

September 2007

Check Out LWVMC's Fall Line-Up of Programs and Units

Be sure to RSVP for the September 19 General Meeting

by Jean Byrd

Shake off those post-Summer blues with the League's Fall Program line-up.

First up, the September 19 General Meeting. After a short lecture on the referendum process by League's own **Ann Henkener**, Mark Niquette and Joe Seigel of *The Columbus Dispatch*, will be joining us to talk about SB 16, legislation that made a huge impact this session of the Ohio General Assembly. To help you get ready for the *Money, Morals, Media and Mayhem in the Ohio Legislature* discussion the MC's web page, www.lwvmc.org, has a list of articles. If you are not computer savvy or do not have access to a computer do not worry. Just call **Amy Pulles** at the League Office (614-837-1089), and she will mail you a packet of information.

The September kick-off meeting will be held at the Clintonville Woman's Club where dinner will start at 6:30 PM. There will also be something a bit different this meeting: a dessert bar. The dessert bar will be available to all those who plan to have dinner—and, as well, will be open and free to anyone who joins us just for the program portion of the evening.

Don't forget to RSVP to the League Office at 614-837-1089 or lwvcols@iwaynet.net if you want dinner or plan to come just for the free dessert bar and program. The dinner and the dessert bar will be open at 6:30 and President **Kitty Burcsu** will start the program at 7:00 PM. Please invite friends for this stimulating meeting.

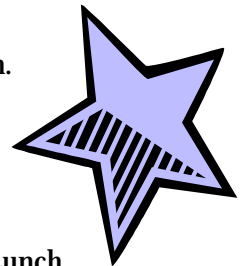
On to October. Units return in October. The schedule is as follows: The Morning Unit meets on the third Thursday, October 18; the Evening Unit on the fourth Tuesday, October 23; and the Dinner Unit on the fourth Wednesday, October 24. The lunch unit has been dissolved. There's a special "Beyond the Units" program in October, too.

Preparing for November. The Board is recommending that October Units spend their meeting examining the US immigration study. This will be in preparation for the November General Meeting, *Coming to Consensus on Immigration*. For information dealing with the US Immigration Study go to www.lwv.org, and then to "Immigration Policy? Follow our Study and Get Educated" on the main page. There is a research list and background papers. There is also a link on our MC web page.

The November meeting, *Coming to Consensus on Immigration*, will be an exciting exercise in one of the founding practices of the League of Women Voters. After a short lecture on consensus, our League will decide what directions MC wants to send to the US League to formulate a new position. Watch for details for this not-to-be-missed meeting.

In other Unit news, the MC Board wants members to have more of a 'say' in their Units and help plan their upcoming meetings. So start brain-storming now for a discussion of the January and May Unit meetings.

Even with a busy League schedule are you still a bit depressed about the disappearance of the Lunch Unit? Not to worry—why not try Lobby Lunch? Hosted by the State League, Lobby Lunch meets every second and fourth Tuesday on the fourth floor of the Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad Street. Take a brown bag and enjoy the conversation.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Kitty Burcsu



As Labor Day approaches, our thoughts turn to Fall, the new school year, football, busier schedules and for League members, the beginning of the League year! And what a year it promises to be! In last month's column, I highlighted the accomplishments of and challenges of the past year. This month, I would like to share the goals the Board has set for 2007-2008.

1. **Adopt a "Membership First" approach in all League activities.** While this goal certainly means incorporating membership recruitments efforts into everything we do, the Board wants to particularly focus on retaining our current members through dynamic programming, satisfying opportunities for involvement and through a welcoming, inclusive organizational culture.
2. **Plan General Meetings and public forums that will address the interests of League members and the general public.** Our September General Meeting, *Money, Morals, Media and Mayhem in the Ohio Legislature*, will do just that! November will see a discussion in advance of consensus on the LWVUS' timely study on Immigration Policy. March will see a return of last year's exciting ImPACT Town Meeting focusing this time on campaign finance and election reform.

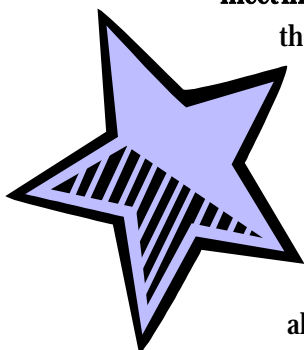
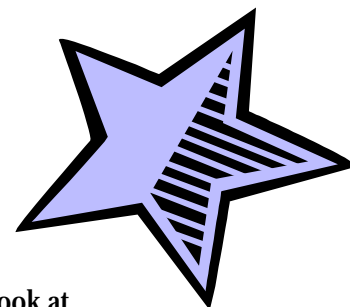
3. **Maintain and support successful Unit meetings.** The evening Dinner Unit, the Morning Unit at Wesley Glenn, and the Grandview Evening Unit will continue to meet in October, February and May. Attending LWVOC's Lobby Lunch is a great alternative to the Lunch Unit that will no longer meet. Watch for an

exciting new option, "Beyond the Units," a series of field trips that will provide a first-hand look at some of the issues discussed at units and General Meetings.

4. **Continue to build the local advocacy component of LWVMC.** We will continue to expand on the foundation that was laid last year; solidify the advocacy focus and promote our local advocacy efforts.
5. **Continue to develop our web site to provide timely information on and showcase LWVMC services and activities.** If you haven't visited our web site lately, you are in for a treat. It has a fresh new look with expanded and timely information. Continued development of the web site and using technology in new ways is a continuing goal.
6. **Increase the visibility of LWVMC.** A proactive approach to promoting the activities of LWVMC will become evident as we develop and begin to implement a year-long PR plan.

In addition to these 2007-2008 goals, LWVMC has ongoing goals of **building on the success of Democracy in Action** to increase revenue, visibility and membership for LWVMC; exploring new sources/methods of **increasing financial resources**; and undertaking continuous improvement efforts to **further strengthen LWVMC's programmatic, financial and administrative functions.**

As you can see we've established some exciting and ambitious goals for the coming year. With the combined efforts our dedicated Board, able Administrator and involved membership, what a year it will be!



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You're Invited to Join!

Voter Service Committee Report

by Janyce C. Katz

The Fall brings voter registrations, the VIB, candidate forums and voter education on Election Day. It also provides opportunities for you to help.

New committee member **Dianne Durham** has set up voter registration sites for late August and throughout September. As of the writing of this article, there is still a need for volunteers on Sunday, September 16 from 12:00 - 6:00 PM (two hour shifts) at the Reynoldsburg Wal-Mart and at Columbus State on September 26 from either 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM or 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Call the League Office to volunteer.

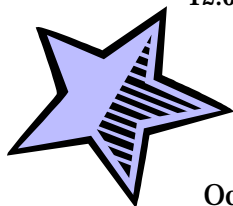
The next Voter Service Committee meeting will be at **Amy Pulles'** house on September 24 at 6:30 PM. The major activity will be proofing the VIB.

Thanks to *The Columbus Dispatch*, the VIB will be printed and distributed through its Sunday, October 28 edition. The *Dispatch's* personnel has expressed satisfaction with the VIB. We cannot thank them enough for the wonderful job they do and for the area coverage we get, thanks to their distribution of the VIB. As usual, the *Dispatch* will print the VIB ahead of time and Amy Pulles will distribute copies to libraries and other places.

Candidates forums are in place. The races to be covered are still up in the air because the local candidates don't always reveal themselves until late in August, long after this article is due. Feel free to help at the events. We are always looking for sponsors or supporters to expand the range of people who know about the event. Please consider signing up your church or other organizations if you haven't done so already.

Finally, we will be staffing phones on Election Day, so it's another way to volunteer a two-hour block of time.

If you are not active in League but waiting to find the perfect committee—this is it. Or, it is at least one of the committees that needs your help. Please consider joining.



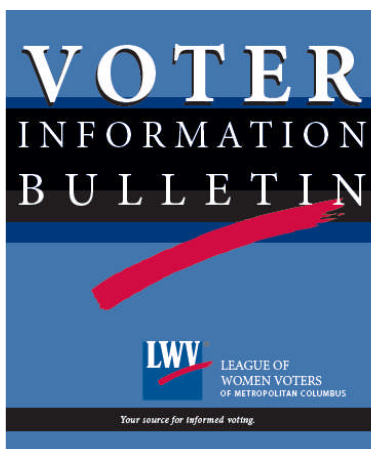
Coming Soon!

Watch for your copy of the *Voter Information Bulletin* (VIB) in the mail.

Through a partnership with *The Columbus Dispatch*, thousands of VIBs will be printed and distributed throughout Central Ohio in the Sunday, October 28 issue.

League members will receive their VIB in the mail the week of October 22.

For a preview, see www.lwvcols.org after September 26.



Join Us October 2 for a Beyond the Units Tour

by Jean Byrd

On Tuesday, October 2 the League will host a "Beyond the Units" tour with the Community Shelter Board (CSB). The tour is an extension of the League's *Voices of Poverty* program held in March.

Barbara Poppe, of the CSB, will introduce League members to more local voices of poverty while touring shelters available to women in Columbus.

Participants are asked to be at the CSB at 2:30 PM for a brief introduction. Attendees will then be taken to Nancy's Place and the YWCA Family Shelter.

There is very limited seating, so please RSVP to the League Office for this very first "Beyond the Units" tour.

GET INVOLVED

To sign up or for more details, contact **Amy Pulles** at 614-837-1089 or lwvcols@iwaynet.net.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Saturday, September 8

12:00 - 2:00 pm; 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Columbus Public Library
Livingston Branch
3434 E. Livingston

Sunday, September 16

12:00 - 2:00 pm; 2:00 - 4:00 pm;
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Wal-Mart, 2793 Taylor Road SW
Reynoldsburg

Wednesday, September 26

11:30 am - 1:30 pm; 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Columbus State Community
College

PHONE BANK

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 6

6:30 am - 7:00 pm
[two-hour shift minimum, please]
WBNS-10TV Studio
770 Twin Rivers Drive

COMMITTEES

LWVMC Voter Service
Democracy in Action 2008

ADVOCACY

Become an LWVO Energy Conservation volunteer. Help gather information on energy conservation with a simple survey for local school districts, libraries, city and county governments. Call Al Rosenfield, 614-486-8892, or Jean Byrd, 614-261-0601, for information.

We Need You!

Volunteer for the Election Day Phone Bank

On Election Day you can have a direct impact not only by casting your ballot, but also by volunteering for the LWVMC Phone Bank at the WBNS-10TV studio.

The Phone Bank provides voter information to callers. The most common question: "Where do I vote?" For that and other polling questions, League volunteers search the County Board of Elections voter registration database online. For other inquiries, volunteers simply check the FAQ, since written answers are provided for the most common questions. In addition, basic training is provided. Plus, for really difficult questions, Phone Bank veterans will be on hand to assist. Incidentally, even if you are computer-phobic, you need not fear the online search process. You can learn in a matter of minutes. To get an idea of how it works, visit the County Board of Elections web site at www.co.franklin.oh.us/boe.



The number of calls varies by type of election, from slightly less than 1,000 in municipal years to about 2,000 in presidential years. Each Phone Bank volunteer is asked to track phone calls with a simple checkmark for every question.

No one is quite sure how long the League and Channel 10 have partnered to provide the Election Day Phone Bank, but it is estimated at 30 or 35 years.

Please consider being part of this long-standing voter education effort by volunteering a few hours of your time on Election Day. If you haven't participated in this voter service project in the past, you will find it is great fun, very rewarding, and quite simple.

Mary Helen Hart is coordinating League members to staff phone lines at the TV station throughout the day on November 6, starting at 6:30 AM. Volunteers will work a minimum of two hours (You are welcome to work more!). It's fine to invite a friend or family member to volunteer with you.

If you are able to help, contact Mary Helen at 614-262-8461; 614-264-6901; or maheha57@gmail.com.



Voting Information

- All voters must be registered by October 9 to be eligible to vote in the November 6 General Election.
- Absentee ballots for the November 6 General Election will be available on October 2. There is no longer a requirement to state a reason to vote absentee.


Help Make Democracy in Action 2008 a Success

by Amy Pulles



Democracy in Action is the League's major fundraiser held each spring to recognize outstanding participation in local civic affairs. Over the past few years the event has been extremely successful in many areas. Financially, it has enabled the League to grow and provide more voter service opportunities to the entire Metropolitan Columbus community. We are looking forward to another successful Democracy in Action next year.

Lots of League volunteers are needed. You can help by serving on a committee—or two. It is a great way to be involved on a short-term basis. Each Committee is described below. Choose one that's right for you and then inform League Administrator Amy Pulles by phone at 614-837-1089 or e-mail at lwvcols@iwaynet.net.

 **Honoree Selection Committee:** Selects the honoree; selects honorary co-chairs; seeks an invitation list from the honoree; interviews honoree; writes bio for the program; collects bios of honoree and co-chairs; maintains communication with honorees and honorary co-chairs prior to event.

Corporate Sponsors: Develops list of corporate contacts with special attention to honoree's contacts and bio; makes corporation "asks" and follow-up; ensures that donor corps have ads in program, invitations to event, and receive thanks.

Facilities/Food: Secures the location; works with caterer; arranges for atrium set-up.

Program Ads: Secures ads for program book from corporations, friends; coordinates with corporate sponsor.

Patron Development: Contacts League members to encourage participation as DIA patrons.

Publicity: Secures media publicity and visibility.

Program Booklet: Writes content and assists League Administrator with layout and design; proofreads booklet.

Invitations: Prepares and mails invitations for the event.

Hospitality: Provides for registration, greeters, flowers for guests, all other guest-friendly aspects of the event.



County Consortium to Host Eleven Candidates Forums in October

The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, along with 50+ sponsoring and supporting organizations including LWVMC, is sponsoring eleven candidates forums this General Election season. Local city, Franklin County, and State of Ohio candidates will be invited to participate. The forums feature a ½ hour pre-event reception. News representatives from WBNS-10TV, NBC 4, and WSYX-TV Channel 6 will serve as moderators.

"Please put the Forums on your must do list and urge all your friends and relatives to come with you," said Consortium Co-chair Janyce C. Katz. "Consider volunteering either at the event, or in other ways to help us increase the number of people who attend."

Informing yourself about candidates and issues

and then voting is the most important way you can help preserve our Democracy," said Co-chair Erin Cordle.

The Consortium was started by Brookwood Presbyterian Church, the Jewish Federation and the National Council of Jewish Women in 1991.

For up-to-date information on the races, go to www.franklincountyconsortium.com.

Just a Reminder

Your LWVMC Membership Dues
are Due in September.

*Why not invite a friend or family
member to join.*

Mark Your Calendar...

- September 10** **LWVMC Board Meeting**
- September 11** **LWVO Lobby Lunch** (*2nd and 4th Tuesdays*) 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad Street, downtown Columbus. All invited.
- September 19** **LWVMC General Meeting**, Clintonville Woman's Club, Dinner at 6:30 PM, followed by program at 7:00 PM. RSVP to the LWVMC Office by September 14. Payment for dinner will be accepted that evening.
- September 24** **LWVMC Voter Service Committee Meeting**
- September 25** **LWVO Lobby Lunch**
- October 2** **LWVMC Beyond the Units**, Tour of the Community Shelter Board
- October 8** **LWVMC Board Meeting**
- October 9** **Candidates Forum**, Temple Beth Shalom, 6:30 PM
- October 11** **Candidates Forum**, Temple Israel, 6:30 PM
- October 12** **Candidates Forum**, Jewish Community Center, 9:30 AM
- October 16** **Candidates Forum**, Brookwood Presbyterian Church, 6:30 PM
- October 17** **Candidates Forum**, Corpus Christi, 6:30 PM
- October 18** **LWVMC Morning Unit**
- October 18** **Candidates Forum**, Broad Street Presbyterian Church, 6:30 PM
- October 23** **LWVMC Evening Unit**
- October 23** **Candidates Forum**, Prairie Township Senior Center, 6:30 PM
- October 24** **LWVMC Dinner Unit**
- October 24** **Candidates Forum**, St. Joan of Arc, 6:30 PM
- October 25** **Candidates Forum**, Beth Tikvah, 6:30 PM
- October 29** **Candidates Forum**, Northland Area, times and location TBD
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