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Presentation by Bill LaFayette on March 2: “The Columbus Economy”



Bill LaFayette

Bill LaFayette, who earned his Ph.D. in real estate economics from The Ohio State University in 1994, will share insights gained from 27 years of experience in Central Ohio economic analysis and development in his Torch paper, “The Columbus Economy.” Bill will deliver his paper at the Torch Club meeting on Thursday, March 2.

Bill will discuss the historical and projected growth of the Central Ohio population and what it means for our workforce and economic growth. “Many people describe the Central Ohio economy as state government and Ohio State,” he says. “While those are two important aspects of our economy, it is much broader than that. I will discuss the wide range of industries that make the local economy tick.”

He acknowledges that among the questions on most local people’s minds is the impact on our region of the Intel development occurring just over the Licking County line. While no one currently knows the full answer, he will share what he knows now.

Bill originally joined the Columbus Torch Club in September 2020 at the urging of the Rev. Bruce Smith. After taking a year off to hide from the pandemic, he rejoined this past September. He is enjoying meeting people and making new friends at the monthly meetings.

Biography of Bill LaFayette

Bill LaFayette is founder and owner of Regionomics®, a consulting firm focused on helping clients understand and thrive in small-area economies — neighborhoods, communities, and regions. Services include economic development strategy, workforce strategy, economic impact analysis, economic and

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Biography of Bill LaFayette

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demographic analysis, and local government fiscal analysis and forecasting.

Prior to founding Regionomics in 2011, Bill spent 12 years as vice president of economic analysis for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and four years as research coordinator for Rickenbacker Port Authority.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Bill originally moved to Columbus in 1983 to begin his doctoral work at Ohio State. After leaving for the Dallas area to teach real estate at the University of North Texas, Bill returned to Columbus in 1992, finished his degree, and has been here ever since. Unable to leave teaching entirely, Bill teaches one class per year: a capstone seminar in research methods for graduate students in Ohio State's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Bill is a co-author of *Knowledge Economies and Knowledge Work* (Emerald Publishing, 2019), writes a quarterly Ohio Economic Update for the Ohio Realtors®, and has produced an economic forecast for the Columbus metropolitan area annually since 2000. He is a board member of the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County, a City of Columbus-appointed commissioner of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a member of the Columbus Metropolitan Club Program Committee.

Bill earned an M.B.A. in investment management and a B.S. degree, *Summa cum Laude*, in finance and accounting, both from Wright State University. He is a 2004 graduate of Leadership Columbus and the 2018 inductee into the Leadership Columbus Hall of Fame.

When not working, Bill focuses on meeting or exceeding his 11,000-step daily walking goal. He enjoys 20th Century British, Scandinavian, American, French, and Soviet concert music, and developed an interest in historical pop music while in high school – most recently, British dance band music of the 1930s and 1940s. Bill and his husband Ron Templin live in semi-rural far south Columbus, which he notes “is becoming less rural by the day.”

Member's Moment: Paul Miller

Presented by Gene Gilliom on February 2

Paul Miller has been a Torch Club member since 2018. He is the son of long-time Torch Club member A.J. Miller.

As a child, Paul was active in Scouting and became an Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow. He is graduate of Northland High School, where he was on the In-The-Know team and a member of the chess team that finished 11th in the nation. He went on to be rated an expert chess player by the United States Chess Federation.

Paul received a B.S. degree in education from Bowling Green State University, where he was president of the chess club and edited a publication that was chosen as the best weekly chess publication in the country by the Chess Journalists of America. After a short stint teaching English, history and civics at a joint vocational school in Lorain County, he enrolled at The Ohio State University, where he earned a master's degree in education with a focus on workforce development.

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Member's Moment: Paul Miller

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Paul subsequently spent 35 years designing, developing, implementing and evaluating solutions designed to help individuals and organizations improve their work performance. As a senior consultant



Paul Miller (left) with his presenter, Gene Gilliom, at the Torch Club meeting Feb. 2.

in the world-class human resources consulting practice at KPMG, Paul developed the training project methodology used by KPMG's global consulting practice and developed communication plans for large-scale process re-engineering engagements at State Street Bank and International Paper Corporation. He moved seamlessly between individual contributor and leadership roles in a number of notable Central Ohio organizations, including BankOne, Ohio Health and Nationwide Insurance, where he spent the final 18 years of his career.

Paul was the founder and principal of BLSI, a consulting practice that worked with a number of organizations in the healthcare, financial services and hospitality industries, offering leadership development and strategic planning services.

He edited Grady Memorial Hospital's employee newsletter. While working for KPMG, he was the senior editor of a line of subscription manuals and newsletters focused on financial industry regulatory compliance that was published by McGraw-Hill.

Paul served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Society for Healthcare Education and Training (known by its acronym OSHET) and received that organization's outstanding educator award. Often when he would tell colleagues that he was going to attend an OSHET meeting, they would respond, "Oh, I have those kind of meetings, too."

Paul has been married to his wife Kathy for 32 years. They enjoy vacationing in Clearwater Beach and Las Vegas, but have not done either since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has one daughter, Andrea, who is married and lives in Rogersville, Tenn.

Fellowship Committee will arrange rides for members to Torch meetings

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.

Torch Club's program committee invites papers for 2023-24

If you have an idea for a Torch paper to be presented during the 2023-24 program year, it's not too late to discuss it with Rai Goerler, program committee chair and president-elect. You can reach Rai at Goerler.1@osu.edu and (614) 459-4213.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on March 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 2022-23

October 6, 2022: **“Walking the Way: El Camino de Santiago de Compostela”** by the Rev. Dr. Susan Warren Smith

November 3, 2022: **“Climate Change in Ohio”** by Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health

December 1, 2022: **“An Irregular Christmas,”** a holiday gala with Nate Terry, composer and publisher, Major 7 Publishing

January 5, 2023: **“OSU’s Most Famous Murderer: Professor James Howard Snook”** by Raimund Goerler

February 2, 2023: **“Recent Advances in Medicine”** by Dr. Gary Hinzman

March 2, 2023: **“The Columbus Economy”** by Bill LaFayette

April 6, 2023: **“The Sort-of-Great Columbus Trivia Quiz”** by Joe Blundo

May 4, 2023: **“The Challenge of Consensus on a Humane, Pragmatic Policy on Drug Abuse”** presented by Steve Sterrett

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

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive.

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

President – Susan Tilgner

President-elect – Rai Goerler

Immediate Past President – Nancy Wardwell

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – David Lenz

Assistant Treasurer – vacant

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Nancy Wardwell

Region 5 Director – Nancy Wardwell

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Website Editor – Rai Goerler

Director-at-Large – Christina Atzberger (2024)

Director-at-Large – David Hansen (2024)

Director-at-Large – Paul Niswander (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)