



THE VOTER

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month Relevant to Public Employee Controversy

Sunday, March 6, 2011

According to League of Women Voters national president Elisabeth MacNamara, attacks on public-sector employee salaries and benefits here in Ohio and across the nation can be viewed through the lens of Women's History Month.

In a statement issued this week, MacNamara said: "March is Women's History Month, and the National Women's History Project is heeding Abigail Adams's advice to her husband and remembering the ladies – the prominent as well as the unsung heroes in the struggle for equality. But let us also remember the men – those in elective office who had the courage to cast votes in support of legislation and funding that we hoped would ensure a better future for women and minorities and, therefore, for us all. Let us remember all the heroes because that future is

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Each month the VOTER introduces one established member and one new member of the local MetroColumbus League. In celebration of Women's History Month the VOTER presents a well-established member of the New York League of Women Voters.

Eleanor Roosevelt and the League of Women Voters

In the early 1920s, Eleanor Roosevelt met Narcissa Vanderlip who was then president of the League of Women Voters of New York. She introduced Eleanor to a new circle of friends and to the League of Women Voters.



Blanche Wiesen Cook, speaking on the film, *Eleanor's New World*: "They remind her of the circle that she left at Allenswood [boarding school]: independent women. They live in Greenwich Village, and they read poetry aloud, they have champagne candlelit dinners, and they're carefree in their private lives, and totally committed to political action. And she becomes

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CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Join the MC League, NARAL, and the National Council of Jewish Women for a private screening of VERA DRAKE

This 'Movies, Popcorn, and Policy' event will take place Thursday, March 31 at the Gateway Film Center, 1550 N. High Street. The parking garage can be accessed from 9th or 11th Avenue. The event starts at 6:30 for drinks and snacks from the Bistro and 7:00 for the movie. A 2004 British film, VERA DRAKE tells the story of a working-class woman in London in 1950 who performs illegal abortions for women in need. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival and was nominated for three Academy Awards and won three BAFTAs.



March Opportunity for League Involvement

One Nation? Under God?

Wednesday, March 23

Dinner at 6 p.m. Program at 7 p.m.

**Harrison Park Condominium, Community Room
575 West First Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43201**

David McCoy, a retired Episcopal priest and co-recipient of the 2010 Democracy In Action Award (which he received with his wife, Terry McCoy) will be the evening's speaker on the topic of religion and public life.

Join David McCoy in a discussion about the impact religion has on politics, and politics' impact on religion. The U.S. has a tradition of separating church and state. Is this tradition being replaced with a growing movement to mix religion and politics? McCoy will explore the complexities, ambiguities, and overlapping realms of religions and government.

Our pledge of allegiance says we are "one nation under God." Are we? If so, what does that mean for us in our public and private lives?

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. at a cost of \$25 per person. The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. RSVP by March 18 for dinner or the program only by Amy at 837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org.



April Opportunity for League Involvement

'Wine Tasting' for New Members and Guests

Tuesday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Home of Mim Brierley, 1038 Harrison Park Place

The membership committee is planning a 'wine tasting' to welcome over 22 new members and their guests. This event promises to be a casual evening of fun while learning about what the League has to offer. RSVP Jan Patton at momoboe@columbus.rr.com or 267-6587 or Amy at vote@lwvcols.org or 837-1089. If you are a seasoned member wanting to help with this event, please contact Jan Patton at momoboe@columbus.rr.com or 267-6587. Nonalcoholic beverages will also be 'tasted.'

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now being threatened in the name of fiscal austerity.

"Under particular assault is public sector employment which has, over the years, offered women and minorities opportunities unavailable in the private sector. Women are public employees (attorneys, teachers, police officers, Social Security workers, etc.), taxpayers, and the beneficiaries of government-funded programs including those aimed at helping children. The time has come for a budget conversation that focuses on those services the public really needs and wants, and how to pay for them - the real issues. Focusing on the costs of public servants does a great disservice not only to those individuals and those who benefit from their work, but to solving our fiscal crisis as well.

"To me, a career public servant, stories of women who chose public jobs, sacrificing money, but not their families, and giving their talents to their communities or women who took advantage of government programs to improve their lives and the lives of their children represent a win-win that is worth celebrating."

Taken from www.lwvcols.org/theleague/

References for the article on Eleanor Roosevelt
Blanche Wiesen Cook: *Eleanor's New World*

www.pbs.org

Other Readings:

League of Women Voters US, Women's History Month www.lwv.org

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
www.nps.gov/archive/

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very involved, on a new level, with her own independent political world, which is now a world of women activists."

During this time Eleanor became treasurer of the League of Women Voters of New York. Cook says, "She is a terrific fundraiser and organizer. She holds big meetings. And she is very popular, once again a leader, and admired as a leader." Eleanor learned a great deal with her early positions in the League. With fellow LWV members, they worked for unemployment insurance, health insurance, federal and state pensions for the elderly, an end to child labor, minimum-wage and maximum-hour legislation, federal aid to education, civil service reform, full citizenship for women, women's full political participation, United States membership in the League of Nations, pure-milk-and-food legislation, and international peace. Vanderlip, impressed with Eleanor's organizational skills, urged her to chair the League's National Legislation Committee.

When Eleanor moved into the White House as First Lady, she started her "My Day" column writing six days a week, urging the adoption of measures to address the needs of the American people. According to Allida Black, Project Director of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Eleanor wrote that the League prepared women to feel comfortable to join and enjoy political participation with both men and women. She felt that LWV was a training mechanism, a preparation for lobbying and political work at the local, state, and national level.

After FDR's death she continued to work with the League to disseminate correct information and combat propaganda about the United Nations. Eleanor Roosevelt claimed that the League of Women Voters trains good citizens. Throughout her life Eleanor declined invitations to sit on boards that wanted to exploit her name and opted to join organizations that were aligned with her politically, one of which was the New York Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

LWVMC Advocacy Committee

Scott Britton of the Advocacy Committee Announces:
GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS!

Interview Your Legislator

Start the 129th General Assembly by volunteering to interview your state senator or representative.

What is involved?

- ✓ The Committee will provide prep materials, a questionnaire, and coaching.
- ✓ You make the appointment, conduct the interview, and report back.

This is a great task to do with a League buddy. You could take along a new member or someone interested in joining the League.

To volunteer, contact Scott Britton at sbritton@wowway.com or (614) 507-5483.

Help the League make democracy work and build relationships with state lawmakers!

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. Ellen Haider of the Land Use Study is proud to announce that:

THERE IS A PLAN!

In our study of Regional Planning and Land Use, we had gradually come to the mistaken conclusion that there is no regional planning being done in this area. As it turns out, HUD requires (as it should) that local units of government show how they plan to use funding from HUD programs. The programs involved are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). HUD encourages cooperation between adjacent units of government.

So in the year 2000, the City of Columbus, United Way of Central Ohio, The Ohio State University, and the Franklin County Commissioners joined together to form Community Research Partners, a nonprofit research center. The center has produced a number of interesting reports including 6 different versions of the 2010-2014 Columbus and Franklin County Consolidated Plan: a city version, a county version, a city and county version, and executive summaries of each. In fact, on HUD's website under "Intergovernmental Coordination," Columbus and Franklin County's Consolidated Plan is mentioned as an example of a regional planning effort.

Since the statistics in these reports represent the essence of who we are as a community, it is unfortunate that they are so inaccessible. The city version is available (for now) via Google through Charleta Tavares's information on the City of Columbus' website, but when you go directly to the City of Columbus website, her information has been deleted. The county has been a little more forthcoming with the information on its website. The best way to access the 6 reports is to go to <http://communityresearchpartners.org/14651.cfm> and ask for the keyword "consolidated."

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Members Want To Know

During the February Program Planning meeting members were interested in the subject of 'Fracking.'

Producing Natural Gas by Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)

Al Rosenfield, Energy Specialist
League of Women Voters of Ohio

Background The United States has about 100 years supply of natural gas, if it is used at current levels. However, there is likely to be an increase in the use of gas as a fuel for electric power plants and a possible use as a transportation fuel. The amount of natural gas beneath Ohio rock formations is uncertain, with optimistic estimates up to a 25-year supply (again, at current consumption levels). Since Ohio imports almost 90 percent of its natural gas from other states, even a modest fraction of this amount would provide a significant short-term benefit to Ohio's economy.

Uses in Electricity While coal has been the major fuel for generating electricity (about 90 percent in Ohio), its use has been declining nationally. It is generally agreed that this decline will continue – there are arguments about the extent of the decline and how much of the replacement will be by natural gas and how much by renewables, such as wind and solar. Natural gas has many advantages over coal. It produces about 40 percent less CO₂ and its generating plants tend to be newer and more efficient. Unlike renewables, natural gas plants can operate continually.

Uses in Transportation The case for replacing gasoline with natural gas is different from that for coal. Reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from gasoline levels are not nearly as large as they are from coal levels. However, imports of petroleum are a drag on the national economy, with particular concern about those from unfriendly governments.

Unresolved Issues If Ohio natural gas reserves are plentiful and economic, they will be exploited by a process known as 'fracking.' There have been cases of severe water pollution and small earthquakes in the vicinity of well sites and it is not clear that fracking can be carried out without severe environmental damage. Since the environmental consequences of this new process are controversial, the states of Arkansas and New York have declared moratoriums on new leases until answers are available. Several studies are underway, particularly one by US EPA, which should provide guidance on safe operation.

LWV Activities Because of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and concern for other damage done by production of fossil fuels, the League of Women Voters unanimously passed a resolution at its 2010 National Convention calling for stronger regulation and enforcement of and mining for energy resources. State Leagues in New York and Pennsylvania have been active on this issue. LWVO has petitioned both the General Assembly and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a moratorium on new drilling permits. In addition, there are three bills that we are following in the Legislature:

SB78 – to prohibit gas and oil drilling in Lake Erie (LWVO will support)
HB133 & SB108 – to allow drilling in state parks (LWVO will oppose)

Committee Reports

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There is a wealth of information included in these plans. The plans concentrate on the housing and community development needs of low- and moderate-income households since that is the population eligible for the grants. They analyze their needs, identify resources available to help, and establish the goals and strategies to address those needs, including a plan of how the HUD funds will be spent over the next five years.

The needs are divided into 4 categories:

- Affordable Housing Opportunity
- Neighborhood and Target Area Revitalization
- Economic Development and Economic Opportunity
- Supportive Services

Just to give you an example of the information given, the most significant housing problem in Columbus and Franklin County is housing affordability, with over 44,000 renter households and nearly 22,000 owner households paying more than 50% of their income for housing. There is a deficit of about 31,000 affordable rental units for extremely low-income renter households (<\$15,000) in Franklin County. They are disproportionately in Older Columbus, accounting for 22.4% of older city households, 8.7% of newer city households, and 6.7% of suburban Franklin County households.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee is March 28. All members are invited.

Know Your State Positions

Positions: Water

LWVO supports policies and procedures that provide for:

(Adopted 1961)

1. Joint, cooperative planning and administration along watershed lines and across political boundaries.

(Adopted 1967)

2. Stringent water quality standards accompanied by strong enforcement and means of implementation.
3. Adequate state financing, including incentives to local governments and industries for expediting water pollution abatement.

Outlook: Water

Water quality has improved from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, but problems of both surface water and groundwater quality and management continue.

The League will continue its support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative, Annex 2001, and the Great Lakes Compact. It will continue in its efforts to strengthen protection of the waters of the Great Lakes and its basin, including guarding against drilling in Lake Erie, and maintaining and improving water quality in lakes and streams.

Taken from Agenda for Action State Program

Memorial Donations for Marguerite Turnbull

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus thanks all who made memorial donations for Marguerite Turnbull: Lou Briggs, Nancy and Bob Brown, Esther Conners, Meg Flack, Norman Gearhart, Jr., Barbara Hykes, E. Perry Johnson, Janyce Katz, Patricia Larson, Barbara McAdam Muller, Kitty Burcsu and Ron Miller, Elise Mills, Sue Phillips, Carole Poirier, Ann Rigney, Dan Robbins, Carolyn Schoenstein, Phyllis Schwartz, Bruce and Susan Turnbull, Diane Weeks, Jane Young, License Management International LLC, DTLA LLC, 4C Entity LLC, DVD Copy Control Association, Advanced Access Content System, Licensing Administrator, and Verance Corporation.

League Activities

Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue

Friday, March 18, 2011

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Live Webcast

The League of Women Voters in Washington, DC, is again co-hosting this annual event. The live webcast of this year's discussion, "The Road Forward on Open Government," can be viewed at www.OpenTheGovernment.org. Panelists will take questions from the live and viewing audience.

U.S. Immigration Policy: Past and Present

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Columbus Metropolitan Library 96 South Grant Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215

Join the League and the Columbus Metropolitan Library for a candid look at immigration policy and its impact on Ohio. The program will feature OSU professor Tony Mughan, Director of International Studies, Joe L. Mas, Attorney at Law, and Cheryl Gallegos and Lisa Curley of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Following the presentations Thyron Henderson and Dana Warner of the Council for Public Deliberation will facilitate a discussion on the issue of undocumented immigrants.

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day

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 p.m.

The day will focus 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 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 nonmembers) covers a continental breakfast, lunch, and coffee or tea throughout the day. Registrations are due by March 30.

You can register online at www.lwvohio.org or call the State offices at 614-469-1505 or 877-598-6446.

LWVMC Activities

Friday, March 18	Annual Sunshine Week	12:00 p.m.	Live WebCast
Tuesday, March 22	Lobby Lunch	11:30 a.m.	Metropolitan Library
Wednesday, March 23	One Nation? Under God?	6:00 p.m.	Harrison Park Community Room
Monday, March 28	Land Use Committee	6:30 p.m.	CornerStone Deli
Tuesday, April 5	Immigration Forum	5:30 p.m.	Columbus Metropolitan Library
Thursday, April 7	Statehouse Day	8:30 a.m.	Vern Riffe Center
Tuesday, April 12	Lobby Lunch	11:30 a.m.	Metropolitan Library
Tuesday, April 12	New Member Orientation	5:30 p.m.	Home of Mim Brierley

Call to League of Women Voters of Ohio Convention

Please join us for the 2011 LWVO 59th State Convention at Maumee State Park
May 13 - May 15

This will give you a chance to build sustaining relationships with other members and cultivate your network.

Grow your knowledge through dynamic workshops and idea exchange sessions.

Strengthen the League of Women Voters by adding your voice to the conversation [about the future of the League](#) and plans for 2011-2013.

Contact Amy, 837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org if you are interested in attending.

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