



# THE VOTER

## LWVMC MEMBERS AROUND THE TOWN

Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown, OSU President E. Gordon Gee, former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, along with other dignitaries, League members, family and friends turned out to salute Nancy Rogers May 12 at the League's annual Democracy In Action awards gala at the Ohio Statehouse.



Former Dean of OSU's Moritz College of Law, Rogers now serves as chair of alternative dispute resolution at the law school. She was appointed by former Gov. Ted Strickland to serve as Ohio Attorney General when Marc Dann stepped down.

The evening featured tributes from Gee, Cordray, current law school dean Alan Michaels and professor Sharon Davies, and Carl Smallwood. David McCoy, who received the award in 2010 with his late wife, Terry, presented Rogers with the award.

Pictured above: David McCoy, Nancy Rogers, Richard Cordray.  
Pictured below left: members Kitty Burcsu, Brent Taggart, Scott Britton, and Anne Nelson.  
Picture below right: members, Janyce Katz, Barbara McAdam Muller and Louise Pence.



More DIA on page 2

## LWVMC MEMBERS AROUND THE TOWN, continued

Democracy In Action 2011 is now a part of the history books. After hearing the co-chairs talk about Nancy Rogers and her commitment to the central Ohio community and the entire state of Ohio as Attorney General, I was proud to be a League member and part of an organization that honors such wonderful central Ohioans.

I'd like to thank all of our volunteers who helped out with this year's event: Kitty Burcsu, Scott Britton, Lucy & David Buzzee, Esther Connors, Barbara Crabill, Kathy Dougherty, Anne Hoke, Janyce Katz, Mary Kaul, David McCoy, Anne Nelson, Jan Patton, Eleanor Pearlman, Beth & Brent Taggart, Stuart & Margaret Wright, and Jane Young.



Pictured above: Yvette McGee Brown and Nancy Rogers

This year's sponsors included The Ohio State University, Honda of America Manufacturing, Beth & Brent Taggart, Worthington Industries, & Crane Plastics. We'd also like to thank all of our members who attended DIA and served as Patrons of the event.

We are looking forward to starting our plans for Democracy In Action 2012!

Amy Pulles, LWVMC Office Administrator



Pictured left: E. Gordon Gee, Alan Michaels, Nancy Rogers, and Rev. John Keeny.

Pictured right: Richard Cordray, Nancy Rogers and her daughter, Kim Robinson.

# LWVMC MEMBERS AROUND THE STATE

MC Leaguers joined over 75 state members at the 59th Biennial Convention of LWVO at Maumee Bay State Park for three days of intense workshops, business meetings, and a bit of fun. Titled “Sustaining Democracy Through Sustainable Communities”, the Convention was co-hosted by LWV-Bowling Green, LWV-Perrysburg, LWV-Tiffin Area, LWV-Toledo/Lucas County, and LWV-Ohio.

Metro Columbus’ Meg Flack, current President of LWV-Ohio, presided over the multi-day plenary sessions. While most workshops dealt with League membership and organization issues, there were meetings and caucuses on the topics of fracking and natural gas extraction, human trafficking, and redistricting. For presentations made at the Convention, go to the LWVO website, [lwvo.org](http://lwvo.org), or contact Amy, 837-1089 for a hard copy.



Pictured above: LWVO President Meg Flack  
Pictured below: LWMC members Meg Flack and Nancy Brown



Maumee Bay State Park offered an inviting background for small moments of time for walking, bird-watching, or just sitting with other Leaguers and enjoying. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, the last two days of Convention were stormy and kept Leaguers inside to work. There was a budget to adopt, debate on studies and action resolutions, and adoption of bylaw changes.

LWVMC Around the State continued page 3

## LWVMC MEMBERS AROUND THE STATE, *continued*

The current Ohio State League officers and the Interim Executive Director of the State League, Joanna Helon, were active in facilitating and contributing to the workshops and presentation. They were joined by LWVUS Director of Membership and Field Support Cheryl Graeves and LWVUS/EF Director Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti.

Saturday's lunch speaker was Tom Henry, the Toledo Blade's environment columnist, who spoke to the sustainability of Lake Erie and the Great Lakes. Saturday's Banquet speaker, Lynn Henning, who won the 2010 Goldman Prize for North America, spoke on the effects of Confined Animal Feeding Operations on her home, her state of Michigan, and on the United States.

Metro Columbus delegates to the Convention were Jean Byrd, Anne Light-Hoke, Sonja Nelson Jones, and Danielle Smith. (Pictured right) Metro Columbus was well represented by the delegates and other MC Leaguers in attendance: LWVO President Meg Flack, Nancy Brown, Advocacy Chair of the State League and LWVO Legislative Director Ann Henkener.



Pictured above: LWMC members Meg Flack, Jean Byrd, Ann Henkener, Nancy Brown, Sonja Nelson Jones, Anne Hoke, and Danielle Smith.



The LWVO voted to engage in a study on human trafficking sponsored by the Delaware League. An action resolution was also passed calling for the League to write a letter to Chancellor of Higher Education Jim Petro in support of responsible funding for Ohio's public colleges and universities.

Three MC Leaguers were voted into office for the next two years. Meg Flack and Nancy Brown will be serving the Ohio League as Co-Presidents and Ann Henkener was voted as a Director.

# Committee Reports

## Regional Planning and Land Use Committee Update

In taking on the topic of updating our local League position on Planning the Land Use Committee has taken on a topic that is both very broad and very timely.

Our lives are no longer defined by municipal limits. Whether we live in Columbus or Bexley or elsewhere in the area, we work, shop, seek entertainment and are educated somewhere in the Metropolitan Columbus area. It is becoming clear, then, that neighborhood development in cities and regional development/planning are directly related. Infrastructure needs, environmental issues, neighborhood revitalization and other issues that affect quality of life have an impact on us no matter where in the region they are happening.

The committee members have found it more interesting than usual to follow the daily news because at least several times a week there are news articles related to this broad topic.

What happens in the development of the area near the casino affects us all.

With governments struggling to find operating funds, it's a perfect time to look at our governmental structure. Are all these separate governmental entities really needed?

It is definitely a good time for encouraging intergovernmental cooperation. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce was a driving force behind the Mid-Ohio Development Exchange or MODE which encourages regional economic development.

There is also a need for governments to cooperate in providing the needed services for the region. As simple as that sounds, it is

anything but easy. For instance, recently there have been articles in the paper about the possibility of governments combining emergency services dispatching. But there are considerable costs involved in conversion to digital radio equipment, and the citizens of each little area want to make sure that their service doesn't suffer in the process.

And then there is the question of sprawl. The National Association of Realtors recently released the 2011 Community Preference Survey. The results were mixed. When responders were asked if they preferred to live in a community with single-family homes and a reliance on car transportation or a community with a variety of residential options near public transportation and businesses within walking distance, 56% chose the latter. 30% would like to create communities that require less driving, while only 18% want more roads. When considering a home purchase, 88% of respondents placed more value on the quality of the neighborhood than the size of the home and 77% wanted communities with high-quality schools. [http://www.realtor.org/press\\_room/news\\_releases/2011/04/smart\\_growth](http://www.realtor.org/press_room/news_releases/2011/04/smart_growth)

Another take on sprawl can be found in the article "The New Dynamics that Are Eroding the Market for Sprawl", April 26, 2011 on <http://streetsblog.net>. The author indicates that while demand for sprawling development still exists, it is diminishing. In the future, projected growth in housing demand is going to come largely if not entirely from young people who are much more comfortable with urban lifestyles than their parents were and from retiring baby boomers who no longer have large families living at home. Both groups value easy, walkable access to amenities at least as much as, if not more than, the benefits of a subdivision lifestyle based on driving significant distances and caring for lawns. In the

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## LWVMC Annual Meeting

**Monday, June 6 6:30 PM**

**Columbus Board of Realtors**

**2700 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH 43219**

The LWVMC Board invites all members to the 2011 Annual Meeting. The Board will bring members up-to-date on the new slate of officers, a by-laws amendment, and important updates from the Strategic Planning Committee. This is the opportunity for all MC members to forge ideas and plans for our 2011-2012 year and beyond.

The budget, new slate of officers, by-law amendments were sent out in the May issue of the VOTER. The VOTER can be found on the League webpage, [lwvc.org](http://lwvc.org).

**As in past years, we will have a pot-luck meal so please bring your favorite dish to share with your League friends.**

**RSVP to Amy at [vote@lwvc.org](mailto:vote@lwvc.org) or 614-837-1089 by Friday, June 3.**

### Committees continued from page 5

1960s, families with kids comprised 1/2 or more of American households. That portion is down to 1/3 and projected to shrink further to only 1/4. In between 1960 and 2000, many central cities were in severe decline. Now decline has either slowed dramatically or reversed.

The committee is tentatively aiming to have a general meeting in November to help members prepare for a consensus meeting. You, though, can be preparing by looking at the local news through a regional perspective.

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on June 16 at 9:30 at Wesley Glen.

Ellen Haider  
Committee Co-Chair

## May Opportunity for League Involvement with Units

**Dinner Unit and the State Budget  
Wing's Restaurant, 2801 E. Main Street  
Wednesday, May 25  
dinner 5:30 pm program 6:30pm**

Our topic--chosen at the last Unit meeting--is the state budget. We are fortunate to have two people who have been following the budget closely and can help us with various issues and nuances. They are Deniray Mueller and Bob Erickson. The former is a Deacon in the Episcopal Church and serves as a staff person to work on various social justice and public policy issues. The latter is a Methodist minister who serves now as Director of Hunger Network in Ohio, which pursues legislative changes and policies to help reduce the causes of hunger among many of Ohio's citizens; he also invites people to join him for Tuesdays at the Statehouse, at which time they visit various legislators and lobby for their cause.

The budget proposed by the Governor was amended and passed by the House of Representatives and is now in the hands of the Senate, where more changes are likely. Then to a Conference Committee to iron out the differences which both houses can then pass and send along to be signed by the governor. The new biennial budget takes effect July 1.

Join us! And please, please, let me know if you are going to be with us. It really helps with the preparation of the meeting area.

David McCoy  
[davidomccoy@yahoo.com](mailto:davidomccoy@yahoo.com) or leave a message with Amy 837-1089

## David Patton Chosen As LWVMC Member Of The Year

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus would like to congratulate Dave Patton, this year's Member of the Year.

Dave joined the League, along with his wife Maggie, in October 2005. After joining, it didn't take Dave long to jump right in as a volunteer. Over the years, he has focused on Voter Service and Advocacy. Currently, Dave serves as the Educational Events Committee Chair. This committee is responsible for organizing our educational events, such as public forums. If you attended the Immigration Forum in April, you witnessed first-hand Dave's ability to bring a well-balanced and highly educational event to our members and members of the public. As the Office Administrator for the League, I was very thankful for Dave's work on the committee and his involvement allowed me to focus my attention on other events going on at the League.

Dave has also served as a member of the Steering Committee of the Franklin County Consortium For Good Government (FCCGG). The FCCGG is the coalition of non-profit organizations (of which the League is a part) that sponsor numerous candidate forums across central Ohio each year. He has also served as a moderator of an imPACT Town Hall meeting sponsored by our League.

Dave is also a member of our Advocacy Committee and has put his advocacy experience to great use by serving as a member of the LWVO Lobby Corps, where he focuses on higher education. He has also served a one-year term on the Board of Trustees for the Metropolitan Columbus League.

I'm sure you'll agree, the Board has made an excellent choice by selecting Dave Patton as this year's member of the year. We hope you will attend our Annual Meeting so you can help us congratulate and THANK Dave for his dedication to the League of Women Voters.

Thank you, Dave, and we look forward to more years to come!

Amy Pulles, LWVMC Office Administrator



If you would like to congratulate Dave Patton, please join the MC League at the Annual Meeting on Monday, June 6 at 6:30 PM at the Columbus Board of Realtors, 2700 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH 43219. This is also a great time to meet with other members and to help plan the direction of the MetroColumbus League. Please contact Amy, 837-1089 or [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org) for information.

## LWVMC Members

This month the Voter highlights two MC League members: one a long-standing member and the other a returning member.

### Gloria Davis

My League journey began in 1969. As a member of a church study group our assignment one month was to research groups who make a difference in our community and report back. I chose the League of Women Voters and the journey began.

I had my fourth child 2 years before and it was a time in my life that I was looking for something more than talking with friends about the best detergent and which store had the best price on hamburger. While checking out the League as part of my research, I was in awe of the depth of the discussion and knowledge of the members. Subsequently, I had to join.

I began attending Unit meetings in Clintonville. There were 18 Units and each one was an incubator for leadership. After 2 years as a member, I joined the Education Study Group and then served at the Unit level as Membership Chair, Voter Information Chair and Unit Chair. The League president at that time was Mary Lazarus. She was followed by Dottie Reynolds and Lou Briggs. These 3 women were my role models. During the next several years I served at the Unit level and then on the Metro Board. In 1985-87 I was elected President. I have also served as the Ed Fund President.

With 4 children graduating from the Columbus Public Schools, I was always interested in public education and was most proud of serving as the League representative on a number of committees during the desegregation years. It

was an interesting and volatile time for our community and the League played a big part in stabilizing the process.

Another focus through the years has been voter information and campaign finance. I helped staff phones in the early morning hours at the WBNS TV studio, gave presentations on issues, moderated debates, delivered stacks of VIBs, and volunteered in the Metro office answering phone calls. I served as a member of the Columbus Bar Association Judicial Election Campaign Committee for several years also.

I worked part-time in the Metro League office when it was located across the hall from LWV Ohio in the YWCA. My fondest memories of those days were the great pot lucks we had the day after every election. The discussions were spirited to say the least and it was a lot more fun when League issues prevailed. Through the years I have coordinated televised debates for Ohio Senator, Ohio Governor and Ohio Supreme Court Justice for the LWV Ohio.

For me, membership in the League is a lifetime commitment. During the last several years I have been an event planner, volunteer manager and Co-Project Director of Ohio Citizen Corps. During that time my involvement consisted of reading the Voter, maybe attending a meeting but ALWAYS studying the VIB before an election. League has been a valuable tool in my education of the issues facing us, but the most treasured benefit has been the friendships that I have made and many in those first years in the Clintonville Unit.

Gloria Davis

## Jeff Cabot

I am a returning member of the League of Women Voters, having first joined many years ago. I allowed that membership to lapse, also many years ago.

I am a graduate of the Ohio State University (twice), with a Master's Degree (1972) from what is now called the John Glenn School of Public Affairs and received a law degree from Capital University in 1987.

I am a native of Coshocton, Ohio, where my father served a term on the Coshocton City Council. I have spent my career in public service, having worked at the city, county, and state levels of government. I served for 13 years as the County Administrator of Franklin County, and for 6 ½ years as a member of the Columbus School Board.

I have served as the Executive Director of Management Improvement Commission 2000, a private, not-for-profit corporation organized to review state government operations and make recommendations to Governor Taft for improving efficiency and customer service.

I have also served as a member of the Ohio Board of Building Appeals and on the Environmental Review Appeals Council, and as a private practice attorney and consultant.

I am currently the Executive Director of Kids Voting of Central Ohio, a civic education organization that works with local school districts to help students learn the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Kids Voting holds an annual mock election for students and manages the Youth at the Booth program in Franklin County. It also collaborates with the League as part of the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, and has a Youth Council that meets with local elected officials.

Kids Voting collaborates with the League in other ways, including bringing Youth Council members to the LWV Statehouse Day in April. More information about Kids Voting is available at [www.KidsVotingOH.org](http://www.KidsVotingOH.org).

My wife, Liz Cabot, and I live in Clintonville.

Jeff Cabot

Mim Brierley, Vice-President of Membership, submitted this reprint from *Ballot Box Bulletin*, A Monthly Publication of Kids Voting USA, May 2011.

### **Member of Kids Voting Youth Council Introduces Secretary of State**

At the recent statewide League of Women Voters event, KV Youth Council member, Holly Wickham, introduced Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted to the assembled crowd.

Wickham and five other Youth Council members spent the day learning about civil discourse in the political arena, state budget problems, and new initiatives from the Secretary of State's office.

In her introduction of Sec. Husted, Wickham took the opportunity to put in a major plug for the KV Central Ohio Youth Council. She described to the League members how Youth Council had broadened her horizons and made her much more aware of her political role in the community, in addition to making her a much more politically active person. She also credits her experience this year on Youth Council with making her more committed to being an active citizen and with seeing how important the youth vote is.



## League Activities

Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, May 24	11:30 AM	Metropolitan Library
Evening Unit	Wednesday, May 25	5:30 PM	Wing's Restaurant
Annual Meeting	Monday, June 6	6:30 PM	Columbus Board of Realtors
Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, June 14	11:30 AM	Metropolitan Library
Land Use Committee	Thursday, June 16	9:30 AM	Wesley Glen
Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, June 28	11:30 AM	Metropolitan Library

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