

May 2010

★ Annual Meeting Set for June 7

Event Includes Potluck Dinner and Birthday Celebration

by Amy Pulles

Celebrate the League's 90th anniversary, enjoy a potluck dinner, hear about the importance of an independent press and strong education to a democracy, and conduct League business at the LWVMC Annual Meeting on Monday, June 7.

Dinner will be at 6:00 pm, with featured speaker Susan Tave Zelman at 7:00. Zelman is senior vice president, chief advisor, and system consultant of education policy at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; she formerly served as superintendent of the Ohio Department of Education. In her presentation, Zelman will touch on how the League of Women Voters can encourage citizens to educate themselves and participate in the electoral process.

Following Zelman's presentation, the business of the League will be presented including bylaws amendment, election of officers and trustees, 2010-2011 budget, proposed program and study, and more. *See information inside.*

The meeting will be held at the Northwest Public Library, 2280 Hard Road, Worthington, 43235. Members are invited to share their favorite dish with their League friends. Please let the office know what you will bring so we can make sure there is a variety of selections. (No need for desserts, since birthday cake will be provided.) RSVP by June 4 at vote@lwvcols.org or 614-837-1089.



Ellen Haider Named Member of the Year for 2010

Ellen Haider has been selected as Member of the Year by the board of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus.

Haider has co-chaired a year-long study of public transit in central Ohio - the first local study undertaken by the Metro Columbus League in many years. Researched and written primarily by Haider, the study report examines the current transit climate in the metro area and recommends criteria the League may use in evaluating future transit efforts.

Nancy Brown, who co-chaired the study committee with Haider, said it was a privilege to work with her. "Ellen is perhaps the only person I have ever met who loves to do research," Brown said. "You can imagine what such a person brings to a study committee."

While Haider has been a League member since the late 1970s, she did not consider herself an active member until she began chairing the study committee. Now, Haider said, she is eager to stay involved.

Haider grew up in Clintonville and then attended Bowling Green State University, where she majored in speech and hearing therapy. She took a stab at being a therapist and at teaching elementary school before finding her niche working in libraries.

After earning her master's degree in library science from Indiana University, Haider worked at the Bexley Public Library before settling into her career as librarian at the Ohio Department of Transportation. She retired from the state in 1994.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Janyce C. Katz, Esq.

What does the League of Women Voters have to do with silhouetting a kitten with spiked heels and filming its death?

Don't know what I am talking about? Think US Supreme Court decisions.

Better yet, let me explain how you can express speech today.

Take out your video camera and set it up to run, aimed at your feet. Put on a pair of high heels, the expensive little stilettos with five inch spikes at the heels. You know the type of shoe, the "high style" that destroys your feet and your back if you walk too much in them. Find an adorable kitten or puppy, put the animal before your feet, turn the camera on, and start stomping on and spiking the animals with your shoes.

What fun? The animal screams as it painfully dies, you squish it, your face isn't shown so you won't be arrested for violating animal protection laws, assuming there are such where you go stomping on them, and people can watch the video you send all over by Internet and enjoy the suffering.

Some states may find the manner of killing the animal punishable but the video is expressible free speech. At least, that is what the US Supreme Court said in *US v. Stevens*. Film dogs fighting each other, you know, the type of activity that put a professional football star Michael Vick out of the limelight for a short time because it is illegal, and those films are free speech also. Especially if the dogs were fighting in a country where it was legal.

Are snuff films - you know the ones where people are put to death probably for the same enjoyment factor as the kitten is silhouetted and this horrid act is filmed - are these things now expressions of free speech as well if filmed elsewhere?

The concern on the other side was the law punishing those who watch or film the squishing of animals with high heels might also ban the filming and watching of legal activities like hunting or bull-fighting. Just because something is illegal in one country, why should watching or selling a



film of the activity, an "expression" of speech, be punishable elsewhere. At least, that's what our highest Court seemed to say. Speech rights are black and white, essentially, not something to be balanced. Law too broad, therefore unconstitutional.

Justice Alito begged to differ with the majority. "The First Amendment protects freedom of speech," he wrote as the court's sole dissenter. "But it most certainly does not protect violent criminal conduct, even if engaged in for expressive purposes."

Justice Alito has a point. Does this mean that a film of a murder of a person - a "snuff" piece turns into free expression? What about filming someone yelling fire in a crowded theater and the panic that follows - expression? Or, is this something that encourages bad behavior to get the publicity. Certainly, Justice Alito would not find a snuff film of a person or a kitten to be an expression of free speech, but how would the majority rule?

The black and white speech rule is broad and it may have consequences. Recently, the US Supreme Court expanded speech in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* - the "Hillary" case - to protect the right of corporations to "speak freely" using their ability to pay money, in the political arena.

The marketplace of ideas is supposed to correct everything. But, there the advertising business flourishes for a reason. If an ad airs constantly, people begin to believe they cannot live without the product.

Pounding a message over and over eventually gets through, especially if the part of the population being pounded lacks the means to counter such propaganda in the alleged marketplace of ideas. Think of the way art was used in socialist realism or even here to try to influence the way people viewed society. The marketplace of ideas can be influenced by purchased political spots.

Think swift boating, think Rwanda radio demonizing one tribe that was later slaughtered, think Nazis depicting Jews as rats and Gypsies as worthless. This type of speech is harmful to society.

I would imagine that the puppy being spiked is also not excited to be in the marketplace of ideas. I wonder if those films will influence



people that such activity is fun, ok to do and should be legal - as is bullfighting. And, what will happen to Democracy once the corporate financing really gets rolling?

It strikes me that the abundance of money in certain arenas has corrupted the market place of ideas just as the regulation free market of derivatives has harmed capitalism.

Howard Fineman, in the April 19 issue of *Newsweek* decried "the sad, sordid way we pay for campaigns." He wrote that he did not see "any way out of this morass of money" that is able to influence ideas and legislation.

Here, with all this "free speech," League can play an important role - really fostering the true market of ideas, where discussions about ideas actually happen.

League has a role to promote candidates forums - expand them- push how important it is to attend them, to see candidates in person, to ask them questions, to not watch the candidate squish ads - the negative stuff that floods the airways and that this year, thanks to corporate free speech, will be more plentiful.

League has a roll - push for good education for children and an abundance of solid news for adults so that people can make intelligent decisions. Come hear our special guest, CPB Vice President Susan Tave Zelman, discuss this very issue on June 7 at our Annual Meeting, a potluck with an excellent speaker and important elections.

League has a role, strengthening its support of responsible elections paid for with public money.

League has a role, advocating responsibly appointing our judges.

League has a role, advocating legislation that makes free speaking/spending corporations responsible to their shareholders before they open their mouths/purses. We in League vote on issues before we support them. Why shouldn't a corporation be obligated to have its shareholders do the same?

League has a role, pushing for responsible regulation of certain kinds of alleged speech. Or, if it is speech, push for accountability - who has produced the piece and paid for it should be on every piece out there. Just like a person has to identify himself/herself in a letter to the editor, the ads should contain the names of the authors and participants in type large enough to be read while the ad is running.

League has a role, pushing for dialogue between different sides - with people explaining what the position they stand for really is about, and the people discussing the issues intelligently and then trying to come to a consensus.

League has a role, encouraging people to vote and to make intelligent decisions when they go to the polls.

Please, send people to our May 13 fundraiser so we do have a little money with which to operate. Please, sign up your friends, your children, your grandchildren as members so that we have people to carry out these important tasks.

Thanks to Columbus City Council for the Resolution, sponsored by Councilwoman Eileen Paley about our 90th birthday. Thanks also to Columbus Council members Charleta Tavares, Priscilla Tyson and Troy Miller for making strong statements about the importance of League. Thanks to all League members who attended the event.



Dinner Unit Meeting Changed to June 2

The Dinner Unit will have as its topic the Livestock Care Standards Board, created by the passage of Issue 2 in the last election. The Board will have just completed a series of public hearings around the state, and a member of the Board, Lisa Hamler-Fuggitt, will be with us to help with the discussion. Lisa is director of Second Harvest Foodbank.

Note a **change of date**: the Dinner Unit will meet **Wednesday, June 2**, at Wing's Restaurant, 2801 E. Main Street. Attendees can order dinner at 5:30 or so. Discussion begins around 6:30, and those who do not wish to order dinner are welcome to join the group at any time. Program ends about 8:00.

If you are planning to attend, it will be helpful if you can let the coordinator of the Unit, David McCoy, know by calling 614-755-3960 or sending a note to davidomccoy@yahoo.com.



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Nominating Committee Report

*Submitted by Nancy Brown, Chair; Mim Brierley;
Cathy Elkins; Jan Patton; Audra Teague*

President vacant

VP Advocacy - Scott Britton

Member Since: 2002

Occupation: Community Volunteer

Scott joined the League in 2002 when he became executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. While directing the state League he increased member financial support, coordinated lobbying on a variety of good-government issues, and managed an ambitious three-year judicial independence project. Following a stint at The Columbus Foundation, where he helped launch PowerPhilanthropy, Scott became a stay-at-home dad in 2006. A year later, seeking a chance to volunteer, he joined the board of the Metro Columbus League. In 2008 he became chair of both the technology and advocacy committees, and serves as webmaster.

VP Membership - Mim Brierley

Member Since: 1992

Occupation: Community Volunteer

Much of Mim's volunteer work has focused on the international community. She has hosted, escorted, and coordinated programming for LWV guests from Brazil, Mexico, Ethiopia and Ukraine, all emerging democracies. For an exchange to Ethiopia, she planned and facilitated a four-day leadership training workshop sponsored by Inner Africa, The Ethiopian Business Institute and an NGO, W.I.S.E (business and craft program to enhance women's opportunity to gain economic independence). Other League work to engage young people include a Candidates' Night with student moderators, panelists, timers and ushers and a historical documentary about changes in women's education, work and family life brought about by the advocacy of LWV and other women's rights groups. The documentary was in celebration of LWV's 75th anniversary.

Treasurer - Bob Brown

Member Since: 1970

Occupation: Retired, Ohio State University
Department of Mathematics

Bob came to Columbus in 1970 and was on the faculty at Ohio State University for more than 30 years. Before that, he taught at the University of Toronto and at UC-Berkeley (in the 60s). He served

on the board of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. He currently serves as the Treasurer for the 501(c)(4) side of LWVMC.

Trustees

All nominated for two-year terms expiring 06/2012

Anne Hoke

Member Since: 2005

Occupation: Ohio Attorney General's Office

Anne received her BA in history from the University of Maryland and her Juris Doctorate from Ohio State University Law School in 1987. Her professional experience includes serving for seven years as in-house counsel for a union in Columbus and spending more than nine years as an Assistant Attorney General, representing the State of Ohio in regulating health care and labor laws. Prior to joining the League board, she was active in the PTA of Columbus Alternative High School (CAHS) and served as vice-president and president. Anne was appointed to the League Board in 2010.

David McCoy

Member Since: 1995

Occupation: Retired Episcopal Priest

David has been active in public policy at the state and local level for many years, primarily through the Episcopal Public Policy Network of Ohio. As a cofounder of the Interfaith Center for Peace, he has spearheaded local activism on capital punishment, leading regular vigils prior to executions. He and his wife Terry McCoy are being honored with the 2010 Democracy In Action award for their lifelong dedication to improving the civic life of central Ohio. David's contributions to the League include revitalizing the Democracy In Action event into a highly successful fundraiser for the League. He serves as coordinator of the Dinner Unit, and is a member of both the advocacy and technology committees.

Janyce Katz

Member Since: 2001

Occupation: Ohio Attorney General's Office

Janyce served as the 44th woman president of the LWMC since its founding in 1919. She has long been a supporter of good government and was one of the founders of the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, helping it grow to its present size. Since 2001, she has been an active League member, serving on the Voter Service Committee and then as its vice president. She has served on the Board of Directors since 2002 as a trustee, vice president of Voter Service, and as president.

JoAnne Grossman

Member Since: 2008

Occupation: Community Volunteer

JoAnne served as coordinator of the Civil Rule of Law program sponsored by Open World, where LWVMC hosted six visitors from Ukraine in 2008. This program was designed to enable emerging leaders from Eurasia and the Baltic States to experience US democracy and free enterprise in action in communities in the US. Columbus was one of three cities chosen nationally to host the visitors. Since joining the League in 2008, JoAnne has participated in voter service efforts and many events.

Dr. Marilyn Huheey

Member Since: 1977

Occupation: Ophthalmologist

Dr. Huheey has been a member of the League of Women Voters for 33 years but is serving on the Board of Directors for the first time. She has been active in the WBNS 10TV Election Day phone bank for several years. Dr. Huheey has spent her professional career in central Ohio.

Ayisha King

Member Since: 2010

Occupation: Accountant, Defense Finance & Accounting Services

Ayisha obtained her MBA, from Keller Graduate School of Management in 2007, majoring in Financial Analysis & Marketing. She recently graduated from United Way of Central Ohio's Project Diversity Cycle 18 which is an eight-month training program for minority professionals designed to facilitate their placement onto volunteer boards and committees in hopes of serving as a voice in community leadership. She is also a member of the Association of Government Accountants and the National Black MBA Association. She has volunteered and served on non-profit organization committees such as the Capital Area Human Society, American Red Cross, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Association of Military Comptrollers and Minority Professional Network.

Sonja Nelson-Jones

Member Since: 2010

Occupation: Founder & Executive Director, The Firm of Columbus

Sonja is joining the Board of Directors with a new member perspective. After working for several years at Nationwide, she started the non-profit, The Firm of Columbus, an organization that promotes financial independence and resource management.

The Firm's mission is to revolutionize the approach to assistance based programs by providing opportunities that invest in the community and its residents through a partnership dedicated to inspire, revitalize, and strengthen.

Adam Duberstein

Member Since: 2009

Occupation: Academic Advisor, Ohio Dominican University

Adam is interested in the League because he is an educator who believes in the importance of civic education in a non-partisan, issue-based context. Since he is 28, he hopes to engage younger voters in the League's activities. In addition to his full-time employment at ODU, Adam holds adjunct faculty appointments at Columbus State Community College and American InterContinental University. He has worked on numerous political campaigns for members of both political parties.

Nominating Committee Members for 2011

Mary Kaul, Chair; Jean Byrd; Jane Young

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Haider Named Member of Year

Haider founded the Central Ohio Sleep Disorders Support Group in 1986 and remains one of its leaders.

Her husband, "Woody," is from Yemen. Some of her most treasured memories as an adult are from her six trips there to visit his family, first in 1981 and most recently in 2009. During that period of time, Haider said, she watched a generation grow up and the country make significant, if uneven, progress.

Haider has stayed on top of changes in the field of library science as it has evolved, honing her research skills on the web. "Every time the transit study committee met, Ellen had new information to share and facts she thought we needed to know," Brown said. "Her background as a librarian was invaluable, but so were her leadership and enthusiasm."



www.lwvcols.org

Proposed Budget, FY11

At Annual Meeting in June, members must vote on a budget for the Metropolitan Columbus League (MC). A Budget Committee chaired by **Scott Britton** and consisting of **Bob Brown, Jean Byrd, Betty Hersch, Mary Kaul,** and **Rose Luttinger** was appointed to propose a budget to the board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, and the board has approved a budget for consideration and a vote by the membership.

In the past, the MC budget has reflected costs shared between both organizations (e.g., staff) with a significant portion of MC revenue coming from "Ed Fund Reimbursement." The actual Educational Fund (EF) budget was passed later in the summer by the board (since it does not have to be approved by the membership). In order to better show how the two organizations work together to fund the work of the League, both budgets are being presented, even though members will only vote on the MC budget. Using this approach, it is possible to put the two budgets together and figure out which line items are reimbursed or paid directly by EF because the new budget format places the line items side by side. The "Ed Fund Reimbursement" line (shown for historical purposes) will be eliminated because new accounting procedures show these reimbursements as reductions of expenditures rather than as revenue. The proposed budget includes the following assumptions:

1. No increase in membership dues is proposed at this time; however, an increase next year may be inevitable given that PMP (per member payment) will likely account for \$54.80 of the \$60 dues in the coming year. PMP will undoubtedly continue to rise.
2. More than \$17,000 in EF reserves will be tapped in order to balance the budget. Savings reserves have been steadily decreasing over the last three or four budget cycles. If this trend continues, the committee anticipates that reserves could be depleted by 2013, having serious repercussions on the ability of the organization to function as it currently does. If withdrawals from reserves remain at the level they have for the past three years, then reserves could be depleted even sooner.
3. Membership is budgeted to remain constant, a rather bold assessment given the pattern of member attrition over the last few years.
4. The Civic Directory will no longer be professionally printed; rather, copies will be made in the office and mailed to those members who do not have Internet access.
5. Mailings to members who have e-mail will be kept to a minimum. Postcards, VIBs, and similar items will only be sent to those members who do not have access to the Internet or who specifically request a copy.

The committee and board have only very reluctantly recommended balancing the budget by a transfer of \$17,223 from EF reserves. Given the gravity of the three-year projection described above, the board plans to take the following actions:

1. Investigate merging the organizations into a single 501(c)(3) entity if possible. Not only would a merger simplify accounting and free up much-needed volunteer energy for fundraising and membership recruitment, but it would offer a one-time fundraising opportunity in the announcement of such a merger. Membership dues would become tax-deductible, offering a new incentive to join and round up.
2. Have a series of conversations about the solvency of the organization over the next three years. Either more revenues must be brought in, or plans should be made to make significant cuts in spending (\$15-\$20,000 per year). A dues increase, while inevitable, will not solve the problem. While every effort should be made to cut spending, small reductions here and there will not be enough.

For questions, contact **Scott Britton**, 614-848-4291, sbritton@wowway.com.

Line	Item
Revenue	
1	Membership Dues
2	Member Contributions
3	Other Contributions
4	Democracy In Action
5	"Friends" End-of-Year Letter
6	Holiday Auction
7	Meetings/Event Revenue
8	Interest Income
9	Meals on Wheels/LifeCare Alliance
10	Phonathon
11	VIB Sales
12	Grants
13	Ed Fund Reimbursement
14	Transfer from Savings
	Total Revenue
Expenditures	
15	Salary/Wages
16	Employer Payroll Taxes
17	Staff/Board Professional Development
18	Staff Travel Reimbursement
19	Insurance (Liability, D&O)
20	Telephone/Internet
21	Supplies/Postage
22	Technology/Website
23	Board Expenses
24	President's Discretionary Line
25	Convention/Council
26	National PMP
27	State PMP
28	Newsletter
29	Voter Information Bulletin
30	Civic Directory
31	Democracy In Action
32	Other Fundraising Expenses/Events
33	Public Relations/Communications
34	Membership/Member Services
35	Advocacy
36	Voter Service
37	Study
38	Educational Events/Units/Meetings
39	Miscellaneous (Bank Fees, etc.)
40	Capitalized Equipment
	Total Expenditures
	Surplus/(Deficit)

Combined FY11 Proposed Budget

Calculation/Notes	Metro Columbus			Educational Fund		
	Metro Cols FY10 Actual (1/31/10)	Metro Cols FY10 Budget	Metro Cols FY11 Proposed	Ed Fund FY10 Actual (1/31/10)	Ed Fund FY10 Budget	Ed Fund FY11 Proposed
	Maintain: 142@\$60; 23@\$90; 6@\$15	\$ 8,818	\$ 11,330	\$ 10,680	\$ -	NA
Round-ups, "in memory of," etc.	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,195	\$ 400	\$ 500
Nonmember VIB donations	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 581	\$ 300	\$ 500
	\$ -	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 750	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	NA	NA	\$ -	\$ 1,405	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,500
	\$ 2,939	\$ 3,060	\$ 3,500		NA	
	\$ 1,704	\$ 1,500				\$ 1,500
	\$ 14	\$ 30	\$ 50		\$ -	
\$30/wk + \$30 x 4 holidays	\$ -	NA	\$ -	\$ 900	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,680
Estimate based on past success		\$ -	\$ 150		\$ 200	\$ 150
		NA			\$ 1,200	\$ 600
		NA			\$ 200	
Will no longer show as revenue	\$ 300	\$ 24,000	\$ -		NA	\$ -
	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 14,200	\$ 21,130	\$ 17,223
	\$ 23,675	\$ 65,820	\$ 29,880	\$ 19,031	\$ 36,330	\$ 33,653
See Staff worksheet	\$ 11,708	\$ 24,238	\$ 12,361	\$ 6,762	\$ 14,500	\$ 12,361
See Staff worksheet	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,266		\$ -	\$ 1,266
ent OANO membership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150		\$ -	
2,100 miles @ \$.50 split 50/50	\$ 636	\$ 1,600	\$ 525		\$ -	\$ 525
Policies: \$1,154 & \$350 split 50/50	\$ 1,229	\$ 1,150	\$ 752		\$ 575	\$ 752
Approx. \$175/month	\$ 979	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,522	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050
Increase in postage required	\$ 1,923	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 723	\$ 1,375	\$ 2,000
See Tech worksheet	\$ 353	\$ 700	\$ 228	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 228
No longer necessary (see line 24)	\$ 165	\$ 500	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Funeral flowers, lunch with Amy	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 250		NA	
Natl Council/State Conv (Toledo)	\$ -	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,150	\$ -
PMP for 171.5 @ \$29.20 + est. \$.60 (\$ 2,554	\$ 2,679	\$ 2,555	\$ 2,554	\$ 2,679	\$ 2,555
PMP for 171.5 @ \$25 - 5% early bird	\$ 3,179	\$ 3,303	\$ 3,055	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,101	\$ 1,018
Mailing to 76 members @ \$.44	\$ 242	\$ 500	\$ 167		\$ 250	\$ 167
\$6,000 to Dispatch, \$500 delivery/post	\$ -	NA	\$ -	\$ 6,521	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,500
No printing; copy and mail to 76 @ \$.4	\$ -	NA	\$ -		\$ 600	\$ 100
Costs split according to income	\$ (3,452)	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,872		\$ 3,500	\$ 2,128
s Phonathon party: \$50	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 25		\$ -	\$ 25
	\$ 280	\$ 500	\$ 300		\$ -	\$ -
Comp memberships; 90th birthday	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500		NA	
Includes program planning	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 200		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 187	\$ 150			\$ 200	\$ 350
Consensus, program, materials	\$ -	NA	\$ -		\$ 250	\$ 250
	\$ 1,539	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,500
None anticipated	\$ 83	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -
None anticipated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 23,504	\$ 55,820	\$ 29,757	\$ 19,767	\$ 36,330	\$ 33,776
	\$ 171	\$ 10,000	\$ 123	\$ (736)	\$ -	\$ (123)

Local Program Recommendations

At the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years, members of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus adopt a biennial program consisting of action to implement the principles and positions of LWVUS and LWV-Ohio and those local governmental issues chosen by LWVMC for study and action. Members were given the opportunity to participate in the planning process for local program at a January 28, 2010, meeting. Based on the results of that meeting and discussion by Metro's Advocacy Committee, the board of trustees proposes the following to the membership for consideration and a vote at the Annual Meeting:

- 1) Adoption of the existing program with the following changes:

Franklin County Children Services

Delete the phrase "support careful selection of intake services personnel using the most experienced staff in this very sensitive area; support examination and, wherever possible, reduction of caseload levels;"

Rationale: As we discovered when we used this position to take action on the 2009 levy, it is too specific and contains criteria that are outdated.

Community-Based Treatment

Replace "Franklin County Board of MR/DD" with "Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities"

Rationale: This change reflects the new name of the agency due to changes in state law.

Mass Transit

On April 26, 2010, the League will hold a consensus meeting so that members can determine if there will be a new position on PUBLIC TRANSIT (note the change in terminology). If there is consensus, the board of trustees shall adopt the new position at its May meeting, and this new position may then be ratified by members at the Annual Meeting along with the rest of the program.

- 2) Adoption of the following new study:

Regional Planning and Land Use

Rationale: The local position on planning ("Support comprehensive planning and development with broad citizen participation for the metro area") is far too general to be of use, while the state position on land use, though

more specific, is more than a decade old. Neither fully takes into consideration the challenges of planning for a growing metropolitan area like Columbus. Members present at the January 28, 2010, program planning meeting agreed that a study of this issue should be considered at the Annual Meeting for incorporation into the 2010-2012 program.

Scope: A study committee shall:

- Assess the impact of state and local policies on the use of land and regional planning in the Columbus metropolitan area over the last three decades, including (but not limited to) residential densities, movement of jobs, and vacant properties in older areas;
- Research such issues as suburban expansion and its impact on urban blight, taxation policies and growth, age diversity, livability, racial and economic segregation, residential options, green space, and the needs of the various generations (baby boomers in particular, given their size);
- Determine criteria to ensure that communities in the metro area can be viable economically, socially, and environmentally, integrating people of all ages with land and buildings;
- Consider current economic revitalization policies within Columbus and its inner-ring suburbs, and the impact of locally adopted plans and zoning codes on long-range planning;
- Review the League's material/position on public transit to ensure consistency between these two interconnected topics;
- Examine positions of other local Leagues in Ohio (e.g., Delaware and Cuyahoga counties) for possible concurrence; and
- Within the limitations of the League's jurisdiction, examine tax policies, township responsibilities, financing of infrastructure, and economic development with an eye toward recommendations that could be made to the state League.

CURRENT PROGRAM

Education

Support programs to achieve racial balance in the public schools of the metropolitan area.

Justice and Corrections

Support increasing the number of persons not jailed prior to trial by use of summons citations; support

increased use of alternative sentencing such as community service, restitution, work release; favor expansion of alternatives to incarceration for non-dangerous offenders with drug/alcohol problems, mental illness, mental retardation; if construction is necessary, support construction of minimum-security facilities only. All local facilities should meet minimum standards of prisoner classification.

Planning

Support comprehensive planning and development with broad citizen participation for the metro area.

Mass Transit

Support mass transportation in Central Ohio. *Note: Members approved a study to update this position in June 2009.*

Levy-Funded Agencies

Support collaboration and cooperation among agencies in the planning for and provision of services; support availability of flexible funds, in addition to each agency's base funds, to meet changing needs in the community; support availability of contingency funds, in addition to each agency's base funds, to meet emergency needs in the community.

Franklin County Children Services

Support efforts to communicate to the public the many ways FCCS is trying to assist families and children in the county and the legal constraints under which it must provide services; support careful selection of intake services personnel using the most experienced staff in this very sensitive area; support examination and, wherever possible, reduction of caseload levels; support liaison with the schools so that schools and FCCS staff can work as partners to get services to families before problems develop to the crisis state, and to motivate children to complete high school; support cooperation between FCCS and the Court, with the common goal of working together to benefit youth served; after careful review, support reasonable requests for future funding.

Community-Based Treatment

Support increased residential services for people with mental illness provided by the Franklin County Mental Health board; support maintaining nonresidential services for people with mental illness with emphasis on case management services, tailoring a service plan to the individual with follow-up; support increased residential services for people with mental illness provided by Franklin County Board of MR/DD; support monitoring and adequate supervision of group homes; support maintaining nonresidential

services for people with mental illness; favor shared responsibility for funding among government, private sector, and consumers, with the greatest responsibility resting with state and local government; support coordination of funding and service delivery.

Addiction Services

Support availability of adequate funds to pay for alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention services; favor primary responsibility for funding for alcohol and other drug prevention services rest with the state/federal government; however, support a significant role for local government; support responsibility of individuals for contributing to paying for their own treatment, based on ability to pay; recognizing that there is a value to society at large to meet alcohol and other drug problems, support that government share the costs; support increase in funds for prevention services until there is parity between prevention and treatment services funding; support priority for providing linkages with other needed services (e.g., child care, housing, basic material needs, employment, reentry, etc.) when making judgments concerning limited public funding; support providing services to underserved population groups and underserved geographic areas.

Bylaws Amendment

Current bylaws require two separate treasurers, one for the c(4) and one for the c(3). It is the opinion of the Board of Directors that tasks can be streamlined and more efficient if we only had one treasurer. Therefore, we are asking the membership to amend **Section 6 The Treasurer** of the bylaws. It currently reads "*The Treasurer shall not serve as the Treasurer of the LWVMC Education Fund.*" We are proposing that this sentence be eliminated from the bylaws, which would allow for one member to serve as treasurer of both MC and Ed Fund.

ANNUAL MEETING & Celebration



June 7 ★ Northwest Library

6:00 Potluck (Bring a dish to share)
7:00 Speaker, Business Meeting

RSVP by June 4
vote@lwvcols.org

★ Continue to Celebrate the League's 90th Anniversary

by Lucy Buzzee

We continue to celebrate. Below is an update on to some of the activities that are in the works for the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters.

If you haven't done so already, you are encouraged to go to LWVMC's website, www.lwvcols.org, to read the history of the League (national and local), as well as, a piece done by League of Women Voters Cleveland Area. *A History of the Women's Vote*, as compiled by Barbara Sones, is a chronological "Road to Female Suffrage." These historical accounts set the tone for the League's celebration this year.

★ **Proclamations from various city councils:** Metro President **Janyce Katz** gave a presentation at the Columbus City Council on April 19, and the City Council honored the League with a resolution. **Lucy Buzzee, Jan Patton** and **Jane Young** also attended. Purple sashes were worn in recognition of the suffragists who wore white and purple (violet) as their uniform. As we go to print, the following city councils are scheduled to give League a resolution: Gahanna - May 3; Westerville - May 4; Worthington - May 10; and Bexley - May 11. There may be others, and we will keep you informed.

★ **Democracy In Action is May 13.** We are honoring **Terry and David McCoy**, and will also recognize the 90th anniversary of LWV at the event.

★ **LWVMC Annual Meeting is June 7.** Please come to the North Library (Worthington) and celebrate. No birthday party would be complete without cake! Bring your potluck dish, see old League friends, make new League friends, listen to our wonderful speaker, conduct important League business, and join in the festivities!

★ There is a possibility that we will host author and nationally syndicated newspaper columnist **Ellen Goodman** later in the year as part of the anniversary celebration. Watch for more details of this exciting event!

★ Screening of the film **Iron Jawed Angels**, which is the story of the women's right to vote

movement in the early 20th century. We are currently looking to partnering with Kids Voting and showing the movie at their annual conference, plus getting government and social studies teachers involved in order to reach their students

★ **LWVMC Membership Campaign** to get 90 new members.

★ Special **historical information** on the website, www.lwvcols.org.

★ Recognition of August 26, **Women's Equality Day**. This is the day the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

You are invited to participate in all events and help with them. If interested, please contact **Amy Pulles** at the League office, 614-837-1089.

Welcome New Member

Richard Hall

★ Government Leaders Honor League's 90th Birthday

Gov. Ted Strickland hailed April 14 as "Making Democracy Work Day" in honor of the League of Women Voters, while the Columbus City Council lauded the League's 90th anniversary.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus celebrated at City Council and at the Ohio League's annual Statehouse Day event.

Both houses of the Ohio General Assembly also issued commendations recognizing the 90th anniversary of the League's founding.

The League of Women Voters was founded at the national, state, and local levels just as passage of the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote. The Metropolitan Columbus League was actually founded in 1919, seven months before the Ohio League and ten months before the US League.

The League is celebrating nine decades of working to ensure that voters have the unbiased information they need to cast informed ballots;

that every eligible voter can vote; and that every valid vote is counted. In addition, the state League has worked over the decades on such critical issues as justice and community safety; objective and fair redistricting procedures; programs that meet basic human needs; adequate and equitable financing for public schools; and responsible management of Ohio's natural resources.

The Metropolitan Columbus League has focused on such issues as discrimination in public schools, overcrowding in jails, and conservation of natural resources. The League is also well known for its voter-education and voter-protection efforts.

Below are excerpts from the resolutions.

From Gov. Ted Strickland:

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement;...

WHEREAS, Ohio has benefited tremendously from the countless volunteer hours donated by League members over its 90 year history of enhancing our democracy,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ted Strickland, Governor of Ohio, do hereby recognize April 14, 2010, as "Making Democracy Work Day" in honor of the League of Women Voters 90th Anniversary and urge all residents of Ohio to pay great tribute and respect to the League for all they do to make our community healthy, vibrant and strong.

From Speaker of the House Armond Budish on behalf of the members of the House of Representatives:

Since its inception in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Ohio has encouraged the participation of citizens in government, striven to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and worked to influence public policy through education and advocacy... A dedicated group of individuals, they have donated countless hours of their time to meeting the needs of Ohio's residents, and their numerous achievements are truly praiseworthy.

From a resolution by Senator Bill Harris, President of the Ohio Senate:

Over the years, this exemplary organization has attained a praiseworthy record of service to Ohio's citizens, and its achievements are a justifiable source of pride and an outstanding reflection not only on the group itself but also on its dedicated members, on the state, and on LWV as a whole...

From a resolution by the City Council of Columbus:

WHEREAS, the League has held the public trust for ninety years by respectfully bringing elected leaders and the public together through nonpartisan, civil means; and WHEREAS, the city of Columbus and the central Ohio area have benefited tremendously from the countless volunteer hours donated by League members over the ninety-year history of the organization...

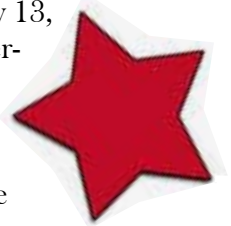
★ All Invited to Democracy In Action Award Ceremony

Terry and David McCoy will receive the 2010 Democracy In Action award, May 13, as the League celebrates its 90th anniversary. The honor is the League's premier citizenship award presented to those who make central Ohio a more democratic place to live - a place where anyone can take part in the political process.

Terry, who died October 2, 2009, was a longtime League leader at the local, state, and national level. David remains a committed League volunteer and local activist on such issues as capital punishment.

In recent years, the Democracy In Action awards ceremony has filled the Ohio Statehouse Atrium with concerned citizens who believe that democracy is not a spectator sport. Individuals come together to celebrate local residents valuable contributions to the civic life of Columbus.

This year's event at the Statehouse Atrium will be held 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. To buy a ticket, which will be held at the door, contact the LWMC Office or go online to www.lwvcols.org.



Mark Your Calendar...

For complete details about these events, visit www.lwvcols.org.

- May 11 LWVO Lobby Lunch, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Columbus Metropolitan Main Library
- May 13 LWVMC Democracy In Action, 5:30 pm, Ohio Statehouse Atrium★
- May 20 LWVMC Morning Unit, 9:30-11:00 am
- May 25 LWVO Lobby Lunch
- June 2 LWVMC Dinner Unit, 5:30 pm *Note change of date.*
- June 7 LWVMC Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm★
- June 8 LWVO Lobby Lunch



Become a Fan on Facebook

Join us on Facebook to see photos of League events and to connect with other members and fans. Simply click the Facebook logo on the LWVMC homepage at www.lwvcols.org.

★Happy Birthday League!

We're celebrating all year long! Look for articles marked with a red star for special 90th anniversary activities and events.