



# THE VOTER

## LWVMC President's Message

Kitty Burcsu



It is with sadness, joy and excitement that I write this

month's message. As you know, our dedicated League Administrator, Amy Pulles, has resigned her position with the League and accepted a position with the American Red Cross of Central and Southeast Ohio. Amy has been our anchor since 2001, enabling our League to always run smoothly. She has been a constant, consistent and knowledgeable point of contact for information and answers to all sorts of questions. How many times have we said, "Let's ask Amy.....she'll know"? As president, I have relied on her not only as a bountiful source of information, but also for her common-sense, no-nonsense approach and ability to tackle any problem or issue in a positive and direct manner. She has been the face and the voice of the

League for all of us, encouraging and supporting member leadership and involvement in our efforts. Sadly, we will miss her energy, enthusiasm, passion and dedication.

But, we must also share her joy and celebrate the wonderful new opportunity she has to grow and use her skills in a different arena. We can be very proud that the League has been instrumental in her professional development.

While we will always value Amy's outstanding service to the League as our only paid staff member, we are excited about the new role she can now play as an active League member, volunteer and maybe even future Board member. We're excited, too, about our good fortune in having League member, Kim Young, able and willing to step into the Administrator's position immediately, enabling a smooth transition for all.

Mixed emotions...yes! But definitely a time for celebration! I hope you are planning to attend Amy's grand send-off on February 29 to congratulate her on a job well done and wish her the best in her new position.

*Please join the members of LWVMC to celebrate a decade of dedication.*

*A Farewell Party for Amy Pulles*

*Wednesday, February 29*

*5:30 PM until 7:00 PM*

*Harrison Park Recreation Center*

*575 West First Avenue*

*Columbus, Ohio 43201*

*RSVP by February 22*

*Vote@lwvcols.org or 614-837-1089*

## Changes in the LWVMC Office

LWVMC Members,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Metro Columbus, I am pleased to announce that fellow League member Kim Young is taking over as Interim Administrator. Kim will begin working immediately and on an interim basis.

The contact information for the office will remain the same. There will be no changes to the address, phone or email while Kim is serving as the Administrator.

Once the 4R Committee has finished its work this Spring, the Board of Directors will plan for a more permanent office solution.

We appreciate your patience during this switching around of office space time.

Kim will begin responding to League related emails at [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org).

Amy Pulles

### Meet Kim Young, Interim Executive Director LWVMC

Originally from a small town in Northern Ohio, Kim Young attended college at Ohio University and studied Information Systems and Business Law. After moving to Columbus in 1999, she worked for Qwest Communications in Dublin as a Productivity and Process manager. During the past decade, Kim has volunteered for numerous Ohio nonprofits in various operations and communications capacities.

“My family has always held a high regard for the reliable information on candidates and issues provided by the League of Women Voters.” Kim said, “I am thrilled to be working for this venerable organization and have been energized by daily association with the smart, driven, and accomplished Board and Members of the Metropolitan Columbus League. “

## A Message from the LWV Ohio Office

### Support LWV Ohio: Your Voice on Critical State Issues

We invite members to support the work of the state League, your voice at the Statehouse!

All League members will receive a fundraising appeal letter in February asking for support. LWV Ohio/ Education Fund Development Chair Janet Kershaw (LWV Cuyahoga Area) encourages all League members to participate, noting, “This year will be one of great potential and challenge as we strive to make a difference on redistricting and pro-voter reforms – issues at the core of making democracy work.”

This past year, LWV Ohio/Education Fund made great strides in advocating, educating and

making the case for reform – with achievements in the core League areas of redistricting and election administration and voter protection. With your support, LWV Ohio and our Education Fund have the opportunity to seize the momentum that is growing around these core good government issues and push for significant reform.

You can donate online at [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org) or send a contribution to: League of Women Voters of Ohio, 17 South High Street, Suite 650, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Please join League members from across Ohio in investing in the work of your state League!

# Happy 93rd Birthday League MC

Find a way to support your League in celebration of this 93rd year.

## Help Deliver Meals on Wheels for LifeCare Alliance

As many of you know our League members and friends have helped LifeCare Alliance deliver Meals on Wheels every Sunday. We have a route on Columbus' west side. Each time we deliver our Education Fund receives \$30. That may not seem like a lot of money but we have been doing this for over 10 years. Do the math..  $10 \times 52 \times 30 = \$15,600$ . Every year the Finance Committee budgets this money in. I have had a wonderful core of volunteers ( Laurie Ludlum, Lucy Buzzee, Jan Patton, Carolyn Piper and Norman Geahart, Jane Young with Ellen Haider, Pat Durbin with Esther Connors, Jeanine Michael, and Cheryl Markino and myself). Many of our volunteers have help from family members. I think it is a great opportunity for young people. Each person delivers once every

other month. So some do odd months and some do even months. Usually no one does it more than 6 times a year.

The problem is that we have one person who cannot continue so I need more volunteers. This is not onerous. It takes about 2 1/2 hours to do the route; we make money for the Ed Fund and we help LifeCare feed some very needy people. I take care of the 5th Sundays and the minor holidays. I usually take my granddaughter with me and this helps her earn the volunteer hours for high school graduation. So for questions or wish to volunteer call me (Cathy Elkins) at 614-267-5884 or e-mail me at [catherineelkins@juno.com](mailto:catherineelkins@juno.com). I really hope we can continue to do this very worthwhile project.

Cathy Elkins

## Work the Phones on Election Day

Volunteers are needed ALL DAY (from 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM) to staff the WBNS-10TV Phone Bank on Election Day, March 6th. If interested, please e-mail the times you are available to Esther Connors at [esthermg@columbus.rr.com](mailto:esthermg@columbus.rr.com) or phone her at 614-882-1862.

## Democracy In Action Committee Members Needed

This year the League is honoring Matt Habash of the Mid-Ohio Food bank on Thursday, May 10 at our Annual Democracy In Action Award Ceremony. We need of members to join the committee to help with corporate fundraising, mailing invitations, program book production, and hospitality the night of the event.

If you are interested in getting involved with Democracy In Action, please contact the office today at [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org) or (614) 837-1089.

## Board Members Wanted

The Nominating Committee is looking for potential Board Members to serve on the Board of Directors from June 2012-June 2014. If you are interested, please contact the office at [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org) or (614) 837-1089. We welcome all members to serve on our Board, whether you've been a member for less than 1 year or for the past 50 years. The 4R Committee will have finished its work and implementing plans will be an exciting aspect of the coming Board term.

## Upcoming League Events

On **March 20** the events committee is planning a forum on horizontal shale drilling and fracking. Mark the date on you calendar and watch for time and place.

Are you still uncertain what exactly happens during the process of horizontal shale drilling and fracking? Here are two resources to help you be prepared for the March 15 League meeting:

1) a link to a site with the video that does a nice job of outlining the process:

<http://marcelluscoalition.org/2009/01/drilling-process-video/>, and

2) a brief history that follows of government regulations on unconventional natural gas extractions.

**1969** "Project Rulison" detonated a nuclear bomb underground in Colorado in an attempt to release the natural gas deposits. The gas was too radioactive to use.

**1976** In response to energy shortages, the Department Of Energy launched a joint research project between state, federal, and private industrial organizations to research "unconventional" natural gas resources.

**August 2005** A law was passed by Congress prohibiting the EPA from regulating fracking and dictated what chemicals can be injected underground.

**August 2005** The Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources Research Program was established to develop technologies to increase national oil and gas production and reduce dependency on imports.

**June 2009** The FRAC Law is introduced in Congress that would require companies to disclose the chemicals used in the fracking technique. The bill never came to a vote.

**June 2009** The Department of Energy funded a project to extract renewable energy from hot bedrock by using fracking. The test, which was the Obama administration's first major geothermal venture, was cancelled quickly due to concerns about causing an earthquake.

**February 2010** The House Committee on Energy and Commerce investigated the potential environmental and health impacts of fracking.

**March 2010** The EPA launches a study looking at the impacts of fracking on drinking water nationwide. The final report is due out in 2014.

**December 2010** The Department of Interior heads a forum to discuss the impact of current drilling practices and to consider a policy requiring companies to disclose the chemicals used for fracking. No official rules have been implemented.

**March 2011** The FRAC Act is reintroduced in the House and Senate. It is still in committee.

**April 2011** Congressional Democrats released a report stating that over the past few years gas drillers have injected millions of gallons of fluids containing potentially toxic chemicals into the ground.

**May 2011** Congress introduced the BREATHE Act which would give the EPA the power to regulate air pollution from fracking. The BREATHE Act has yet to pass.

**July 2011** The EPA proposed a set of regulations to reduce harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas production including compounds released by fracking. The regulations have yet been adopted.

**October 2011** The EPA announced it was planning to issue new national rules for fracking wastewater. The process is still in its early stages, and the EPA is currently simply soliciting input.

## Upcoming League Events

### **Charting the Future of our League**

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus Needs YOU.  
YOU can help shape our organization's future impact.  
YOUR ideas can help determine the direction for the next decade of LWVMC's work.

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**Metro High School Cafeteria**

**1929 Kenny Road, Columbus 43210**

**5:30 PM – Networking and refreshments**

**6:00 - 8:30 PM – Conversations**

RSVP by February 20th to [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org).  
Don't miss this evening of fast-paced, provocative, facilitated conversations.  
Make what typically happens in post-event "parking lot conversations"  
the agenda of this evening's discussion!

### **Consensus Meeting - Regional Planning and Land Use Study**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

**the Columbus Board of Realtors**

**2700 Airport Drive, Columbus 43219**

**6:00 PM**

All members in attendance will have an opportunity to help form our future position on  
**Regional Planning and Land Use.**

### **Democracy In Action 2012**

The 2012 Democracy in Action recipient is **Matt Habash**, President and CEO of Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Please join League members and friends at this year's award ceremony and reception.

Join Honorary Co-Chairs Phil Cass, CEO Columbus Medical Association; Melinda Swan, Founder of Collective Genius; and Evelyn Behm, former Senior VP of the Food Bank to honor Matt Habash's years of contributing to our community.

**In the spirit of reinventing our League, DIA will be held at a new place at a new time:**

**The Atrium of Mid-Ohio Food Bank**

**3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City, OH 43123**

**Thursday, May 10, 2010**

**6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

Plan for an evening of food, fun and kudos for Matt Habash as we support his work and the work of the League.

Optional tour of the Foodbank and new food pantry at the conclusion of the event.  
Tickets are available by contacting the League at [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org). Mark you calendar!

# Committee Reports

## Regional Planning and Land Use Committee

Land Use Lingo  
or

### Land Use Planning Definitions (to help you prepare for consensus)

Things are definitely percolating in the field of Land Use Planning. Perhaps for that reason, the terminology used is in flux. The terms used in this paragraph describe about the same process, but with the accent on different syllables. For instance, **Smart Growth** emphasizes the revitalization of existing communities, multi-use neighborhoods, the preservation of open space, and compact building design, while **New Urbanism** emphasizes characteristics of traditional European towns with compact layouts, walkable downtown districts, and a transit-oriented design that decreases dependence on cars. The term **Life-Long Communities** is self-explanatory and means about the same thing, but with special thought given to the residential and other needs of the aging population. Looking at it from an environmental standpoint, **Sustainable Development** meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Transit oriented development** refers to denser communities that are designed so that many people are within walking distance of a transit station or, more generally, within walking distance of a transit stop. (Columbus hasn't evolved to that point yet.)

Columbus and other communities have **Comprehensive Plans**—policy documents that a community develops to convey its long-term vision. These plans can shape local **zoning codes**, which are being revised to encourage more mixed-use communities. (See <http://development.columbus.gov/planning.aspx>)

continued Land Use Lingo page 7

"Make a difference about something other than yourselves."

— Toni Morrison, first African-American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature

## Membership Committee

The League MC extends a warm welcome to new members:

Gaven Devore Leonard

Sara Neikirk

Deb and Bryan Peluso

These new members have joined with 25 other men and women who have become members of the Metro Columbus League of Women Voters since Annual Meeting in June 2011. Our organization, with its long tradition of fostering informed citizen participation in the democratic process, is currently engaged in mapping a route to the future that will enhance our impact and presence in the Central Ohio community. LWVMC is happy to have you join in this exciting journey and look forward to meeting each of you in person at any of the upcoming events noted in the League's weekly online update.

Do mark your calendar for a social and educational event that the Membership Committee is planning on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Members will have an opportunity to visit the Weinland Park Neighborhood, one of several redevelopment projects in Columbus and surrounding suburbs noted by the Land Use Study Committee.

Mim Brierley

## Advocacy Committee

Are you interesting in local issues? The Advocacy Committee has scheduled a meeting for Monday, March 5 at 7pm. Email Scott Britton ([sbritton@wowway.com](mailto:sbritton@wowway.com)) for details.

# Committee Report

Land Use Lingo continued from page 6

The committee has been studying with special interest a program that MORPC has been taking the lead in, using funding received from the state. It is a **Balanced Growth Plan**, a proactive, voluntary and incentive-based process where communities located within the same watershed come together to develop a strategic plan that transcends political boundaries—a **Watershed Planning Partnership**.

**Watersheds** are areas of land that channel water to a particular creek, river, lake or other body of water. The five watersheds in central Ohio are Big Darby, Big Walnut, Upper Scioto, Olentangy, and Walnut Creek. Watershed management is very important to the quality and the supply of water. See

<http://balancedgrowthplanning.morpc.org/>.

An interesting tool being used to try to help redevelop declining neighborhoods is **Land Banks**. The **Columbus Land Bank** was

established in 1994 as part of the Land Reutilization Program (ORC 5722). The land bank acquires vacant, abandoned properties with the goal of changing them into productive community assets by tearing them down or rehabilitating them. To date they have sold over 450 properties. (See <http://development.columbus.gov/planning.aspx>.) Franklin County is also in the process of starting a land bank.

Then there are **Lulus— Locally Undesirable Land Uses** (e.g. landfills, prisons) where the goal should be to spread them out to avoid unfairly burdening any one segment of the community.

The **consensus meeting** where all members will have an opportunity to help form our future position on **Regional Planning and Land Use** is scheduled for **April 18, 6 p.m., at the Columbus Board of Realtors**.

Ellen Haider and Mary Kaul

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."  
— Alice Walker, author of "The Color Purple"

# Redistricting Lobby Report

LWVO along with other good government groups and interested individuals is moving ahead on a proposed initiative to be placed on the November 2012 ballot. We are getting the initial 1000 signatures we need to file the proposal with the Secretary of State. We hope that in the future redistricting will be done by a commission composed of citizens - not politicians and lobbyists. The process should be transparent and invite input from the public. The Commission should be guided by the principle that districts should be drawn to produce representatives that reflect the political values of Ohioans and should not be drawn to favor one political party. There will be lots of volunteer opportunities in the near future - so keep reading your VOTERS! Ann Henkener

If you are interested in the Lobby Corp join them for lunch every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at noon at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 South Grant Ave., Columbus 43215, or contact Nancy Brown, [ngbrown@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ngbrown@columbus.rr.com).

Issues covered by the Lobby Corp include Representative Government, International Relations, Social Policy, and Natural Resources. League Positions can be found in [Agenda For Action](#) (Ohio Positions) and [Impact on Issues](#) (US Positions). Both publications can be found on the MC website, [lvcols.org](http://lvcols.org), under the button "taking action, where we stand".

## League Activities

General Member Meeting	Thur., Feb. 23	6:30 PM	Metro High School
Advocacy Meeting	Monday, March	7:00 PM	
Primary Election Day	Tues., March 6		
State House Day/State Council	Tues., Apr. 10	9:00 AM	TBA
Land Use Consensus Meeting	Wed., Apr. 18	6:00 PM	Columbus Board of Realtors
Beyond the Units: Weinland Park	Sat., Apr. 21	9:00 AM	Godman Guild
Democracy In Action	Thur., May 10	5:30 PM	Mid-Ohio Food Bank
Annual Meeting	Mon., Jun. 4	6:00 PM	TBA

"I rejected the notion that my race or sex would bar my success in life."  
— **Constance Baker Motley, first African-American woman to serve as a federal judge**

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