



The Voter

January 2015

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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January LWVPA Meeting

Looks at Human Trafficking and Its Unique Threat to Northwest Ohio

The topic of human trafficking will be the subject of our January 13 meeting. Presented in conjunction with Way Public Library, the Perrysburg League of Women Voters will present Laura Neal of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.



Laura Neal

The Topical Tuesday program will take place at 7 p.m. at the library on Tuesday, January 13. This informative presentation will include a discussion on human trafficking, a description of strategies used by traffickers and an overview of the Ohio Safe Harbor and End Demand Acts.

Annual Program Meeting Set for January 20

The League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area will hold its annual program meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at noon at Way Library.

This meeting is for members only. The group will discuss the League's current stand on various programs under the headings of Human Resources and Social Policy, Government, Natural Resources, Land Use, and Voter Participation.

Recommendations made by the members at this meeting will be voted on at our annual Meeting on May 19.

A luncheon of soups and salads will be served.

Would you like to be an observer of City Council or School Board meetings?

The league is looking for volunteers to observe from one to all meetings throughout the year.

Please reply to Sue Hoffman if you are interested.

Phone 419-874-3753 or

Email -rshuffyburg@bex.net



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:

Clean water has long been a focus of LWV work. This year, especially for those of us who live in the Toledo area, it has been a key issue.

This past week I received a letter from Henrietta Saunders, President of the LWV Lake Michigan Region, on behalf of the Board of Directors of LWV Lake Michigan region, a four state ILO with 49 members. They are making a request that the LWVUS make **Sustainable Water Resources a legislative priority**. I will quote from the letter to give you, as a member of our League, ideas to include in an e-mail that I hope you will write to support this request.

"Water is a key aspect of many national discussions in which the League is already involved. In energy, this is obvious with regard to fracking, toxic water pollution from coal plants, and pipeline safety concerns. The LWVUS Climate Change Task force also has noted that water processing poses enormous demands on local governments ... for most municipalities, their biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used.

"We need the national organization to promote water as a legislative priority because so many of us are working on water protection and management at the regional, state, and local level already. A national advocacy focus will help us be more effective in our current work, and will benefit the League as a whole because of the many opportunities to further engage our base and to attract new members."

The e-mails must be received by January 12 and as we do not have a meeting before then, I urge you to write to Chris Carson, the Advocacy Committee chairman at carsonlwv@yahoo.com Please mention that you are writing as an individual member of the LWVPB.

In closing this letter, I would like to thank the members for their help in making 2014 an exciting, productive, and enjoyable year for me. I know 2015 will bring us new opportunities to help spread the word that the LWV of Perrysburg is an active group that makes a difference!

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015 – 7 p.m. *Human Trafficking and Its Unique Threat to NW Ohio*, Laura Neal, Lucas County Children Services

Tuesday, Jan. 20, – Noon. Annual LWVPA Program Meeting. **Members only**

Tuesday, Feb. 10 – 7 p.m. Panel Discussion - LWVUS *Position on Federal Agriculture Policies*

Tuesday, March 17 – 7 p.m. *Pretty in Pink: the Princess Culture and Gender Norms in the New Millennium*, Dr. Parama Sakar, Asst. Prof. University of Toledo

Tuesday, April 14 – 7 p.m. *Protecting Our Natural Heritage*, Sarah Brokamp, Advancement Coordinator for Black Swamp Conservancy

Tuesday, May 12– 7 p.m. *Local Resources Fighting Hunger/Malnutrition in Our Community*, Stephanie Cihon, Community Relations Director for Promedica.

Tuesday, May 19 – 11 a.m. Annual Meeting **Noon** - Luncheon. Location: Carranor Club. Speaker: TBA

**All meetings at Way Library unless otherwise noted.*

LWVPA 2014 Finance Campaign Is Still Underway

The League's Finance Campaign is in full swing. Currently to date, our generous members and non-members have donated \$2,227.50 and \$1,185, respectively.

With these funds the League produces a number of important guides for the public including the Voter's Guide and the Public Officials Guide. Do not worry, it is not too late to donate. We are close to reaching our goals, but we need your help to get there!

*Sarah Weisenburger
Treasurer*

Book Sale at 577 Foundation Wraps Up Successful Three Months

The LWVPA finished it's three-month stint of taking charge of the book store at the 577 Foundation on December 31. As of December 3, the League had earned \$1,297 for the General Fund. The final total will be announced in the February Voter.

Thank you to all who volunteered for this fundraiser. It was truly a group effort and could not have been done without the dedicated efforts of our members.

*Carol Shepard
Director*

Welcome New Members

Please welcome our four new members when you see them and add their information to your Membership Booklets.

Liz Lauer	591 Carol Drive Perrysburg, OH 43551	419-297-7742 lizlauer@gmail.com
Melissa Foley	29636 Duxbury Lane Perrysburg, OH 43551	703-967-7294 foley.melissa@rocketmail.com
Veronica Mora	2001 Coe Court Perrysburg, OH 43551	419-931-4472 MORA.VL83@gmail.com
Cheryl Vance	10626 Avenue Road Perrysburg, OH 43551	419-304-6122 CMTVL8@bex.net

Other Changes to Membership Booklet to Note

Nancy Kelley has an address change: 14650 Dexter Falls Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

Dodie Straus has a new e-mail address: DodieStrauss@bex.net

Rachel Johnson has a new address: 29969 St. Andrews Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

Please make these changes in your LWVPA Membership Booklet.

Great Lakes Water Conference

*By Joyce Quinlivan
Natural Resources Chair*

The annual Great Lakes Water Conference was held on November 7 at the University of Toledo College of Law. The day included four panels with speakers representing the many “stakeholders” on our water quality issues including the U.S. EPA, National Wildlife Federation, Iowa Farm Bureau, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio Environmental Counsel, Earthjustice and the University of Toledo Lake Erie Center. A few of the major points are highlighted below.

How do we define “U.S. Waters?”

- The EPA has issued proposed regulations seeking to clarify the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” in the Clean Water Act, including streams and wetlands. The Supreme Court has ruled that unless this definition is clarified, each situation must be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- Farm Bureaus oppose these regulations because they would expand EPA jurisdiction, for example to “upstream” creeks and to waters (some on farmlands) that are only formed during heavy rains. More farmlands would be subject to EPA regulation, creating cumbersome processes to do basic farming practices.
- Environmental advocates stress the typical watershed is formed by very small tributaries and streams upstream. If we don’t address pollution in these, we cannot make it up downstream. The upstream sources account for 60% of runoff into Lake Erie. We must control pollution at its source.

To dump or not to dump:

- In Ohio 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment are dredged from waterways each year, 81% of which is dumped into Lake Erie. Ohio and New York are the only states that dump sediment into the Great Lakes. Cities as large as Chicago and Detroit do not.
- There is not evidence that open lake dumping is significant to our harmful algal bloom problem, but it does reduce the amount of sunlight able to penetrate the water, reduces important plant life and harms fish.
- There is no disagreement that this dredging is necessary for the economic health of the Great Lakes region, but there is controversy on what to do with the sediment, some of which contains toxic chemicals.
- The Army Corps of Engineers, which does the dredging and disposal, supports open lake dumping into Lake Erie as “the least costly but environmentally acceptable” method.
- The Ohio EPA seeks to end open lake dumping and to find alternative uses for non-toxic dredged materials as “beneficial resources.” Successful examples have included creation of new habitats and wetlands, landfill cover, restoration of brownfield sites, and soil blends.
- The cost of researching and implementing alternative uses is an issue. Funding intended for this purpose through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund has been diverted by Congress.

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Don't frack in my back yard:

- Oil and gas drilling has been happening in Ohio for over 150 years. Since the 1950's, every well in Ohio has been fracked. Most regulation of oil and gas extraction in the U.S. is at the state level and has not kept pace with fast-changing drilling practices. Most Ohio law comes from the late 1800's and early 1900's.
- Concerned about environmental consequences of fracking, many local governments in the U.S. have enacted their own rules on how and where drilling is conducted.
- Generally, state law "preempts" local law, but some bans have been upheld by higher courts, some have been struck down, and some are still winding their way through the courts.

Preventing another Toledo water crisis:

- There is no Ohio or federal definition of safe microcystin levels; we only have a standard set by the World Health Organization.
- There is no Ohio or federal law requiring localities to monitor microcystin levels; Toledo's monitoring has been purely voluntary.
- Solutions to our Lake Erie water crisis include updating water treatment, decreasing phosphorus runoff, better monitoring.

The 1971 Lake Erie water crisis was caused by industrial discharge and addressed by strict regulations, which are still in place. Our current problem is caused primarily by runoff. Legislative solutions to-date involve education, incentives and enhanced monitoring rather than regulation