



The Voter

April 2015

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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How the Black Swamp Conservancy Is Preserving our Natural Heritage

Protecting our Natural Heritage: The Black Swamp Conservancy will be the subject of our April meeting. In conjunction with Way Library, the Perrysburg League of Women Voters will present Sarah Brokamp, Advancement Coordinator for the Conservancy, on Tuesday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at the library.

Ms. Brokamp will discuss the mission of the organization, which has permanently protected more than 14,000 acres of northwest Ohio's most productive farm ground and most important natural areas since its founding in 1993.

Ms. Brokamp has been with the Conservancy since 2011. As Advancement Coordinator, her responsibilities include managing the website and electronic media, volunteer coordination, grant writing, special event planning, public relations and education.

She is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a degree in environmental policy and analysis. Ms. Brokamp lives in Haskins with her husband and their two children.

Please join us for this informative presentation!



Sarah Brokamp

League Welcomes New Member This Month

Please welcome new member Judy Cooper and add her information to your Membership Directory.

Judith Cooper
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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**

President's Letter

Dear League Members:

In what I would like to call *a hodgepodge* or *a potpourri*, I will begin this April letter.

April Fool's Day is fast approaching. This is the first day of April when people play practical jokes or hoaxes on each other. It is not a national holiday, but it is celebrated in the U.S. and many other countries around the world. One famous prank from 1957 showed Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti in what a show on BBC called "The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest." The BBC was later flooded with requests to purchase a spaghetti plant, forcing them to declare the film a hoax on the news the next day! I bet that we all have been caught in a prank on at least one April Fool's Day

This next item is not a joke, but a quote from Keith Burreis' column in the Blade on March 20, 2015. In his column called *Young People Will Renew Us*, he tells us about Scott Ramsey, Toledo's newest City Council member and Rachel Johnson, one of our league members. I quote, "Rachel is the head of the Perrysburg Area Democratic Club, and a fireball of energy and commitment. At a time of life when many young people are turning inward, Ms. Johnson's passion is citizenship-politics not for herself, but for the good and coherence of the community." If you want to read more of what he said, read the column which you can find online or perhaps he will include some of these thoughts when he speaks at our Annual Meeting in May.

In closing, I would like to add that I hope you are following the various water bills in the Ohio House and Senate. It appears that we are getting closer to some solutions to our need for clean water.

Nancy Kelley

Proposed Bylaw Change

The following change has been approved by the board and will be submitted to the membership for approval at the annual meeting in May.

Allow bylaws changes to be voted on by members at any general meeting with advance notice.

This wording is in accordance with state League guidelines.



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 14 – 7 p.m. *Protecting Our Natural Heritage*, Sarah Brokamp, Advancement Coordinator for Black Swamp Conservancy, Way Public Library

Tuesday, May 12– 7 p.m. *Local Resources Fighting Hunger/ Malnutrition in Our Community*, Stephanie Cihon, Community Relations Director for Promedica, Way Public Library

Tuesday, May 19 – 11 a.m. Annual Meeting
Noon - Luncheon.
Location: Carranor Club. Speaker: Toledo Blade Columnist Keith Burris

Save this date!

March Observer Reports

Perrysburg City Council Meeting March 3, 2015

- Craig Pickerel was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- The traffic signal at Fort Meigs Road and Roachton road has been changed due to numerous calls from residents who felt they were being held up at the light too long. The light is now activated by traffic.
- The City is continuing to move forward with the installation of a roundabout at Carronade and Eckel Junction.
- The administration and Service-Safety Committee are continuing discussions on alternatives to the possible needs of additional fire services and locations.
- There was an ordinance passed that rezoned a portion of a parcel in the Hawthorne development to R3 (single-family residential). This would allow land that was previously designated as open space to be developed into single family residences. This rezoned parcel is approximately three acres of a 17.5 acre parcel.

Perrysburg City Council Meeting March 19, 2015

- One ordinance and one resolution were pulled from the original agenda to be sent back to committee. This was in regards to the Riverfront Park design and whether the \$2.2 million funding for the park project should be split between the park and saving for a new fire station
- An ordinance was passed authorizing an agreement with ProPhoenix for \$29,789.66. ProPhoenix is software used by the Police Division.
- Income tax collections for February were \$1.1 million dollars, up 6% over the same time period last year.
- There has been continued discussion on building a skateboard park. It appears the administration and council are in favor of the park and are moving ahead with to see what kind of funding and locations are available.
- The City is continuing its working association with PABSC (Perrysburg Amateur Baseball/Softball Commission).
- The City is continuing its contract with the YMCA to administer the City pool.
- The City's law director, Mathew Beredo, is leaving and the City is advertising for a replacement.

*Sarah Weisenburger
Observer*

The following changes to the LWVPA program were suggested at our January 20 Program Planning meeting. They will be voted on at our annual meeting in May. The areas that have been struck out will be eliminated. New wording is shown in blue.

Major Areas of Interest

~~Environmental Issues -- Clean Water~~ Clean and Sustainable Water

Voter Participation

Public Safety

Human Resources and Social Policy

Education: Study of current trends in education with continued support of the Perrysburg School System District (including Penta County) for a good academic program. Support levies (both operating property and income tax) when shown to be needed to sustain current educational standards and/or to provide specific needed improvements or maintenance. Support of bond levies to finance new buildings, additions to current buildings and/or purchase of existing buildings when designed for economy and flexibility in adapting to future space and program needs.

Parks, Recreation and the Arts: Support of the Perrysburg area recreation needs and their financing with continued support for a well-rounded program for parks and recreation by the city, township and county.

Health and Welfare: Support effective services to meet the basic physical and mental needs of Wood County residents with consideration of programs to meet future needs.

Youth Issues: Support of Youth Services in Wood County to achieve the maximum benefit of available funding to alleviate youth problems.

Human Trafficking: Support ~~Human Trafficking legislation and changes in public policy to stop human forced labor and sex trafficking.~~ efforts to combat human forced labor and sex trafficking. Support creation and improvement of services to victims of human trafficking to facilitate their integration into the community. Support efforts of local and state agencies to aggressively enforce the trafficking laws and prosecute traffickers and offenders (consumers). Support training and education of the public, law enforcement, and service providers regarding human trafficking.

Government

Public Transportation:

- Support of public transportation in the Perrysburg area with particular attention to the special needs of the physically and economically challenged.
- Continue to advocate for public transportation in the Perrysburg area.

Public Safety: Study public safety, ~~in the rapidly expanding area.~~ including the police and fire departments of Northern Wood County.

Library Services: Support of good library service with adequate funding. Support expanding the boundaries of Way Library district in order to enlarge the tax base.

Finances: Study of the financial accountability in Perrysburg city government with consideration of hiring, overtime, purchases, collective bargaining and budgeting.

~~TMACOG:~~ *Regional Planning:* Support of participation of City and Township in the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments. regional planning and regional projects.

Proposed Program Changes *Continued from Page 4*

Natural Resources

Clean Water: Support continued public access to clean and safe water. This support would include but not be limited to:

- A. Improved waste water transportation and treatment systems, economical system for sludge disposal and the monitoring of water quality.
- B. Precautionary moratorium on all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) that produce untreated animal waste that jeopardizes ground water quality.
- C. Enforcement of stringent federal water quality mandates and standards as required of Municipalities producing the same volume of waste.
- D. Continued monitoring of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and outcomes that may endanger water access and quality.
- E. Protection of water quality in the local aquifer, the waters of Perrysburg Township, The City of Perrysburg, the Maumee River and Lake Erie.

Transportation of Hazardous Materials: Support of state signage and traffic patterns for all state and interstate highways including access roads and rail transportation routes where hazardous materials are transported.

Recycling Waste: Support curbside-recycling in the Perrysburg area including curbside recycling availability.

Land Use

Community Planning: Continued support of community planning (land use policies and procedures) to meet the changing needs of the Perrysburg area. Keeping currently abreast and monitoring planning, zoning, zoning appeals commissions in the City, Township and County, with emphasis on promoting orderly growth.

Historic Preservation: Support of historic preservation which would be of benefit to the Perrysburg area and of the City's historic zoning ordinance.

Voter Participation

Support efforts to educate community members on the importance of voting activities that may include voter registration, how and where to vote, candidate information, and promoting maximum voter turnout at all elections.

LWVPA Proposed Slate of Officers for 2015-17 Terms

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| President | Nancy Kelley | Other Positions: | |
| 1st VP | Vacant | Hospitality 2015-16 | Evelyn Gifford Mary Turain |
| 2nd VP Program | Carol Russell | Web Master 2015-16 | Mary Clark |
| Corresponding Secretary | Deb Gorman | Nominating Committee 2016 | Jackie Stedman <i>Chairman</i> Thurid Campbell Stephanie Johnstone |
| Directors: | | | |
| Voter Service | Barb Herman | | |
| At Large | Rachel Johnson | | |

League of Women Voters of Perrysburg
General Fund Budget 2016

| | 2015 Budget | 2016 Budget |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | |
| Dues | 3,022.50 | 3,200.00 |
| Finance Campaign Members | 350.00 | 100.00 |
| Finance Campaign Non-Members | 800.00 | 100.00 |
| In-Kind Donations | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Stranahan Funds | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| Meeting Lunch Revenue | 1,845.00 | 1,600.00 |
| Recycle Funds | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Total Income | 7,017.50 | 6,000.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| National PMP | 689.75 | 1,550.00 |
| State PMP | 792.60 | 1,000.00 |
| National/State Convention | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Perrysburg Voter | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Publications | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Program Meetings | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Position Support | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Special Programs - Dues and Fees | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Memorials | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Coalitions / Special Events | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Membership | 350.00 | 225.00 |
| Meeting Lunch Expense | 1,750.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Ex. Board Operating | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Printing / Postage | 125.00 | 125.00 |
| Website Support | 200.00 | 100.00 |
| Misc | 1,210.15 | - |
| Total Expenses | 7,017.50 | 6,000.00 |
| Income Over / (Under) Expenses | - | - |

League of Women Voters of Perrysburg
Education Fund Budget 2016

| | 2015 Budget | 2016 Budget |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Income | | |
| Members | 2,200.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Non-Members | 1,050.00 | 1,800.00 |
| 577 Book Sale | 1,000.00 | - |
| Memorials | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| In-Kind Donations | 6,010.00 | 6,500.00 |
| Rebates | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Fundraising / Scholarships | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| Misc | - | - |
| | <hr/> | |
| Total Income | 10,535.00 | 11,075.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| National PMP | 690.00 | 1,550.00 |
| State PMP | 264.00 | 325.00 |
| Finance Drive | 175.00 | 100.00 |
| Program Support | 100.00 | 200.00 |
| Scholarship | 560.00 | 550.00 |
| Candidates Forum | 200.00 | - |
| Voters Guide | 8,685.00 | 8,700.00 |
| Govt Officials Pamphlet | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Stranahan Award | 325.00 | 325.00 |
| Other Voter Services | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Administrative Expense | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| | <hr/> | |
| Total Expenses | 11,174.00 | 11,925.00 |
| | <hr/> | |
| Income Over / (Under) Expenses | (639.00) | (850.00) |