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Presentation by Susan Tilgner on June 2 **“Talkin’ Trash: From Waste to Resources”**

Can Central Ohio reduce the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills and, at the same time, turn trash into a resource? The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) answers this question in the affirmative.

Susan A. Tilgner, currently the interim executive director and chairperson of the Board of Trustees of SWACO, will explain the answer to this question in her Torch paper on June 2 at The Ohio State University Faculty Club. The title of her paper is “Talkin’ Trash: From Waste to Resources.”

SWACO is one of 52 single and multi-county solid waste management districts established under Ohio’s solid waste management program. The primary goal is to reduce reliance on landfills for solid waste disposal in Ohio. This is accomplished through recycling programs, yard waste composting services, public education, and other activities to reduce generation and disposal of solid waste.

SWACO also operates a sanitary landfill with a maximum daily capacity of 8,000 tons and two solid waste transfer stations with a combined capacity of approximately 3,000 tons per day. In her Torch paper, Susan will share how SWACO maximizes the waste stream to enable community growth, prosperity and environmental stewardship.



Susan A. Tilgner

Biography of Susan A. Tilgner

In addition to her positions with SWACO, Susan is the executive director of the Ohio Public Health Partnership, a collaboration of the five public health associations in Ohio. In this capacity, she serves as

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Biography of Susan A. Tilgner

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the project director for the Ohio *Public Health in the 21st Century* Project and leads the Accreditation Learning Community, providing networking opportunities and technical assistance to local health departments on their path to accreditation.

Susan served as the health commissioner for Franklin County from 1999 to 2016 and for the City of Marion from 1994 to 1999. Prior to these roles, she was hired as the first epidemiologist for the Columbus Health Department.

Susan holds a Master of Science degree in preventive medicine and a Bachelor of Science degree, both from The Ohio State University. She is a former registered and licensed dietitian and a former registered sanitarian. She is a past president of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners and the Ohio Public Health Association. She is also a public health consultant, having worked on projects with local health departments in Ohio and the Public Health National Center for Innovation. She is also a volunteer site visitor for the Public Health Accreditation Board.

President's message: Living in interesting times

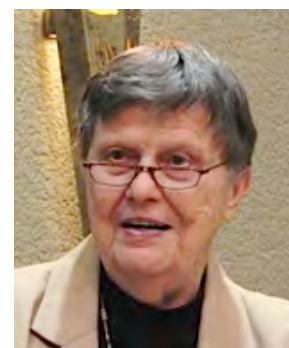
“May you live in interesting times” is regarded as an, albeit tacit, curse – and no doubt this year in the life of Columbus Torch Club has been interesting! It surely has been interesting to experience moving from the shutdown of the pandemic to facing the long-term reality of coping with COVID!

INTERESTING TIMES? We cancelled the February meeting because of a seriously threatening ice storm – while the sun was brightly shining. Then adding a meeting in June is a first in memory. On the other hand, “How can I keep from singing?” was a perfect line from one of the spectacular, spirit-lifting selections sung by the Ohio State Men’s Glee Club at our December celebration.

As we enjoyed the cautious return of more and more members, each of our speakers gave us excellent papers, important for our times. We learned about the evolution of the nursing profession and how the work of women differs from the work of men. We were left to ponder Justice John Marshal Harlan’s insistence that “our Constitution is color blind” and then confronted the reality of lingering effects of laws and practices that leave our own community with unequal access to education and housing. Charles Schulz, too, has left us with a cast of characters who have inhabited our lives since the 1950s. This lecture will be remembered not only for the fascinating background of the Peanuts gang, but for the pitch perfect delivery under the most distracting circumstances!

A very important paper by a renowned researcher shared how sustainable soil management can help with food security, water quality and climate change, crucial to our success dealing with our environment. Our final paper will suggest developing ways to deal with the debris of our wasteful culture. There could be no better person to present the lecture than Susan Tilgner, the current (interim) executive director of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). With great expectation, this summer Susan will be installed as the next president of our Columbus Torch Club.

Together we have lived through a very “interesting” year – and found many blessings along the way!



Nancy Wardwell

Member's Moment – Violet Meek

Presented by Don Dell on May 5

I present to you the Rev. Dr. Violet Imhof Meek. Hers is a story of **time and change** (a phrase familiar to many of you).

Born in Warrenville, Ill., she moved with her family to Oak Creek, Wis., as a young girl and completed her secondary education at Pulaski High School in Milwaukee, graduating in three years as co-valedictorian.

Part of the research for this presentation involved discovery of a feature story in the May 10, 1956, issue of *The Cavalier*, her high school newspaper. Here we learn that she was “a natural whiz at almost every subject under the sun.” Also, she was the club editor of *The Cavalier*, a member of the senior orchestra (in which she played her cello named Cecil), active in her church and its choir and a part-time salesperson at Gimbels. Her favorite meal was reported to be Thanksgiving dinner and “Beyond the Sea” was her favorite pop song. (Note: since her musical tastes were and are classical, she had to ask others which popular song to choose). Finally, she expressed her intention to attend St. Olaf College and to study chemistry or physics.

She did indeed attend St. Olaf, major in chemistry, play in the orchestra, and spend an outrageous amount of time in the lab doing independent research. Her work there and the encouragement of her faculty led to the Ph.D. program in chemistry at the University of Illinois from which she received a Ph.D. in 1964. In the research group she joined at Illinois, she met Devon Meek who later became her husband.

On completing her Ph.D., Violet moved to Massachusetts to take a faculty position at Mount Holyoke College. Again, time and change intervened, and she married Devon and moved to Columbus – where he was already on the Ohio State University faculty. Ohio Wesleyan University recruited her to its faculty in chemistry. She advanced through the ranks from assistant professor to full professor, later becoming department chairperson and, still later, serving as dean for educational services at OWU.

Plans to move to the District of Columbia area led her to a position with the Council of Independent Colleges. However, Devon's health issues necessitated her return to Columbus; Devon died of cancer in 1988.



Violet Meek was presented for the Member's Moment on May 5 by her husband Don Dell.

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Member's Moment – Violet Meek

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Violet secured a position as a development officer in the OSU Research Foundation. That position included work with Ohio State's regional campuses, a connection that eventually led to her appointment as dean and director of the Ohio State University Lima campus in May 1991. During the decade she was in this role, the number of four-year programs available to Lima students increased from 1 to 10. Violet was very active in the Lima community, serving on (and chairing) the Lima Symphony Board, the Board of Art Space, the Chamber of Commerce Board, the United Way Board, and the Lima/Allen County Educational Foundation. She was also a regular guest on a noon TV show on WLIO.

The other connection that grew out of her work with the Ohio State University Research Foundation involved an associate dean in the College of Social and Behavioral Science. We were married in January 1992.

Beyond the academy, Violet was very active in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving on the boards of Lutheran Social Services and the Lutheran Student Center at OSU. She was also a member (and later chair) of the Board of Trinity Lutheran Seminary. In 2002 she was ordained as a pastor in the ELCA and served Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Logan, Ohio, area for a dozen years. During her time at Emmanuel, attendance doubled and the members built an addition to the church building. Since then, she continues to do "supply preaching."

In the most recent years, Violet has been much involved, through the Columbus Rotary Club, in providing scholarship aid for Columbus public school students.

Violet's hobbies include reading (especially Civil War and World War II history as a study in leadership), vocal music (she was a founding member of the Columbus Chamber Singers), and travel (including study tours to Russia and Czech Republic and a New Zealand trip with daughter Karyn).

Our family includes three children and seven grandchildren in Ohio; one son who is a metalsmith and small business owner and entrepreneur in California; and one daughter who is a Broadway stage manager and mother to two "grandcats" in New York.

Time and change indeed! Her several careers are the source of multiple interesting anecdotes. Be sure you ask her about some of these. Friends, I give you Violet Meek.

Torch Club briefs

- The Columbus Torch Club extended its program year to include a Torch paper and dinner on June 2 as a result of a snow and ice storm that forced the cancellation of the Torch meeting on February 3. Susan Tilgner agreed to present her Torch paper in June so the 2021-22 program year retained seven papers and the holiday performance and dinner.
- If any Torch Club member needs a ride to a monthly Torch meeting, or if you are willing to provide transportation for a member, please contact the club's Fellowship Committee. You may reach the Fellowship Committee through its chair, Diane Selby, at (614) 571-4226 and Dianeselby@gmail.com.
- Effective March 11, The Ohio State University made mask-wearing optional in most indoor spaces on its campuses, including the Faculty Club.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach has sent you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on June 2. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 499-3090.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest is \$30. A potential member may attend one dinner meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2021-22

October 7, 2021: **“It’s Not Your Grandmother’s Nursing”** by Elizabeth Lenz

November 4, 2021: **“The Harlan Brothers in Black and White: Justice John Marshall Harlan, U.S. Supreme Court and Rep. Robert James Harlan, Ohio House of Representatives”** by Violet Meek

December 2, 2021: **The Ohio State University Men’s Glee Club**, Robert Ward, Director

January 6, 2022: **“How Do Women and Men Differ in Their Work and Careers?”** by Francille Firebaugh

February 3, 2022: Weather-related cancelation

March 3, 2022: **“Considering Racism and How It Shaped Central Ohio Neighborhoods”** by

Michael Wilkos

April 7, 2022: **“Agriculture as a Source and Solution to Climate Change”** by Rattan Lal

May 5, 2022: **“Celebrating Sparky – Charles Schulz and Peanuts”** by Lucy Caswell

June 2, 2022: **“Talkin’ Trash: From Waste to Resources”** by Susan Tilgner

Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker
7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2022-23

President – Susan Tilgner

President-elect – Rai Goerler

Immediate Past President – Nancy S. Wardwell

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – David Lenz

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Nancy S. Wardwell

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Website Editor – Rai Goerler

Director-at-Large – Paul Niswander (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)

Director-at-Large – David Hansen (2024)

Director-at-Large – Christina Atzberger (2024)

IATC Region 5 Director – Violet Meek