



# The VOTER

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

P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552

February 2013

## In This Issue:

- Invasive Species Threat To Great Lakes Is March Meeting Topic** 1
- Presidents' Letter** 2
- Upcoming Meetings** 3
- Report on LWVO Conference Call** 4
- EPA Updates Rules For Drinking Water** 5

### LWVO Statehouse Day

What can be better than a room full of more than 100 League members from around the state hearing about important public policy issues directly from key policy-makers and experts and having the chance to ask them questions.

That is what is on tap for this year's LWVO Statehouse Day. The date is Tuesday, March 19, at the Riffe Building, 31st floor, 77 S. High Street, Columbus. Registration cost is \$35 for members.

Go on the LWVO Web Site to register.

## Invasive Species Threat to Great Lakes To Be Topic of March Topical Tuesday Meeting

Sandy Bihn, Executive Director and founder of the Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper Association, will be the guest speaker on Tuesday, March 19 for Topical Tuesday. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area and Way Library. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at Way Library.

Ms. Bihn will speak about Asian carp in the Great Lakes. She provided the following information about the situation:

The Great Lakes contain 20 percent of all surface freshwater on the planet and comprise the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. Unfortunately, the lakes are under siege from over 180 non-indigenous species - nonnative fish, mollusks, crustaceans and plants that entered via artificial canals, ocean freighters, release from aquaria, or other intentional or unintentional releases. Asian carp are the latest threat and could be the worst invaders yet if the species establish breeding populations in the lakes.

The Mississippi River basin is already besieged by Asian carp and other invasive species. States in the basin have incurred great costs from the zebra mussel invasion in the past and are dealing with Asian carp infestations now, at a time when the round goby and quagga mussels are moving south through the Chicago connections with the Great Lakes.

*Continued on Page 3*



*Sandy Bihn, Executive Director and founder of the Western Lake Erie Waterkeeper Association*



## League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

### **President:**

Carol Russell,  
crussell@bex.net  
419-931-4416

### **Membership Chair**

Josette McCarthy  
jmccarthy5778@sbc  
global.net  
419-987-1658

### **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](http://www.perrysburg.oh.lwvnet.org)

## Presidents' Letter

Dear League Members:

As many of you are aware, the City of Perrysburg is putting another levy on the May ballot to support a public transportation system for Perrysburg. While all the details are yet to be in place, the service would essentially provide transportation for those community members with disabilities who cannot drive, and would also include a dial-a-ride service for Perrysburg residents connecting with the TARTA system at Meijers and in Maumee.

The League has been very much supportive of public transportation. It is important for our community to realize that without this levy, there will be no public transportation for seniors or people living with disabilities in Perrysburg. We have a number of people in the community who depend on public transportation to get their grocery shopping done, to pick up prescriptions, to get to doctor appointments, etc. It is also important for the stability of our community; public transportation enables residents to stay in their homes longer and age with independence and dignity. (Think about this for a moment. What would it feel like if you had to ask someone for a ride every time you needed to go to the doctor, to run errands, get groceries, etc.?)

***On February 6, your executive board voted to support the levy financing public transportation that will be on the May ballot.*** Aside from the above stated reasons, it is economically sound to have a public transportation system. Real estate retains a higher value, local businesses show increased revenue. The 5-year, 0.8 mill levy will cost the average homeowner in Perrysburg (\$200,000 value home) \$4 per month. A small price for independence and dignity for citizens in our community.

There are many ways that you can help if you wish to individually support the efforts in getting the levy passed:

- Talk to your neighbors, relatives, friends & encourage them to vote for the levy.
- Be informed. At this point not all details are available. However, when they are available, we will get this information out to the members.
- Contribute to the Perrysburg4transit Committee. This committee is nonpartisan, and represents a variety of members in the community. Contributions can be sent to Denny Barrett, Treasurer, 514 W. Front St., Perrysburg, OH 43551. (Checks to be made out to Perrysburg4transit)

We have some wonderful programs scheduled in the next few months. Check them out and plan to bring a friend along.

*Carol Russell*



## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday, Feb. 12 — 7 p.m.**  
Perrysburg in the 21st Century. Speaker: Bridgett Kabat, Perrysburg City Administrator.

Location: **Way Library Meeting Room\***

**Tuesday, March 19— 7 p.m.** The Asian Carp Situation in the Great Lakes . Speaker: Sandy Bihn, Exec. Dir. /Water-Keeper. Location: Way Library

**Tuesday, April 9—** Daytime Tour of Maritime Academy of Toledo. Location: 803 Water St., Toledo

**Tuesday, May 21— 10:30 a.m.** Annual Meeting, LWVPA, **Carranor Club\***  
**Noon Luncheon**  
LWVPA Scholarship presentation. Speaker: Mary Ellen Mazey, Ph.D., President of Bowling Green State University.

Location: **Carranor Club\***

**\*New location for meeting**

## Invasive Species Threat

*Continued from Page 1*

Two species of Asian carp -- Bighead and Silver Carp -- are voracious filter feeders, fast-growing, and highly productive. They consume massive amounts of plankton, a food source that is crucial for a number of native species, and therefore have the potential to radically change the way ecosystems work. In parts of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, these invasive carp represent up to 95% of the biomass. With questions about the ability of other species in the Great Lakes to control their populations, they could never be fully removed from the ecosystem if they became established. Bighead carp can reach up to 100 pounds and consume between 5% and 15% of their body weight per day. Silver carp can reach 20 lbs, and their tendency to leap out of the water when startled makes them a hazard to boaters. If Asian carp establish themselves in the sensitive tributaries and water bodies that serve as the breeding grounds for the Great Lakes fishery, the annual \$7 billion dollar Great Lakes recreational and commercial fishery and the lakes \$16 billion boating industry will be at severe risk.

Outside of the Chicago Waterway System, the pathway at Eagle Marsh, Indiana (a 716-acre wetland restoration site) poses the highest risk of carp introduction to the Great Lakes via a connection during flooding between the Wabash River in Indiana (which is already carp-infested from the Ohio River) and the headwaters of the Maumee River in Ohio (which connects to Lake Erie and is presumed to be free of reproducing Asian-carp at this time, though several individual fish have been caught over the past 15 years). We applaud the actions of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in constructing a temporary barrier between the Wabash and Maumee Rivers. However, we realize that this is only a temporary barrier and a permanent solution is critically needed.

### Need a Ride to a LWVPA Meeting?

We want to make sure that everyone who wants to attend a Perrysburg League of Women Voters meeting is able to do so.

If you would like a ride to a meeting or if you would like to volunteer to pick up a member for a meeting, please contact LWVPA President Carol Russell by emailing [crussell@bex.net](mailto:crussell@bex.net) or calling 419-931-4416.

We hope to see you at the March 19 meeting at Way Library.

## **Report on LWVO Conference Call on Human Trafficking February 5 with Ohio Representative Teresa Fedor**

*By Joyce Quinlivan*

The call began with introductions of participants on a region-by-region basis. I was the only person who identified herself as being from northwest Ohio. Representative Fedor then spoke for about 20 minutes:

Sex trafficking is an estimated \$35 billion human slavery industry worldwide and one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. It is made up of victims (supply), demand (buyers), and distributors (traffickers).

Under federal law child victims are defined as those in the sex trade before the age of 18. Adult victims are defined as being involved through manipulation or force. Trafficking is "prostitution on steroids." The average age when child becomes a trafficking victim in Ohio is 13; the average life span of a trafficking victim is 7 years. These children and women "need to be embraced not punished." However our common practice is to punish the women, not the pimps and johns.

**HB 262 Human Trafficking/"Safe Harbor:"** Representative Fedor sponsored HB 262 Human Trafficking/"Safe Harbor." Prior to passage of this act, there was no language in the Ohio Revised Code prohibiting slavery. Ohio was listed as part of the "dirty dozen" of states for its poor legislative response to trafficking.

The law views the person being trafficked as a victim rather than a criminal. It provides for protection, prevention, and prosecution including:

- Creates new procedures for a diversion program for juvenile trafficking victims
- Allows prior prostitution-related records of adult human trafficking victims to be expunged
- Changes an Ohio human trafficking charge to a first degree felony (consistent with federal charges) with a mandatory prison term of at least ten years in prison
- Requires convicted human traffickers to register as sex offenders
- Includes obstruction of justice penalties for traffickers who threaten victims to prevent them from testifying
- Provides for access to victims of crime funds for victims

There is much left to be done including:

- Increase statute of limitations to match other sex abuse laws
- Eliminate defense of "mistaken age" i.e. the john can say he didn't know the victim was under-age
- Make prosecution easier

One law is not enough. The problem needs a "whole community" solution

### **Questions:**

#### **Why is the word "rape" not used?**

The law is based on the Ohio Revised Code definition of human trafficking which is broader than rape. We still have a long way to go in educating lawmakers that "buying rape is not ok."

#### **What additional actions can we take?**

- Host awareness/education events.
- Host speakers
- Observe National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January
- Distribute posters with "safe harbor" and hotline information
- Be involved with area coalitions-A list of organizations will be posted on the Ohio LWV Web Site
- Become a foster parent to a victim
- Follow legislation
- Join the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission. Anyone can join; it is not necessary to attend all meetings. Six subcommittees. Currently 90 members.

*Continued on Page 5*

## **Report on LWVO Conference Call**

*Continued from Page 4*

- Talk to mayors and city councilmen
- Help to clean up drug problems in communities
- Advocate for sororities and fraternities at the national level to pass resolutions prohibiting activities that demean women e.g. õpimp and hoeõ parties.

For additional actions and organizations in Ohio, we are encouraged to contact Representative Fedorõs office (Marta). Additional information is available from the Ohio League of Women Voters, which conducted a state study and developed recommendations on the topic. Recommendations are posted on their website.

Information is also available on the Ohio Attorney Generalõs website including the study õDomestic Sex Trafficking in Ohioõ by University of Toledo professor Celia Williamson; information on the Ohio Human Trafficking Commission, and the Attorney Generalõs 2012 annual report on sex trafficking in Ohio.

## **EPA Updates Rule for Pathogens in Drinking Water; Sets Limit for E. Coli**

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has updated the rule for pathogens in drinking water, including setting a limit for the bacteria E. coli to better protect public health.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule ensures that all of the approximately 155,000 public water systems in the United States, which provide drinking water to more than 310 million people, take steps to prevent exposure to pathogens like E. coli. Pathogens like E. coli can cause a variety of illnesses with symptoms such as acute abdominal discomfort or, in more extreme cases, kidney failure or hepatitis.

Under the revised rule, public drinking water systems are required to notify the public if a test exceeds the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for E. coli in drinking water. If E. coli or other indications of drinking water contamination are detected above a certain level, drinking water facilities must assess the system and fix potential sources and pathways of contamination. High-risk drinking water systems with a history of non-compliance must perform more frequent monitoring. The revised rule provides incentives for small drinking water systems that consistently meet certain measures of water quality and system performance.

Public water systems and the state and local agencies that oversee them must comply with the requirements of the Revised Total Coliform Rule beginning April 1, 2016. Until then, public water systems and primacy agencies must continue to comply with the 1989 version of the rule.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that EPA review each National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, such as the Total Coliform Rule, at least once every six years. The outcome of the review of the 1989 Total Coliform Rule determined that there was an opportunity to reduce implementation burden and improve rule effectiveness while at the same time increasing public health protection against pathogens in the drinking water distribution systems. EPAõs revised rule incorporates recommendations from a federal advisory committee comprised of a broad range of stakeholders and considers public comments received during a public comment period held in fall 2010.

For more information: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/tcr/regulation.cfm>