



The VOTER

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

P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552

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Please change the following e-mail addresses in your membership booklet:

Mary Baldoni
mbaldoni@bex.net

Martha Baldoni
mbaldoni@ameritech.net

Topical Tuesday —What Is the Future For Public Transportation in Perrysburg?

The League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area and Way Library are co-sponsoring our February meeting on the topic of transportation in Perrysburg.

Topical Tuesday will be held on February 28, at 7 p.m. in one of the library meeting rooms.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the voters about the need for public transportation, what is presently being provided by TARTA and what alternatives the City proposes, as well as the City's time table for seeking funding. Tom Metzger, Transportation Superintendent for TARTA, and Todd Grayson, chairman of City Council's Health, Sanitation and Public Utilities Committee, will speak. Kevin Rantanen, Perrysburg's representative on the TARTA board, will be available to answer questions, as will the speakers. League Member Jean Duston will moderate.

When we scheduled this meeting for February we had been informed that the issue of withdrawing from TARTA would probably be on the ballot in November 2012. Perrysburg City Council has since voted to ask citizens to make their decision on March 6, 2012. We hope the unforeseen proximity of the vote will draw a crowd of people who want to be informed.

Please bring your friends and neighbors.

January Program Meeting

Twenty members attended our annual program meeting in January. In addition to the wonderful soups and salads we enjoyed for lunch, we had three lively discussions regarding transportation, fracking and our observer program. Everyone in the groups were engaged in the conversation and could have continued for an additional hour without any problem at all. We started the meeting at noon and discussion was still going strong at 1:30. There will be some changes to our program presented at our annual meeting in May.

A special thank you to Dodie Strauss, Martha Kudner, Thurid Campbell, Josette McCarthy, Evelyn Giffer, and Carol Russell who all helped in providing the soups and salads.



League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

Presidents:

Carol Russell,
crussell@bex.net
419-931-4416
Josette McCarthy
jmccarthy5778@sbc
global.net
419-987-1658

Membership Chair

Stephanie Johnstone
skjr@buckeye-express.com
419-872-2979

Voter Editor

Roseanne Barker
roseannebarker@sbc
global.net
419-874-5151

LWVPA E-Mail

lwvperrysburg@gmail.com

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:

In case some of you haven't watched TV, listened to the radio, or paid attention to the internet, the primary elections are underway for 2012. Ohio voters will be part of the "Super Tuesday" states conducting their primary election on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. To assist Ohio Voters, the Ohio LWV has posted a Voter's guide on their website. We have taken that information and posted it on the LWV Perrysburg Area website as well. Please take time to look at it - we would welcome any suggestions. You can also access the ballot issues as well as the primary contested offices on the Wood County Board of Elections website.

To mention just a couple of highlights, Perrysburg residents will be voting on party nominations for a National Senate Seat currently held by Sherrod Brown as well as our national congressional seat currently held by Bob Latta. Also on the ballot are two issues for Perrysburg - (1) a 1.5 mill Renewal Tax levy for Way Library to be used for current expenses for the period of four years to commence with tax year 2013, and (2) a resolution proposal for Perrysburg voters to vote for withdrawal of the Regional transit authority, TARTA. There are other county and state offices on the primary ballot as well.

Kevin Rantanen, Jean Duston, and Nancy Kelley have been working diligently in preparation for our February 28 program regarding the TARTA issue. It is our sense that there is much confusion in the community regarding the funding of TARTA and what Perrysburg City Council is proposing as an alternative for public transportation. Both TARTA and the city of Perrysburg will make a presentation as part of this program. We couldn't have asked for better timing with the election occurring a week after.

And as a final note for the month - your nominations committee is hard at work getting a slate of officers for next year. As we understand it, there are still a couple of positions that need to be filled. Please consider serving on the board. It is a wonderful way to learn about the League and a great way to enjoy working with some very bright, intelligent, and caring members of our community. If you have any questions regarding these positions and what they would require, contact Dodie Strauss, Nominations Chair.

Carol Russell and Josette McCarthy



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 28 — 7 p.m.

Topic: Transportation in Perrysburg.
Location: Way Library Meeting Room

***Please note meeting date change**

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

Regional Meeting Scheduled for Saturday, February 25

LWV of Ohio have scheduled four regional meetings in February. Our Ohio co-President Meg Flack will be facilitating our regional meeting (Northwest Ohio: Bowling Green, Lima, Perrysburg, Tiffin, and Toledo-Lucas County LWV groups) scheduled for Saturday, February 25, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Our regional meeting will be held at Wood County District Public Library, 251 North Main Street, in Bowling Green.

The discussion will focus on *Making Democracy Work through Advocacy and Action in 2012*. Specifically we will be focusing our discussion on:

- Pushing for Reform: Learn about the most up-to-date information on redistricting reform.
- Getting involved with the Accountability Project: Learn more including and how to access grant funds to address a local issue in your community.
- Connecting with League members in your region about upcoming events and ways to work together.

Please put this date on your calendar. Prior regional meetings have provided interesting topics for conversation as well as opportunities to meet members in our other local leagues.

LWV Position on Fracking

The question came up in our program meeting in January regarding the LWVUS and LWVOH position on fracking. Carol Russell contacted Al Rosenfeld, our Ohio LWV Energy Specialist, and he reported that the 2010 National LWV Convention did pass a resolution regarding gas removal from shale. It is as follows: *“Support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources.”* According to Al, the term *“fracking”* is too specific in looking at the issue. However, it does fit generally with the national and state LWV positions in legislation to protect and support clean water.

Recycling for Perrysburg Area

The annual Perrysburg/Perrysburg Township recycling event will be held on Saturday, May 5, this year. This is an opportunity for the League to earn \$300 for providing about five volunteers to help with the event which runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Please contact Carol Russell or Judy Reitzel if you can help with this event. It is a great way to support our environmental mission and also lots of fun to greet neighbors in the community.

LWVPA Receives Book on CAFOs in Gratitude for Advocacy Work

Gloria Green Hales, past Chair of the LWVPA Natural Resources Committee, last month received a complimentary copy of a book from the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM) for the Perrysburg League.

CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation): *The Tragedy of Industrial Animal Factories*, Daniel Imhoff, Editor, published by *Earth Aware*, features over 400 photographs and 30 essays by today's leading thinkers on food and agriculture. The book is designed to be an invaluable educational resource and will be placed at Way Library.

The ECCSCM wrote: "Groups like yours reach out to agricultural communities, to legislators and public officials. Your voices, the writings in this book and the large-scale visual documentation of the extraordinary photographs can keep the focus on the abuses of industrial livestock production and strengthen the demand for change for alternative, humane and sustainable pasture-based systems. With our thanks for your efforts, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan."

Here is how our League helped, according to Gloria: After a 2003-04 study using the LWVUS and LWVO Public Policy Program (positions) under Natural Resources Water, the LWVPA adopted the position of a moratorium on all new CAFOs in Ohio. We advanced to advocacy in 2005 when the LWVO-CAFO Action Resolution was adopted. The Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC) after study, circulated CAFO outreach petitions in five states (OH, MI, IN, NY, PA). The LEBC was formed under the LWVUS with the Natural Resources Chair of Lake Erie leagues as members. As an institutional voting member of Great Lakes United (US and Canadian Provinces), the LEBC proposed a moratorium resolution that was adopted without dissent. US Senators and Representatives and Canadian Members of Parliament were notified of the action.

LWVPA Event on City of Perrysburg Website

You may want to look at the home page for the City of Perrysburg. They have posted an announcement of our LWV/Topical Tuesday Event on February 28, regarding Transportation. Please take time to get on the Web Site. You may need to wait a minute to see it as it is part of a series of six events or information pieces that the city is featuring on the home page a real compliment to Jean Duston and Kevin Rantanen for their participation on the city committee regarding TARTA representing the LWV Perrysburg Area.

SAVE the DATE

Looking ahead for our LWV events, you may want to put April 10 on your calendar. This is the date for our annual State Day in Columbus for all Ohio Leagues a more information to follow in our March newsletter.