidates for Columbus City Council. The top six advance to the general election.
- **Hilliard:** A Republican primary with five candidates for Hilliard City Council. The top four advance to the general election.
- **Reynoldsburg:** A Republican primary with six candidates for Reynoldsburg City Council. The top three advance to the general

election.

- **Gahanna:** proposed city income tax increase
- **Groveport Madison:** school levy
- **Licking Heights:** school levy
- **Madison-Plains:** school levy

Voters will also see fire protection levies in Franklin, Jefferson, and Norwich Townships; a bond issue for golf course improvements in Minerva Park; electric and gas aggregation questions in Madison Township; an electric aggregation plan for Prairie Township; and a proposed tax increase in the Village of Lithopolis. There will be five liquor options on local ballots.

Early voting is taking place at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 280 East Broad Street, Columbus. It will continue weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through Friday, May 3, and also on Saturday, May 4 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. on May 7.

To see if you have anything to vote on in the May 7 election -- and many precincts do not -- check your sample ballot on the Franklin County Board of Elections web site: vote.franklincountyohio.gov/



Remember the League with legacy giving

The Development Committee is suggesting another opportunity for members to support the MC League. While the Development Committee structures a planned giving program through the Columbus Foundation, the committee also encourages those of you who are considering offering more support to the League to include LWVMC Ed Fund in your will.

Here is some suggested language from League of Women Voters (US): "I give, devise, and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus Education Fund, a charitable organization formed in Columbus, Ohio, with offices at LWVMC, 6500 Busch Blvd. #129, Columbus, OH 43229 {the sum of \$_____} {_____percentage of my residuary estate}."

You can have your attorney add a codicil to include LWVMCEF. Also, please consider naming LWVMC as a recipient for donations in any pre-planning you may do for an eventual obituary.

Coming Soon: The LWVMC eVoter

Over the next few months, LWVMC will transition from a monthly publication of *The Voter* to a weekly online *eVoter*. Currently, all members with email receive an electronic edition of *The Voter* online. In addition, members receive a weekly "League Update" from Elizabeth in the office.

The new *eVoter* is the next step in enhancing member communication. It is designed to:

- combine *The Voter* and the "League Update"
- come out weekly, instead of monthly, to keep members up-to-date
- be quick and easy to view, like the "Update"
- provide access to more in-depth articles, as in *The Voter*, by linking to the League's website
- maintain standard pieces of today's *Voter* -- such as the President's Column, committee reports, and planned giving requests -- by printing them once during each month
- link to volunteer opportunities
- enhance members' access to everything "League-y"
- give primary responsibility for managing *eVoter* to the office

The ever-decreasing number of members without email will still be mailed a hard copy of the *eVoters* once a month. Keep an eye out for the new LWVMC *eVoter*!

Calendar

Earth Day Gardening

April 20, 10 a.m.
Mid-Ohio Foodbank

LWVO Lobby Lunch

April 23, 11:30 a.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library

LWVO Convention

May 4-5
Cleveland Doubletree-Lakeside

Primary Election Day

May 7, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Various precincts (see p. 6)

LWVO Lobby Lunch

May 14, 11:30 a.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library

Democracy In Action Award

Honoring John and Annie Glenn
May 14, 5:30 p.m. reception
6 p.m. event
Fawcett Center Ballroom

LWVO Lobby Lunch

May 28, 11:30 a.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library

Annual Meeting

June 3, 6 p.m.
Columbus Board of Realtors

See www.lwvc.org for more details

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www.lwvcols.org

vote@lwvcols.org

614-837-1089

Columbus, Ohio 43229

6500 Busch Blvd. #129

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