



The Voter

January 2014

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Two January Meeting Opportunities Scheduled

For Members Only

The League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area will hold their annual program meeting on Tuesday, January 14, at Way Public Library. The meeting will begin at noon and will include a luncheon of soup, salads and dessert.



The meeting will be open to members only. The program meeting gives all members of our League the opportunity to review and offer input on our local platforms, which come under the headings of Human Resources and Social Policy, Government, Natural Resources and Land Use. The League will consider member suggestions for changes and/or new programs under these areas of major interest.

The meeting will run from noon to 2 p.m. Members are urged to review the LWVPA programs on page four of their membership directory before the meeting. Copies of the programs will also be available at the meeting.

Please mark your calendars for January 14, as the more people who attend this meeting, the better the discussion will be.

Open to the Public

The League is partnering with Way Library to present a Topical Tuesday lecture on January 21, at 7 p.m. Montana Miller, Ph.D., will speak about Wiki leaks and computer security concerns of the average citizen. Dr. Miller is an associate professor at Bowling Green State University in popular culture studies. She holds a bachelors degree from Harvard University and masters and Ph.D. degrees from UCLA. She resides in Perrysburg with her family.

This meeting is open to the public, as well as League members, so please invite friends and neighbors to attend and learn more about this very hot topic.





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

Because of the snowy weather I have been stuck inside with plenty of opportunity to catch up on my reading. Old magazines, newspapers, clipped articles that I promised myself I would read someday, and blogs on the computer that I have meant to investigate and now had the time. What an enjoyable time I have had, and I want to share some of what I have learned.

In the July/August, 2013 Smithsonian Magazine there is a fascinating article *CSI: Italian Renaissance*. Tom Mueller has interviewed Gino Fornaciari, who is a pioneer in the burgeoning field of paleopathology, the use of state-of-the-art medical technology and forensic techniques to investigate the lives and deaths of illustrious figures of the past. He and his colleagues have exhumed remains throughout Italy in order to scrutinize the lives and deaths of kings, saints, warriors etc. In 2003, he began the exhumations of the Medici. By using the wealth of biographical information that has been written about the various members of the famous family and looking at the x-rays of all the joints, paying particular attention to the mouth, Dr. Fornaciari can tell us the following about Cosimo I de' Medici: He had arthritis, probably had diabetes and had serious periodontal disease as there was a massive crater in his jaw. (He has found this in many of the wealthy people of this time, proving how painful life in that period could be, even for the rich and famous.) In the future, Dr. Fornaciari hopes to exhume Galileo, although scholars, clerics and the media are against this.

I read many articles and editorials that have been written about Edward Snowden, the "Whistle Blower." I will only mention one of them. On the January 2, 2014, *New York Times* Opinion page the editor writes the following, "Considering the enormous value of the information he has revealed, and the abuses he has exposed, Snowden deserves better than a life of permanent exile, fear and flight. He may have committed a crime to do so, but he has done his country a great service. It is time for the United States to offer Snowden a plea bargain or some form of clemency that would allow him to return home, face at least substantially reduced punishment ..." The editorial continues and ends with a plea that President Obama should tell his aides to begin to find a way to get Snowden home.

The above could be a lead-in to a Topical Tuesday program, January 21, at 7 p.m. at Way Library. The speaker is Dr. Montana Miller, Associate Professor of Popular Culture at Bowling Green. The League and the Library are co-sponsoring this presentation on Wiki Leaks and privacy in the internet age. If you have never heard Dr. Miller speak you are in for a treat. Not only is she knowledgeable, but she is also an entertaining speaker. I'm anxious to hear her opinion of Edward Snowden, aren't you?

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Noon
Luncheon and LWVPA
Program Planning Session.
Members only. Location:
Way Library Meeting
Room

Tuesday, Jan. 21 - 7 p.m.
Topical Tuesday. Wiki
Leaks and Computer
Security, Dr. Montana
Miller, BGSU
Location: Way Library
Meeting Room

Tuesday, Feb. 11 – 7 p.m.
Vision for Perrysburg.
Location: Way Library
Meeting Room

**Tuesday, March 11 – 7
p.m.** Women Engaged in
Public Service. Dr. Shanon
Orr, BGSU. Panelists:
Doris Herringshaw, Jill
Engle and Sara
Weisenberger. Location:
Way Library Meeting
Room

**Tuesday, April 15 – 7
p.m.** Human Trafficking,
Theresa Fedor, Ohio
House Representative,
District 45. Location: Way
Library

**Tuesday, May 13 – 10:30
a.m.** Annual Meeting
Noon Luncheon, LWVPA
Scholarship presentation.
Speaker: TBA Location:
Carranor Club, 502 E.
Second St., Perrysburg

LWVO Board Adopts Issue Priorities for 2013-2015

From Ann Henkener, LWVO Advocacy Chair

(This article was published in the LWVO Fall *Voter* 2013)

Earlier this year, the LWV Ohio Board adopted a new 5-year strategic plan. Recognizing that the Ohio League can have more impact if we focus on several priority issues, the plan calls on the state board to identify 3-5 priority issues to focus on in our education and advocacy work for the next two years.

The LWVO Board adopted the following four issue priorities for 2013-2015:

Election Administration and Voting Rights.

This is a continuation of the work the League has done over the last several years, such as educating voters on how and where to vote, opposing requirements for photo IDs, and assuring easy access to the polls both on election day and by early in person voting and by absentee ballot. This work is supported by a grant from the Joyce Foundation and has always been a priority for the League.

Judicial Reform

The League has a history of educating voters about the unique role of the judiciary and of supporting policies that maintain the independence of judges. This work is also supported by a grant from the Joyce Foundation.

Women's Reproductive Health Rights.

The LWVUS has long had a strong position supporting women's access to reproductive health care. Recently those rights have been under attack and the League needs to educate Ohioans about ways to retain those rights.

Water (includes clean water, water usage, water issues related to fracking, Great Lakes, etc.)

Ohio is uniquely involved in a number of issues relating to clean water – one third of the state is in the Great Lakes watershed, and we are confronted with making sure that water is clean and remains plentiful. Ohio also is a state in which hydraulic fracturing can be used to produce gas. We need to assure that our water is used properly and that the waste doesn't contaminate our water supply.

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LWVO Board Adopts Issue Priorities for 2013-2015*Continued from page 3*

LWVO volunteer lobbyists advocate for priority as well as non-priority issues and this will continue. We do expect that staff and board members will focus on the priority areas.

All of our positions are important and we encourage local Leagues and League members to pursue the issues of particular concern to them. Any issue on which we have a position is open for education and advocacy by League members

LWVPA Finance Drive Report

The Finance Campaign Committee has good news to report. As of January 8, the amount of contributions to the Finance Drive was \$4,468.38. That is over \$814 more than last year's total campaign drive. A complete report will be made at a later date. Donations are still being accepted and encouraged.

Last Chance for Membership

January is the month that local Leagues must submit their final roster to the state and national Leagues. The number of paid members will determine how much we have to pay in dues to those two organizations. In order to retain your membership in not only the Perrysburg League, but also the state and national Leagues, we must have your membership payment no later than January 20.

If you have not yet paid this year's dues, but you would like to remain a member, please do so soon. We want very much to have your support.