

# THE VOTER

## Happy League New Year

“The new League year is one of promise, opportunity and optimism with a dedicated Board, involved members and the resolve to affirm and maximize the relevancy of our organization. As always, your participation is critical to making our new year successful”.

LWVMC President Kitty Burcsu

One way to start the ‘New Year with League’ is to get together with other Leaguers by serving on an MC Committee. Please contact Amy at 614-837-1089 or [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org) if you are interested. You will enjoy the activities and the MC League need you!

► **Advocacy Committee:** Responsible for advocating on the local level on issues of importance to our members. Any advocating done by the committee must be in agreement with local, state and national positions.

► **Budget Committee:** Responsible for creating the MC and EF Budgets in the Spring of each League year.

► **Development Committee:** Responsible for fundraising activities of the League, including, Democracy in Action, Holiday Auction, and Friends Solicitation. Also responsible for creating new funding opportunities.

► **Educational Events Committee:** Responsible for the development and implementation of the general membership meetings, unit meetings, public forums, and any other educational event held by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus.

► **Finance Committee:** Responsible for an on-going internal review of the fiscal policy and procedures of the

operating fund of the LWVMC and the educational fund of the LWVMC and to serve as a sounding board for the general membership. The Committee shall be responsible for developing fiscal management policies and procedures guidelines and for developing other goals and objectives that the members find necessary to develop sound fiscal practices of the LWVMC.

► **Membership Committee:** Responsible for recruiting and retaining members in the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus.

► **Technology Committee:** Responsible for advancing technology within the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus. Oversees the website and computer equipment used by the League.

► **Voter Service:** Responsible for all voter service activities such as the Voter Information Bulletin, Speaker’s Bureau, Voter Registration Drives, and the Franklin County Consortium For Good Government and all special voter service projects.

## President's Message

Kitty Burcsu

Happy New League Year! Summer is winding down and a new League year officially begins! Ironically, in a year that was termed "maintenance" in order to focus on the 4R process, we've already held or scheduled several "pre-season" events: the State Convention debrief, the new venue dinner unit, the Sept. 7 session on the Ohio collective bargaining law and the Sept. 12 session on the referendum on the healthcare insurance mandate. The League Board and committees have indeed been hard at work this summer! The new League year is one of promise, opportunity and optimism with a dedicated Board, involved members and the resolve to affirm and maximize the relevancy of our organization. As always, your participation is critical to making our new year successful. Renew your membership, plan to attend the Sept. 22 dinner meeting and program, and commit to helping with an activity or event. Here's to a Happy New League Year for all!



## A Year of Volunteer Opportunities

If you can not commit to a LWV committee, another way to start the "New League Year" is to volunteer for specific jobs for the MC League office. This list is not all-inclusive and more requests will be sent out throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these roles or would like more information, please contact me at 614-837-1089 or [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org). I look forward to working more with members this year. We can all work together and make this year a success.

Thanks, Amy Pulles

- Candidate Forum Site Representative
- Voter Information Bulletin (VIB) Sales Coordinator
- VIB Deliveries
- VIB Proof-Reading
- VIB Mailing
- Candidate Forum Invitation Mailing
- Phone Bank Coordinator
- Phone Bank Shift Volunteer
- Holiday Party Committee Member
- Democracy In Action Program Book Editor
- Democracy In Action Honorary Selection  
Committee Member
- Democracy In Action Corporate Sponsorship  
Committee Member
- Democracy In Action Hospitality
- Democracy In Action Coordinating Committee

## November Phone Bank Opportunities

Don't miss out on your opportunity to star on TV and, at the same time, do your part to educate voters on election day. We expect to be doing the Channel 10 phone bank yet again this November. Even though it is an off-off-year election, there will be statewide ballot issues that will generate a lot of interest. Amy has agreed to take phone calls from folks who want to volunteer to answer questions on election day. So don't wait for someone to call you – call Amy and let her know when you want to work. The hours will be between 6:00 a.m and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8. Please sign up for AT LEAST 2 hours, and longer is better. Peg will be there all day to help sort out the goofy questions. There are some new laws this year, so we will all need to read the instructions ahead of time; and we may even try to schedule a training session so we are all up to speed on the new ID and provisional ballot rules.

Peg Rosenfield

## MC League Activities

A "New League Year" brings new activities and activities need extra volunteers to succeed. If you want to work with these events, just let Amy know, 614-837-1089 or [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org).

### Forums with the Council for Public Deliberation

In September LWVMC is co-sponsoring two forums with the Council for Public Deliberation to discuss the two referendums on November's ballot. Both meetings are free and open to the public.

#### Ohio Collective Bargaining Law and Practice

Wednesday September 7  
7:00 pm

#### Whetstone Library

with Prof. Stephen Hills, Associate Professor Emeritus,  
Management and Human Resources, OSU

#### Health Care Insurance Mandate

Monday September 12  
7:00 pm

#### Whetstone Library

with Prof. Francis Beytagh, Professor of Law Emeritus  
Moritz College of Law, OSU

### LWVMC General Meeting

#### "What Is the Future of Public Education in Ohio?"

A wine and cheese social starting at 5:45 pm will be followed by dinner at 6:15 pm. The cost of the program, which begins at 7:00 pm, is free to the public. Those wishing to reserve a meal at a cost of \$25 must **RSVP to Amy Pulles by September 15.**

Thursday, September 22, 2011

5:45 pm - Wine and  
Cheese Social

6:15 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm - Program

#### Clintonville Woman's Club

3951 North High Street Columbus, OH 43214

Panelists include Charlie Wilson, OSU Law Professor and member of the Worthington School Board, and Stephanie Groce of the Columbus Board of Education.

## Election Law Changes In The New League Year?



Pictured LWVO Co-President Meg Flack

During the Central Ohio Regional League meeting held on August 20, LWVO Co-President Meg Flack, along with a bit of help from MC's Peg Rosenfield, explained the major changes HB 194 and HB 224 will have on Ohio election law. However, a group that opposes the changes have been cleared to go ahead with an initiative petition. The opponents of the new election changes must now gather roughly 231,000 signatures by September 29 to get a referendum on the 2012 ballot. If they are successful in gathering enough signatures, the law might be suspended until voters have a say.

Watch for more information in the next VOTER or on the LWVMC website, [www.lwvcols.org](http://www.lwvcols.org), or the LWVO website, [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org).

## MC League Activities

### LWVMC September Dinner and Program

On September 22, 2011, MC Leaguers will have the opportunity to explore an assortment of political issues facing Columbus and Ohio in this new League year. The 2011-2012 year starts by addressing one of the most basic ones.

On September 22, 2011, there will be an opening dinner at the Clintonville Woman's Club followed by a program based on the question, WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN OHIO? Charlie Wilson, a Professor of Law at The Ohio State University Law School and a member of the Worthington School Board and Stephanie Groce of the Columbus Board of Education will be the featured speakers.

A "Meet and Greet Happy Hour" will begin at 5:45 pm with live music performed by pianist Ginny Hack. At 7:00 pm, after the dinner, the current status of Ohio education will be addressed. A variety of perspectives and questions will be discussed. What are the potential outcomes of the cutbacks in state funding? How will the increased support of charter schools affect the overall picture of education in the state? What are the projected ramifications for the place and purpose of education in our world today.

Mark your calendars for this first fall event! Invitations will be mailed out early in September, and you will be able to make a reservation with Amy at the League office at 614-837-1089 or by e-mailing her at [vote@lwvcols.org](mailto:vote@lwvcols.org) by September 15. The cost for the dinner will be \$25, and the dinner menu will provide three choices. The program alone is free and all are welcome. Plan to bring an interested friend.

## Committee Report

### Regional Planning and Land Use Committee Townships

Information from the Regional Planning and Land Use Committee Reported by Ellen Haider

Denise Franz King, a township trustee in Franklin County's Washington Township, gave an excellent presentation to the Regional Planning and Land Use Committee meeting in June. She informed us both about the role of townships in general and about the distinctive situation of one particular township as an example. Here is some of what she told us.

When Ohio became a state in 1803, the 88 counties were divided roughly into squares (townships) that were meant to provide the most basic services such as fire and emergency services, police, parks and recreation, code enforcement, trash removal, road and bridge maintenance, and cemetery maintenance. Today each township differs in what services are needed and provided.

Unlike cities that have home rule, townships may exercise only the powers delegated to them by the General Assembly. Townships pass resolutions but do not create laws as cities do when they adopt an ordinance. One of the things townships can't do is provide water and sewer services. There are 17 townships in Franklin County.

Townships are governed by 3 elected trustees and an elected fiscal officer. They all serve 4 year terms with 2 elected the odd year following a presidential election and 2 elected the odd year prior to presidential elections.

Washington Township is in the northwest corner of Franklin County. It is largely coterminous with Dublin, meaning that the two share the same people. As rural areas become developed, they want water and sewer service and request annexation to a city. She showed us on the Franklin County map how Washington Township includes almost all of Dublin, and small sections of Columbus and Hilliard. There is just a small section with 231 parcels of land and about 750 people (white on the map) that is in the township only.

Most of the funding for townships comes from real estate taxes voted in by levies. Townships are also  
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# Leaguers Around Town

## Elected Officials Meet with Franklin County Consortium For Good Government Steering Committee

On July 14, 2011, Matt Damschroder met with the steering committee of the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government and discussed with them how candidates and issues forums could be improved and possibly attract more of an audience. During his tenure as Deputy Director of the Franklin County Board of Elections, Damschroder had an opportunity to not only view the Consortium and other candidates/issues forums but also to work together with the Consortium to promote better voter education. Director of Elections to Secretary of State Jon Husted, Damschroder follows the Honorable Julie M. Lynch and former State Representative, current NCJW Co-President Marian Harris who, at previous meetings of the Consortium, told the steering committee about their experiences with the Consortium during their campaigns for office.

The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government started in 1991 when NCJW and Brookwood Presbyterian Church joined together to

sponsor one candidates forum. The goal of the Consortium has always been to encourage people to educate themselves about candidates and issues and then to vote, based upon knowledge acquired through research. Through the years, as the number of non profit sponsoring and supporting organizations grew, other organizations such as Jewish Federation, and the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Office for Social Concerns joined as major leading organizations, providing staff time as well as a number of volunteers to sponsor the candidates forums. The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus has played a major role in the Consortium for most of this decade, both staffing it and providing a considerable number of volunteer hours from League membership.

All the key organizations will be honored on September 15 at Brookwood Presbyterian Church. The evening will start with a 6:30 reception and that will be followed by a short program. Everyone will be invited. The schedules for candidates and issue forums can be found on the Consortium web page, which is able to update information on the forums as it comes in. That address is as follows:  
<http://www.franklincountyconsortium.com/>



Pictured are some of the Consortium steering committee members with Matt Damschroder - from right to left are Dave Patton, Marilyn Webster, Matt Damschroder, Lee Leonard, Janyce Katz Co-Chair, Debbie King, Secretary, Erin Cordle, Treasurer, Dave Paul Co-Chair.

**“Without information and knowledge, the blessings of free government cannot be long continued.”**

**Thomas Worthington (1773–1827), sixth governor of Ohio**



[www.franklincountyconsortium.com](http://www.franklincountyconsortium.com)



The *Meet the Candidates* events offer another chance for Leaguers to do their part in the education the electorate.

⇒ This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change. ⇐

All *Meet the Candidate* events begin at 6:30pm with a reception followed by the program at 7:00pm, except October 28 which begins with a 9:30 am reception and 10:00 am program.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Other Co-Hosts</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Tues., Sept. 27	St. Elizabeth Church 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd Columbus OH 43229	Northland Ascension Lutheran Church	Columbus Races
Weds., Oct. 5	All Saints Academy 2855 East Livingston Columbus, OH 43209 (Next to Christ the King)	Catholic Diocese of Columbus Office of Social Concerns Black Catholic Ministry	Columbus Races
Thurs., Oct 6.	First Unitarian Universalist 93 West Westheimer Columbus, OH 43214		State Issues
Mon., Oct. 10	Congregation Beth Shalom 5089 Johnstown Road New Albany, OH 43054		New Albany Races
Tues., Oct. 11	Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church 1636 Graham Road Reynoldsburg OH 43068	Temple Israel	Reynoldsburg Races
Tues. Oct. 18	McConnell Art Center 777 Evening Street Worthington, OH 43085	ORT American Congregation Beth Tikvah American Association of University Women	Worthington Races
Mon. Oct. 24	Congregation Tifereth Israel 1354 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43205	Broad Street Presbyterian Church Hadassah	Columbus Races
Thurs. Oct. 27	Torat Emet 2375 East Main Street Bexley, OH 43209	Bexley Chamber of Commerce	Bexley Races
Fri., Oct. 28 9:30 am	Columbus Jewish Community Center 1125 College Avenue Columbus, OH 43209	NCJ	Columbus/Bexley Races

The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at an event on Thursday, September 15 at Brookwood Presbyterian Church, 2685 East Livingston Avenue, Columbus, OH 43209. A reception will begin at 6:30pm followed by a program at 7:00pm. The event is free and open to the public.

# Leaguers Around The Country

## Wright wins Arizona redistricting contest

**Metro League member Stuart Wright is one of two winners of Arizona's redistricting competition.**

A judging panel created by the Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition and overseen by the Arizona League of Women Voters has selected 2 winners in each category of Legislative and Congressional maps, as well as a special Honorable Mention for each. Judges said the following of Wright's map:

"While the software lists this map as having 5 competitive districts there is another district at 56.8%. This is very impressive for 9 total districts. There was unconventional drawing of southern districts in this map, which can (at first glance) be startling. However, this takes the entire Arizona/Mexican border as one community of interest, which may very well be a useful approach".

Wright also placed in last year's Ohio redistricting contest.



Pictured Stuart Wright with LWVO Redistricting Specialist Ann Henkener.

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allowed to impose a ½ mil levy to support general operations including cemetery maintenance, a parks and recreation program, and operating expenses for a senior center.

Washington Township provides fire service for all of Dublin. Normally when a village becomes a city it takes over responsibility for providing fire and emergency medical services from the township. However, in the 1990s Dublin was the fastest growing city east of the Mississippi. The population was growing so fast that the city was struggling to provide services. For example, it was unable to keep rainwater out of the sewer system which was overflowing into the Scioto River. Because there was an excellent working relationship between the city and the township, it was agreed that the fire department remain a function of the township. The Dublin city manager says that she doesn't have \$18 million available now to take over that responsibility.

A good example of the conflict of interests that can arise between cities and townships is what happened in the area that was sandwiched between Columbus, Dublin and Hilliard, where Tuttle Mall now is located. When I 270 was built with an entrance and exit there, it was clear that the area was ripe for development. Dublin and Columbus got together in 1994 and made an agreement between themselves as to how the area would be carved up to provide water and sewer services, even though they had no authority to do so since the land was in Washington Township. This created a lot of anxiety among the people who owned

property there. Many of them didn't want intense development because it was counter to the rural way of life to which they were accustomed. For cities, more compact use of land is easier and less expensive to serve. There was also friction over who would get the potential revenue.

An update of the Annexation Law in 2001 created a new way for townships and cities to share the growth of tax revenues that result from development. Joint Economic Development Agreements created a form of "expedited annexation" that allowed townships which would have lost tax base to continue to receive funds for 15 years.

A different accommodation to people who desire green space was made by Dublin when they required new developments to set aside up to 20 percent of the land to be used for publicly owned permanent parks. The denser the development, the higher percentage of parkland that is required.

Mrs. King said that there is much more in the way of partnerships and sharing of resources among government bodies than people realize. She said it just makes sense.

Asked if she saw a time when townships would be redundant she answered that she did. However, she said that she is definitely in the minority among township trustees. Many trustees take pride in the hands on assistance they give to residents including plowing snow and grading gravel roads.

## League Activities

Collective Bargaining Law and Practice Forum	Wednesday, Sept. 7	7:00 PM	Whetstone Public Library
Health Care Insurance Mandate Forum	Wednesday, Sept. 12	7:00 PM	Whetstone Public Library
General Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 22	5:45 PM	Clintonville Woman's Club
Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, Sept. 13	11:30 AM	Metropolitan Library
Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, Sept. 27	11:30 AM	Metropolitan Library
Morning Unit	Thursday, Oct. 20	9:30 AM	Wesley Glen
Morning Unit	Thursday, Jan. 19	9:30 AM	Wesley Glen

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