



# The VOTER

The Monthly Publication of the League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552

March 2012

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## Fracking Will Be Topic of Movie Program And LWV and Way Library Meeting This Month

The League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area, the Bowling Green League of Women Voters and Way Library are joining forces to present a program on a very hot topic - fracking.

On March 20 at 7 p.m. at Way Library Al Rosenfield, who has a science doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and who serves as the energy specialist for the LWV of Ohio, will talk about this controversial subject.

Dr. Rosenfield has been a member of governmental councils studying renewable energy and has testified on energy policy. He will address the practice of fracking - the method used by oil and gas companies to fracture rock layer to extract petroleum and natural gas. Some scientists think this drilling has caused recent earthquakes in eastern Ohio.

One week earlier, on Tuesday, March 13, the public is encouraged to view the 2011 Academy Award winning documentary *Gasland*. Written and directed by Josh Fox, this film focuses on communities impacted by natural gas drilling. The documentary will be shown free of charge at 2 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. on the library's lower level. Sixty people attended a showing of this movie at the Wood County Library in Bowling Green on February 24. Many indicated they would be attending the Perrysburg meeting on March 20.

This is an important issue. The new hydraulic fracturing has many environmental impacts. Some states have a moratorium on allowing it due to concern about contamination of ground water or watersheds used for public drinking water.

### About Dr. Rosenfield

In 2002 Dr. Alan Rosenfield, SCD, FASM, became the Radiation Protection Specialist of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and was later appointed to the Radiation Advisory Council of the Ohio Department of Health by Governor Taft.

He also became the League's Energy Specialist in 2007. Initially he directed a League survey of energy conservation by local governments and produced surveys of the amount of renewable energy in Ohio. More recently he has testified before Ohio Legislative Committees on energy policy, including production of fossil fuels. In 2011, Dr. Rosenfield was an invited attendee at Governor Kasich's 21st Century Summit.



Dr. Alan Rosenfield



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### **Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### **Web Site:**

**www.perrysburg.  
oh.lwvnet.org**

## Presidents' Letter

Dear League Members:

Redistricting continues to be a hot topic not only in Ohio, but other states as well. Our Statehouse Day will feature Dr. Barbara Palmer, faculty member from Baldwin-Wallace College, who will speak to the consequences and challenges that our current district boundaries present.

The LWV Ohio has now joined a non-partisan coalition of organizations to advocate for an independent citizens commission that will determine district boundaries that will be fair and objective as our population changes. Historically, both the Republican and Democratic parties have participated in gerrymandering as they organized districts that benefit themselves in either ensuring their own re-elections or benefiting their individual parties. As long as our politicians are in charge of redistricting, the politicians will be choosing their voters rather than voters choosing their politicians. We will have the opportunity to circulate petitions and if you are interested in helping with this project, please let us know. Information about this project is available at the following website: [www.votersfirstohio.org](http://www.votersfirstohio.org).

If you haven't seen the film *Gasland*, we would encourage you to see it prior to our March 20 program. It will give you some background information that will make the program more engaging with what has become a hot topic. This will be a program that neighbors and friends might be interested in attending. We hope to see you all there.

*Carol Russell and Josette McCarthy*

### **LWV Ohio State Day Scheduled for April 10**

Dr. Barbara Palmer, a professor at Baldwin-Wallace College, will be the featured speaker at the LWV Ohio State Day April 10, in Columbus. She has titled her speech *Unintended Consequences: Incumbency, Redistricting, and the Success of Women Candidates*, and it should be thought provoking in light of our current redistricting situation in Ohio. Other topics for the day will include human trafficking, fracking, and issues with suggested changes in the Ohio Constitution. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol Russell. Registration for the day ( which includes lunch) is on the LWV Ohio website. If we can get a group together, we can car pool down.



## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday, March 20 — 7 p.m.** Fracking+ (Hydraulic fracturing for gas and oil)  
Speaker: Al Rosenfeld, Energy Specialist for LWVO  
Location: Way Library Meeting Room

**Tuesday, April 17— 7 p.m.** Reggio Emilia- Early Childhood Education. Speaker: Owens Community College representative.  
Location: Way Library Meeting Room

**Tuesday, May 15— 11 a.m.** Annual Meeting with LWVPA Scholarship Presentation in Way Library Tech Lab  
**Noon Luncheon-** Lasting Impact of Early Literacy Experiences, Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Ruppert.  
Location: Way Library Meeting Room

## LWV Regional Meeting Report

Meg Flack, our LWV Ohio co-President, conducted the regional meeting that was held in Bowling Green on Saturday, February 25. The theme of this year's regional meeting was *Making Democracy Work through Advocacy and Action in 2012*. Three main topics were discussed: LWVOH current project in redistricting reform, the new IMPACT funding project available to the Ohio Leagues and growing the membership.

Our LWV Ohio is currently part of a coalition of groups advocating for an independent citizens commission that would be in charge of redistricting. The Ohio Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission ó composed of Republicans, Democrats and independents- would be required to draw fair districts which do not favor or disfavor a particular party, incumbent or candidate. District boundaries would be drawn to promote fairness, competitiveness, compactness, and preservation of existing communities. Paid lobbyists, incumbents and others with a personal or financial interest in elections would be barred from serving on the citizen's commission. All meetings, records, communications and draft plans of the commission must be open to the public.

The coalition is currently organizing a petition drive to get this commission proposal on the ballot in November. The Ohio League is supporting this, and we will have the opportunity to circulate petitions for this project. We will need to gather 386,000 signatures by July 3, 2012, to get this on the ballot. We will also need to work on an educational campaign prior to the November election.

The Impact Accountability Project provides an opportunity for local leagues to get funding for a local community education project. The project hopes to increase the likelihood for positive change on target issues, as well as increasing the visibility of the local leagues. (Our executive board is currently looking at a couple of ideas that would be appropriate for this funding. If any of you have some ideas as well, please contact Carol Russell.)

As a final discussion for the morning, we talked about roadblocks that we find in attracting new members as well as suggesting our best ideas regarding recruiting and maintaining membership.

*Carol Russell, Co-President*

## An Explanation of the ‘Fracking’ Process

*by Roger Andersen, Past BG LWV President  
and current member of the BG Land Use Committee*

On February 9, 2012, Ohio's Attorney General, Mike DeWine called for increased environmental regulations on polluters in Ohio's oil and gas industry and required disclosures of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing (see Bowling Green **Sentinel-Tribune** article by Julie Carr Smith, *Tougher Drilling Laws Sought*, February 9, 2012, page 3).

According to a fact sheet on “Horizontal Hydrofracturing” provided by the Ohio Environmental Council, the fairly new drilling technology makes it achievable to reach natural gas reserves under most of the state of Ohio. “Fracking” uses high-pressure injection of water, sand, and chemicals to release the trapped natural gas.

Vertical drilling takes place down to slightly above the shale and then the drill bit is turned horizontally and pushed as much as a mile into the shale. Small fractures are created in the rock with underground explosions and then sand, water and chemicals are injected at high pressure into the newly developed fractures which further crack the rock and release the trapped gas.

“Fracking” in other states have resulted in spills, blowouts, leaking wells, and the release of contaminants. In Youngstown, Ohio several small earthquakes have been linked to the injection of chemical waste from “fracking” into waste injection wells.

The Ohio Environmental Council notes that many of the chemicals used in hydrofracturing are very toxic and have short and long term effects on human health. At the present time the OEC points out, Ohio is not prepared to dispose of the millions of gallons of wastewater contaminated with toxic chemicals and gases, heavy metals and radio nuclides. Currently, Ohio injection wells are accepting waste from the state of Pennsylvania. The class two injection wells are not intended for radioactive and hazardous chemicals. Waste water treatment plants in Ohio cannot adequately treat the wastes before they go into rivers and streams or into drinking water sources.

The OEC states that evaporation and air born emissions from liquids held in waste lagoons from the “fracking” process can be released prior to disposal. Naturally-occurring fissures and faults and undocumented mines below the surface can absorb the fracking fluids as well as natural and methane gases. These contaminants can be released into aquifers used for drinking water and irrigation. Hydrofracturing can require 4 to 7 million gallons of water for each “frack,” according to the OEC.

Other facts related to “fracking” both pro and con will be provided at the LWV March 20 public meeting.

## LWV Toledo/Lucas County Proposal

by Carol Russell, LWVPA Co-President

In December, Josette and I were both approached by the Toledo/Lucas County LWV about the possibility of combining the Perrysburg Area League and the Toledo/Lucas County League. They are having difficulty filling leadership positions as well as board positions. As a follow-up to this request, Toledo and Perrysburg leadership met with Meg Flack, Ohio LWV Co-President after our regional meeting. Meg provided us with a process that we could engage in to decide whether or not this would be a viable solution. I am including a copy of that process.

Your executive board has briefly discussed this request.

We would like to have a membership meeting one hour prior to our April Program meeting at 6 p.m., April 17) to discuss this issue. Please plan to come and participate in the discussion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. This vote would be a vote to engage in the exploratory process, not a merger.

However, this decision to engage in a process would need to be voted upon by the total membership of both groups.

### **Guidelines for a League Unification Task Force** (This is a draft í not official, according to Meg)

#### ***Mission of Task Force***

- Identify ways to create a new LWV out of two or more existing ones
- Recommend a path for creating a unified set of operating bylaws using those of LWVO and LWVUS as models
- Research the adoption of a new, unified set of positions (AKA Program). Identify possible ways to do this, such as blending positions, and holding concurrence meetings.
- Research the ways possible to create a unified Education Fund, for which bylaws need to be written and coordinated with the bylaws for the operating side of league. Use LWVO and LWVUS bylaws as models.
- Identify potential road blocks and possible ways to surmount them.

*(Creating new Policies and Procedures' guidelines will be the work of the new league's board, not the Task Force)*

#### ***Convener***

- An experienced league member who is not a member of the merging leagues should be recruited for this position.
- The Convener will call the meetings and be responsible for setting the agenda in collaboration with the others.
- Qualities considered for Task Force members should also be considered when choosing a Convener.

***Qualities to consider for Task Force members***

- Consider experience in and commitment to League,
- Consider special skills needed,
- Find people with the temperament to enjoy collaborative work; don't consider persons with axes to grind
- Look for people who have intellectual interest in researching solutions.
- It is recommended to begin with a small Task Force.

***Powers, Parameters for Task Force***

- Convene as often as needed and agreed upon.
- Set a deadline for completing work if that seems helpful.
- Create benchmarks leading toward completing work.
- Add people to the Task Force if needed.
- Request documents from participating leagues.
- Conduct interviews.
- Keep current leagues' leadership informed as needed.
- Present a final report to the Leagues in which various elements necessary to a merger are identified, potential roadblocks defined, and solutions suggested. At this point, the Task Force's work is finished. They may choose to make themselves available for consultation, but the job of actually making use of the Task Force's work will fall to the current leadership of the leagues wishing to merge.

It is important to look at advantages and disadvantages to the merger.