



League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

April and May Meetings

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Designating Lake Erie Impaired To Be Discussed at April 25 Meeting

The League of women Voters, in cooperation with Way Library, will host a Topical Tuesday meeting on *Perspectives on Declaring Lake Erie Impaired*. The event will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 at Way Library.

Our two guest speakers, Karl Gephardt, Deputy Director for Water Resources at the Ohio EPA, and Sandy Bihn, Executive Director of the Lake Erie Waterkeeper, will discuss the ramifications of declaring Lake Erie "impaired."



Since the water crisis in 2014, there has been much concern regarding the algae bloom and how it affects the water, not only our drinking water, but the fishing industry, and recreational interests of Lake Erie.

While studies are being done to determine the cause as well as the fix, there has been a growing movement to declare the Lake "impaired," which would bring in additional government regulations in monitoring the phosphorus and nitrogen that contribute to the algae growth and enforcing those regulations that are supposed to reduce sources in the Lake Erie basin, not only the Lake, but the tributaries into the Lake.

The Ohio EPA and Governor Kasich are against declaring the Lake "impaired." Some organizations currently advocating for "impaired," are the Lucas County Commissioners and Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie.

Panel Will Address Heroin Epidemic on May 23

Our Tuesday May 23 program will be a panel discussion featuring Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn and Coroner Dr. Douglas Hess who will discuss the heroin problem in Wood County and resources available in the county for families and individuals with drug issues.

Drug addiction is a national issue, but also a local one. There is evidence that children are being introduced to drugs as early as 11 years of age and the average age of a drug addicted person is 23. This program will focus on the issue and what is currently being done to deal with the problem. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at Way Library.



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,

Recently I read in the Toledo Blade that Randy Oostra, President and CEO of ProMedica, gave a speech to the Toledo Chamber of Commerce. In his talk he quoted from the book *Well Being, the Five Essential Elements* by Tom Rath. As I was not familiar with this book I went to the library and checked it out. While it was written in 2010, it is still very relevant today.

The five elements are Career Wellbeing, Social Wellbeing, Financial Wellbeing, Physical Wellbeing and Community Wellbeing. Randy concentrated on the last element, Community Wellbeing, and I will as well as I quote freely from the book.

“Community Wellbeing can actually be the differentiator between a good life and a great one.”

“It all starts with the basics- the quality of water you drink and the air you breath every day, a lack of security about these fundamental needs can cause significant concern over time. Feeling safe walking alone at night in your neighborhood and having confidence that you won’t be harmed or assaulted is another primary need.”

“Once you have a basic sense of security, the next level of Community Wellbeing is living in an area that is a good fit for your personality, family, interests, and other pursuits. While the things that make a community “perfect” will be different for everyone, people use common themes to describe ideal communities. Words such as aesthetics, (which includes parks and trails) are used by people, social offerings or places where people can meet are necessary, and the third quality that distinguishes near-perfect communities from the rest is a general openness to all types of people.”

The author points out that “just living in the right place is unlikely to create thriving Community Wellbeing, but that this requires active involvement in community groups or organizations.” This is where ProMedica feels it fits in. And might I add that the League of Women Voters can also play a small role in making a thriving community.

Something to think about when we think about Perrysburg!

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 25 —7 p.m. *Perspectives on Declaring Lake Erie “Impaired.”* Karl Gebhardt, Ohio EPA and Sandy Bihn, President of Toledo Lighthouse Society and Executive Director of Lake Erie Waterkeepers. Way Public Library

Tuesday, May 23 — 11 a.m. *Annual Meeting.* Noon *Luncheon.* Speaker: Glen Grisdale of Reveille Ltd. *What’s Ahead for Levis Commons and Downtown Perrysburg.* Carranor Club. **Also on Tuesday, May 23** — 7 p.m. *Panel on Drug Issues in Wood County* featuring Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn and Coroner Douglas Hess. Way Public Library.

Want to Know What’s Ahead for Perrysburg? Come to the LWVPA May Luncheon

The guest speaker for our annual luncheon meeting will be Glen Grisdale of Reveille, Ltd. of Bowling Green. He is currently working with Levis Commons and Downtown Perrysburg as a consultant for city planning and development. Mr. Grisdale will share with us some of the ideas that are being discussed regarding these two areas, as well as some innovative ideas that are in progress in other Ohio cities.

The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 23, at the Carranor Club in Perrysburg. The business meeting will start at 11 a.m. and the luncheon at noon. The cost will be \$20.

Reservations must be made by Thursday, May 18, either by emailing Carol Russell at crussell@bex.net or by calling her at 419-931-4416. Checks should be made out to LWVPA and mailed to Carol at 13917 Eckel Junction Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

***Make Your
May Luncheon
Reservations
Today!***

Stranahan Award Presented to Local Arts Group

The Manor house at 577 Foundation on March 26, was a beautiful setting for the 2017 Virginia Secor Stranahan Citizenship Award Ceremony. Breaking tradition this year, an entire group, The Prizm Creative Community, was honored instead of just one individual. Annette Jensen, Director and Founder of Prizm, accepted the award and screened a video that showed all the activities that the group has presented to the greater Perrysburg/Toledo area.

Following tradition, a fused glass plate created by one of our members, Ann Hymel, was presented to Annette and the silver bowl, engraved with all the winners of the award was shown to the audience. The silver bowl is displayed at the Manor House year round.

Mayor Michael Olmstead then gave congratulatory remarks to the group stressing how the arts help make a great community.

Ann Stranahan, daughter-in-law of Virginia Stranahan and wife of Stephen Stranahan, son of Virginia, then read three lovely poems from her book *Window on the River*.

The afternoon concluded with the serving of birthday cake, commemorating Virginia’s birth 111 years ago.

March 2017 Observer Report

Perrysburg City Council Meeting March 7, 2017

- Council heard a first reading of the 2017 Budget Amendments approved by Council by the end of March. (Ordinance 18-2017.)
- Approved a resolution notifying the State of Ohio that the City of Perrysburg opposes that portion of the State of Ohio Governor's budget proposal to institute a state-operated program for the centralized collection of Ohio Municipal Income Tax. Citing it as an infringement of the home rule powers granted to municipal corporations by the Ohio Constitution, the resolution asks that the Ohio General Assembly request an immediate removal of language related to the income tax collection and instead promote the Ohio Business Gateway as a solution for businesses to file municipal income tax returns in a more simple and efficient manner with the Ohio Business Gateway continuing to act only as a portal to remit payments and filing information directly to municipalities. (Resolution 6-2017.)
- Council went into Executive Session to discuss real estate.
- Approved job description for Police Support Services Supervisor. (Ordinance 23-2017.)
- Approved amendments to Code 1250.61 regarding Curb-Cuts and Driveways. (Ordinance 17-2017.)
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Perrysburg Amateur Baseball Softball Commission for use of City Athletic Fields for the 2017 season. (Ordinance 22-2017.)
- Approved renewal of agreement with Pro-Phoenix for maintenance and technical support for police computer systems for the year starting 03/21/17. (Ordinance 19-2017.)
- Authorized road improvements. (Ordinance 20-2017.)
- Authorized purchase of two trailer-mounted leaf vacuums. (Ordinance 21-2017.)
- Passed a resolution and ordinances related to sewer and sanitation projects. (Resolution 7-2017 and Ordinances 24-2017 & 25-2017.)

Perrysburg City Council Meeting March 21, 2017

- Approved the Amended 2017 Budget with a changes to Hood Park Improvements (removing \$500,000 for park improvements, but keeping \$435,000 for parking, engineering and design plans). (Ordinance 18-2017.)
- Approved assessments for Street Lighting and Street Trees. (Ordinance 26-2017 & 27-2017.)
- Authorized purchase of mosquito control supplies. (Ordinance 28-2017.)
- Approved a resolution for a levy to be placed on the General Election ballot in 2017 for the collection and disposal of trash. This is a replacement levy for a period of two years with the first collection in 2018. This resolution will be forwarded to the Board of Elections and County Auditor. The County Auditor will produce a report as to the revenue that will be produced from the levy. That revenue report will come before Council for final approval to place the levy on the ballot. (Resolution 8-2017.)

Debra Greenley Gorman
Observer

Natural Resources

Think About Conserving Water for Earth Day 2017

By Sue Hoffman Natural Resources Co-Chair

It is Earth Day April 22, a time when we pledge to do as many things as possible to conserve, protect and improve our environment. Of course, water is critical to all living organisms. Everywhere we look there is a crisis or a looming crisis, and funds instead of being raised are being cut completely or reduced. Ohio and the other lake state may find themselves having to save the Great Lakes with less.

Several quotes in The City Paper seem relevant:

“What’s poisoning Lake Erie is primarily an excess of nutrients, 85% from agriculture, and we suspect most of that from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) dumping the equivalent of Chicago and Los Angeles sewage untreated every year on fields draining into the lake,” said Mike Ferner, an ACLE coordinator.

“Taking an ax to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will cost Ohio jobs and jeopardize public health by putting the well-being of Lake Erie at risk. As a kid, I remember seeing how polluted Lake Erie was, and we can’t put an end to our cleanup efforts when we’ve made such progress. My colleagues in the Ohio delegation and I will not stand for a budget that zeroes out this critical program,” said Senator Sherrod Brown.

So what can we do? First, keep on top of any articles in news sources and fact check them. Second, attend public meetings that have anything to do with water, its distribution and its current 2017 status, including issues such as fracking, farm runoffs and pollution. Next, keep looking at local papers to see the progress of a regional water system or communities that may go off on their own. Call your local council members to see what is being done.

Just as important is making a difference in your home. Try to conserve and be a wise user.

Here are four April tips:

1. Pick up dog waste. Harmful bacteria from dog waste can wash into storm drains and pollute water supplies.
2. Fix your faucet. Perhaps attach an aerator to your faucet, which can save you up to 500 gallons a year.
3. Boycott bottle water. “Three liters of regular water go into making just one liter of bottle water,” says NRDC’s McRandle.
4. Choose native plants. By selecting native species, plants can survive on the water Mother Nature provides.

All items taken from *Whole Living*.

Happy Earth Day!

LWVPA Proposed Slate of Officers for 2017-2019

Officers: (Two-Year Term)

President: Nancy Kelley

Second VP Programming: Virginia Luce

Corresponding Secretary: Marie O’Brock

Natural Resources: Sue Hoffman

At Large: Carol Russell

Non-Board Positions: (One-Year Term)

Nominating Committee: Jean Duston

Directors: (Two-Year Term)

Voter Service: DebGorman

General Fund Budget*July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018*

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Income				
Dues	3,023	3,200	3,300	3,300
Finance Campaign Members	350	100	100	100
Finance Campaign Non-Members	800	100	100	100
In-Kind Donations	100	100	100	100
Stranahan Funds	600	600	600	600
Meeting Lunch Revenue	1,845	1,600	1,500	1,500
Recycle Funds	300	300	300	-
Total Income	7,018	6,000	6,000	5,700
Expenses				
National PMP	690	1,550	1,000	850
State PMP	793	1,000	1,000	900
National/State Convention	1,200	1,200	950	-
Perrysburg Voter	25	25	25	25
Publications	25	25	25	25
Program Meetings	250	250	250	150
Position Support	50	50	50	50
Special Programs - Dues and Fees	100	100	100	50
Memorials	100	100	100	100
Coalitions / Special Events	50	50	50	50
Membership	350	225	225	150
Meeting Lunch Expense*	1,750	1,100	1,100	1,100
Ex. Board Operating	100	100	100	200
Printing / Postage	125	125	125	100
Website Support	200	100	100	200
Misc**	1,210	-	800	1,750
Total Expenses	7,018	6,000	6,000	5,700

* This item includes the Holiday Luncheon and the League Annual Luncheon in May

Education Fund Budget *July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018*

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Income				
Members	2,200	2,500	2,100	1,200
Non-Members	1,050	1,800	1,500	1,100
577 Book Sale	1,000	-	-	-
Memorials	100	100	100	100
In-Kind Donations	6,010	6,500	1,200	1,200
Rebates	25	25	25	25
Fundraising / Scholarships	150	150	150	150
Misc*	-	-	800	1,750
Total Income	10,535	11,075	5,875	5,525
Expenses				
National PMP	690	1,550	1,000	850
State PMP	264	325	325	300
Finance Drive	175	100	100	75
Program Support	100	200	200	150
Scholarship	560	550	550	550
Candidates Forum	200	-	200	150
Voters Guide	8,685	8,700	3,000	3,000
Govt Officials Pamphlet	100	1 00	100	75
Stranahan Award	325	325	325	300
Other Voter Services	25	25	25	25
Administrative Expense	50	50	50	50
Total Expenses	11,174	11,925	5,875	5,525
Income Over / (Under) Expenses	(639)	(850)	-	-

* This line item is a planned transfer to balance the Education Fund

Editor's Note: The new LWVO position mirrors what we concluded at our January Program

New LWV Ohio Primary Election System Position Announcement

Dear LWV Ohio members,

The LWV Ohio Board is delighted to announce that we have a new position on Primary Election Systems that was reached by study and consensus.

New LWV Ohio Primary Election System Position:

LWVO supports open primary election systems that narrow the field of candidates for the general election and permit all registered voters, regardless of political party membership, to participate.

In general, League members believe that nonpartisan primaries are more appropriate at the more administrative county and local government levels, while partisan primaries are more appropriate for state and national policy-making offices.

Any proposal to restructure primary elections in Ohio should have as its goals, in order of importance, to increase voter participation, to lead to more competitive general elections, to enfranchise the largest number of registered voters and to lessen partisan polarization.

League members overwhelmingly support replacing Ohio's current primary election system with a more open alternative, in which any registered voter may choose to vote any party's ballot without having to be a member of that party. To meet this goal, statutes permitting or requiring challenges and declarations of party allegiance should be eliminated. Local and county governments that employ nonpartisan, "top-two" primaries already meet this goal.

We are indebted to the tireless work of the Primary Election Systems (PES) Study Committee, especially co-chairs Lynda Mayer of LWV Greater Cleveland and Dianne Herman of LWV Greater Dayton, in carrying out the study and preparing study materials and consensus questions.

The LWV Ohio Board met on March 17-18, 2017, to review local League PES consensus questionnaire responses and the proposed new position prepared by the PES co-chairs and LWVO Board Advocacy & Education Committee.

This new position automatically becomes part of LWV Ohio's adopted issue positions. Delegates to the upcoming state convention do not need to vote on the new PES position. However, delegates will get the opportunity to vote on retaining all of our current positions, including this new one.

We also wanted to share with you that one of the committees of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission is reviewing the section of the state constitution on primary elections and has invited LWVO to share our views, so we will have the opportunity to put our new PES position to use right away!

Yours in League,

Alison Ricker, Co-president
Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Co-president