



The Voter

April 2016

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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April Meeting

Toledo Botanical Garden Director Will Discuss Community Gardens and Toledo GROWS

April is a great time to talk about gardens, including community gardens.

On Tuesday, April 12 the Perrysburg League of Women Voters, in cooperation with Way Library, will host an evening with Yvonne Dubielak, Outreach and Education Director at the Toledo Botanical Garden. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Way Library.

Ms. Dubielak will speak about the Toledo GROWS program, the Botanical Garden's main outreach into the community. The program is dedicated to the continued growth and success of community-based gardens in the city of Toledo and throughout Northwest Ohio. They serve 126 community gardens in the Toledo area and help people of all ages learn to grow and eat healthy food.

As a statewide and regional leader in community gardening, Toledo GROWS offers organizational resources and technical assistance to support the development of sustainable garden projects. Throughout the season, Toledo GROWS works with community garden organizers to ensure that they have everything necessary to create a vibrant community garden.

Community gardens benefit everyone by creating safe and healthy recreational activity within neighborhoods. They also beautify neighborhoods, connect urban dwellers back to the land and nature, provide wholesome, nutritious and economical food, reduce crime and blight and promote the creation and use of green space.

Community gardens have been shown to revitalize areas from neglected spaces characterized by vandalism and illegal activities into places for community programs and celebration. The transformation takes place when community gardens engage sustained community involvement by youth, families, seniors, intergenerational, ethnic and multicultural groups. Community gardens increase neighborhood engagement.



League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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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,

Dr. Rebecca Zeitlow was our speaker for the March 22 program entitled *Constitution 101*. She is a Professor of Law at the University of Toledo School of Law. I have to admit that I was worried that not many people would come to hear about the Constitution, but how wrong I was. It was one of our more popular programs and very well attended. Dr. Zeitlow knows her subject and was able to talk to the audience in non-legal terms that we could understand. Thank you to Carol and Natalie for arranging to have her speak.

Instead of paying our speakers, the Way Library Foundation purchases a book dealing with the topic of the evening. A dedication plate in the front of the book names the speaker and it is then added to the library collection for patrons to check out and read. The book chosen this month was *Your Rugged Constitution* by Bruce and Esther Findlay. It was published in 1950 but is still considered to be one of the best and easiest to read about our U.S.

Constitution. I would like to quote from the book, "Your Constitution is one of the best in the world. It was made rugged by earlier Americans. To keep it rugged is one of your first responsibilities. But even the best constitution cannot guarantee that the government under it will be good. Since ours is a system of self-government, we have good government only when we, the people of the United States, play an active part in making it good."

I believe that by joining the League of Women Voters we are taking a big step in the right direction of protecting our good government.

Nancy Kelley

Town Hall Meeting on Traffic Problems and Solutions?

At our Annual Program Planning Meeting in January, we discussed holding a Town Hall or a Moderated Discussion on the topic of traffic problems/solutions, both current and future, in the greater Perrysburg area. This would include, but not be limited to, current construction, roundabouts and Ride Right, the dial-in-ride-service that was passed by a 5-year levy in 2013. Two of our members have already agreed to be on the steering committee if this program idea is adopted by our League at our Annual Meeting on May 17. Please be thinking about this topic and consider volunteering to work on this project.



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 12 – 7 p.m. *Community Gardening*. Speaker: Yvonne Dubielak, Toledo GROWS. Location: Way Library

Tuesday, May 10– 7 p.m. *Partners for Clean Streams*. Speaker: Jessica Batanian, Communications and Outreach Specialist for Partners for Clean Streams (PCS)

Tuesday, May 17 — 11 a.m. Annual Meeting
Noon — Spring Luncheon. Speaker: Dr. Brandon Withrow, University of Findlay, Carranor Club, Topic: *Challenges of Change*

March Observer Reports

Carry Over from 02/16/16 Observer's Report:

Issue: A 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Perrysburg Amateur Baseball Softball Commission (PABSC) regarding use of the City Athletic Fields effective in 2016 (Ordinance 14-2016).

The MOU was brought back to Council at the 03/01/16 meeting for approval with the revision that it is now a 1-year MOU – for the 2016 season only. The City reported they have received all of the financial data they require and after conversations with PABSC, the Recreation Committee believes there to be no issues.

First Reading of Amended Budget FYE 2016

In the Amended Budget presented to Council, there was an additional \$755,000 for Riverside Park and Hood Park projects. There was much discussion between council members as to the necessity of this additional amount, the priority of Riverside Park versus making improvements to Hood Park versus installing the multi-use path and a reminder that the City had applied for grant money that was denied in 2015. In addition to the discussion among council, citizens who are against the additional budget dollars also spoke at the meeting saying that no more money should be appropriated for Riverside Park. Parking concerns for Riverside Park was brought forward by citizens in attendance. Two council members pointed out that based upon their conversations and correspondence with citizens, there is support within the community for an upgraded riverfront that citizens can use and enjoy.

There were other items in the Amended Budget that were not raised as issues. The Amended Budget will be presented to Council again on 03/15/16 for a vote.

Carry Over from 03/01/16 Meeting: Amending 2016 Budget

The additional \$755,000 for riverfront projects that is in this Amended Budget was again an issue at the Council meeting. For at least 75 minutes, there was discussion regarding Riverside Park, Hood Park and the multi-use path, the necessity of improvements for each of these locations, the priority of each project, how the projects interface with each other and how the budget is impacted for each of these items. There were at least three proposed amendments to change, reallocate, move to the General Fund and/or move to unrelated projects the \$755,000. All of these were proposals were voted down by Council.

In the final Amended 2016 Budget that Council passed, the additional \$755,000 for riverfront projects was reduced to an additional \$115,000 for riverfront projects.

Passage of Agreement with the Fort Meigs YMCA

Council approved an agreement with Fort Meigs YMCA for the management of the City's Swimming Pool for the 2016 pool season in an amount not to exceed \$215,841.

Passage of 3 Other Ordinances related to road upgrades and new equipment was passed.

Debra Greenley Gorman
Observer

LWVPA Proposed Slate of Officers for 2016-2018

Officers: *(Two-Year Term)*

Third VP Membership	Roseanne Barker
Treasurer	Sara Weisenburger
Recording Secretary	Jacki Stedman
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Johnstone

Directors: *(Two-Year Term)*

Observers	Thurid Campbell
Voter Service	Deb Gorman
Public relations	Josette McCarthy
Harrison Rally Day	Kevin Rantanen Carol Shepard
Natural Resources	Vacant
At Large	Marie Obrock

Non-Board Positions: *(One-Year Term)*

Finance Drive	Stephanie Johnstone
Hospitality	Evelyn Gifford Mary Turain
Web Master	Mary Clark
Nominating Committee 2017	Jacki Stedman, Chr. Thurid Campbell Stephanie Johnstone
Education Fund Trustees	Carol Russell Carol Shepard Nancy Kelley Josette McCarthy Jacki Stedman Roseanne Barker

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our two newest members. Joining us in the League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area are Starr Wlodarski and Virginia Luce.

You may add the following information to your membership booklets:

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League of Women Voters of Perrysburg
General Fund Budget July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Income			
Dues	3,023	3,200	3,300
Finance Campaign Members	350	100	100
Finance Campaign Non-Members	800	100	100
In-Kind Donations	100	100	100
Stranahan Funds	600	600	600
Meeting Lunch Revenue	1,845	1,600	1,500
Recycle Funds	300	300	300
Total Income	7,018	6,000	6,000
Expenses			
National PMP	690	1,550	1,000
State PMP	793	1,000	1,000
National/State Convention	1,200	1,200	950
Perrysburg Voter	25	25	25
Publications	25	25	25
Program Meetings	250	250	250
Position Support	50	50	50
Special Programs - Dues and Fees	100	100	100
Memorials	100	100	100
Coalitions / Special Events	50	50	50
Membership	350	225	225
Meeting Lunch Expense	1,750	1,100	1,100
Ex. Board Operating	100	100	100
Printing / Postage	125	125	125
Website Support	200	100	100
Misc	1,210	-	800
Total Expenses	7,018	6,000	6,000
Income Over / (Under) Expenses	-	-	-

League of Women Voters of Perrysburg
Education Fund Budget July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Income			
Members	2,200.00	2,500.00	2,100.00
Non-Members	1,050.00	1,800.00	1,500.00
577 Book Sale	1,000.00	-	-
Memorials	100.00	100.00	100.00
In-Kind Donations	6,010.00	6,500.00	1,200.00
Rebates	25.00	25.00	25.00
Fundraising / Scholarships	150.00	150.00	150.00
Misc	-	-	800.00
Total Income	10,535.00	11,075.00	5,875.00
Expenses			
National PMP	690.00	1,550.00	1,000.00
State PMP	264.00	325.00	325.00
Finance Drive	175.00	100.00	100.00
Program Support	100.00	200.00	200.00
Scholarship	560.00	550.00	550.00
Candidates Forum	200.00	-	200.00
Voters Guide	8,685.00	8,700.00	3,000.00
Govt Officials Pamphlet	100.00	100.00	100.00
Stranahan Award	325.00	325.00	325.00
Other Voter Services	25.00	25.00	25.00
Administrative Expense	50.00	50.00	50.00
Total Expenses	11,174.00	11,925.00	5,875.00
Income Over / (Under) Expenses	(639.00)	(850.00)	-