



March 2021
Volume 15, Issue 7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's message: Club cruises well despite the pandemic's difficulties.....	2
Board approves applications of three new members.....	2
IATC will hold 'fireside chat' for members on March 7.....	3
Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2020-21.....	3
Board of Directors of the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2020-21.....	3

Greg Travaglio will scrutinize the nation's All-Volunteer Military

The United States military has deployed the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) since 1973. How effective has the AVF been, what has been its costs, and what are the alternatives? These are among the questions that Gregory Travaglio will discuss in his Torch paper on Thursday, March 4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Torch Club members will not meet in person. Instead, Greg will present "The All-Volunteer Military: The Pros, the Cons, and the Alternatives" over Zoom at 7 p.m.

As a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Judge-Advocate General's Corps, Greg brings extensive experience in the military to his Torch paper. He has been a Torch member since 2002 and is the Lawrence B. Stanley Professor of Law, Emeritus, at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He earned his bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and his Master of Law (LLM) degree from Columbia University. He maintains a law practice with Isaac Wiles, LLC.



Greg Travaglio

Greg will begin his paper by examining concerns expressed by the federal commission in recommending an all-volunteer military in 1970. The paper also will touch on the direct costs of recruiting and staffing the AVF and the indirect costs to military members, their families and society. It will scrutinize the effect of the AVF on U.S. foreign policy and will contrast the advantages and disadvantages of the AVF with those of its polar opposite, the draft.

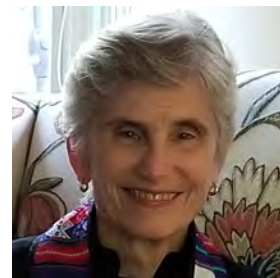
"Finally, the paper will briefly look at what has been suggested as a compromise: a mandatory public service obligation which would include the military as an option but would encompass an array of possible alternatives," Greg says. "The paper comes to no definitive conclusions, but I hope it will both inform the audience and provide a basis for thoughtful discussion."

Zoom link to Columbus Torch Club's meeting on March 4

The Zoom link to the Columbus Torch Club's meeting on March 4 is the same one each month. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89961138689?pwd=aBrcEtrYVFrSUNNTXp1VTFabnhKdz09>

President's message: Club cruises well despite the pandemic's difficulties

If the Columbus Torch Club was a ship, I would say we have cruised along extremely well despite a couple of months caught in the doldrums followed by a few big waves. We faced the disappointment of having to go into dry dock last April, but by fall we had regrouped and were able to set sail again. Thanks to a gift membership on Zoom from Torch International, we have been able to host four outstanding presentations with three to come and a social gathering where we met and conversed with friends in chat rooms. We continue to hold monthly board meetings. We have welcomed three new members, and we have kept a healthy bank account that enables us to maintain our spot at the Faculty Club until it is open once again for larger gatherings.



**Susan Warrener
Smith**

I am so grateful for our board members who have provided this old ship's captain with a dependable crew. I want to be sure you know the individuals who have been attending to our well-being. Howard Gauthier has been our purser, meticulously keeping our books. Susan Tilgner keeps our records straight. Deb Stevens has been our chief engineer, enabling us to do presentations on Zoom, share screens, talk to each other, and even enter chat rooms. Dorothy Driskell is like a first mate, sharing her extensive experience both in our club as board member, past president, and ongoing chair of membership, as well as now serving as president of Torch International. Steve Sterrett keeps us up to speed on what is happening by writing the monthly newsletter and now creating a website. Liz Short keeps us connected with other Ohio clubs as well as serving on the board of Torch International. Thom Seelbach continues to keep our membership list accurate (and, I would add, makes all the dinner arrangements when we are at the Faculty Club; a big job). Nancy Wardwell helps us stay connected by heading up the fellowship committee and reaching out to members. As president-elect, she will step on the bridge to steer the ship next year. David Lenz and Diane Selby serve as members-at-large and have been ready and willing to help out wherever needed. And finally, Violet Meek, as past president, has been a great support and guide to me. When you can, I hope you will express your appreciation to these hard-working men and women.

Ships are known for their lights. While the symbol for Torch is not a ship's lantern, it is noteworthy that at its top is a flame, which is the ancient symbol for light and truth. It is my hope that, as we have navigated this year and continue to do so in the coming months, our club has been and will continue to be a source of light and truth for you.

Board approves applications of three new members

At its meeting on February 4, the club's Board of Directors approved the applications of three new members. These members will be formally introduced at the next in-person meeting of the club:

Kent Bermingham of Powell was born in St. Joseph, Mich., and earned his B.S. degree from Columbia Union College. He attended Howard University Law School for a year. He is a certified public accountant, served in the U.S. Army and was a financial executive with oil and gas companies for a number of years. He has participated in the start-up of four companies. His sponsor is Christopher Yanai.

Helena Goscilo of Upper Arlington was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and attended grammar school in England. She immigrated to the United States with her family. She earned her Ph.D. in Slavic studies from

Indiana University. She taught for a number of years at the University of Pittsburgh, then joined the faculty of Ohio State in 2009. She is a professor and former chair of the university's Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. Her sponsor is Connie Oulanoff.

Bill LaFayette of Lockbourne is an economist and business owner. He earned his B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Wright State University and his Ph.D. in real estate and financial economics in 1994 from Ohio State. In 2011, he founded Regionomics, an economic consulting firm specializing in the economies of small areas, such as neighborhoods, communities and regions, with a focus on strategic economic and workforce analysis and planning services. Bill previously served for 12 years as vice president for economic analysis for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He writes a bimonthly column on the Ohio economy for Hannah News Service and each year publishes an economic forecast for central Ohio. His sponsor is Bruce Smith.

IATC will hold 'fireside chat' for members on March 7

All members of Torch Clubs across the United States and Canada are invited by the International Association of Torch Clubs to join a "fireside chat" over Zoom on Sunday, March 7, at 2 p.m. Eastern/3 p.m. Central time. IATC will distribute more information on the event via email in the next few days.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2020-21

October 1, 2020: **"Lofty Aspirations, Humble Beginnings: The Early Years at OSU"** by Rai Goerler

November 5, 2020: **"I'm Available: The Life and Career of a Free Lance Illustrator"** by Roy Lewicki

December 3, 2020: **Social gathering** over Zoom.

January 7, 2021: **"What Columbus Invented and What It Didn't"** by Joe Blundo

February 4, 2021: **"Islamic Spirituality: the Qu'ran, the Symbolism of Jesus, and the Poetry of Rumi"** by Fazeel Khan

March 4, 2021: **"The All-Volunteer Military: The Pros, the Cons, and the Alternatives"** by Greg Travalio

April 1, 2021: **"How Do Women and Men Differ in Their Work"** by Francille Firebaugh

May 6, 2021: **"The Man Behind Warren Buffett's Curtain"** by Tom Costantiello

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2020-21

President – Susan Warrener Smith

President-elect – Nancy S. Wardwell

Immediate Past President – Violet I. Meek

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Deborah K. Stevens

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Nancy Wardwell

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Violet I. Meek

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2021)

Director-at-Large Elizabeth Short (2021)

Director-at-Large David Lenz (2022)

Director-at-Large Diane Selby (2022)

Region 5 Director Elizabeth Short