



# The Voter

January 2016

## League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

### In This Issue:

<b>Annual Program Meeting To Be Held January 12</b>	1
<b>Topical Tuesday Meeting Will Focus on Disability Issues and Research</b>	1
<b>President's Letter</b>	2
<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>	3
<b>We Need Your Support</b>	3
<b>Welcome New Member</b>	3
<b>Microbead Ban Passed</b>	3
<b>In Memoriam</b>	3

### *Attention All Members*

## **Annual LWVPA Program Meeting Will Be Held On January 12 at Way Library**

The League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area will hold its annual program meeting on Tuesday, January 12 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 17.

In addition, we will be discussing consensus questions from the national league on Money and Politics.

A luncheon of soups and salads will be served.

It is very important that we have as many members attend this meeting as possible. We need your input!

## **Topical Tuesday Meeting Will Focus On Disability Issues and Research**

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring a meeting on disability issues with Way Library on January 12, at 7 p.m. at the library.

The Topical Tuesday Meeting will feature Dr. Kim E. Nielsen, Professor of Disability Studies at the University of Toledo.

The University of Toledo hosts the nation's first Disability Studies major, an innovative program preparing students for a wide range of fields. Join us for a conversation about this area of study, what it means when we talk about disability, current issues and research in the field.

This program is made possible with support from the Humanities Institute at the University of Toledo. The meeting is open to the public.



*Dr. Kim Nielsen*

### **It's Not Too Late to Volunteer**

The League needs observers for School Board, City Council and Perrysburg Township meetings.

It can be very rewarding as you learn first-hand what are the key issues facing each entity, and you can help the rest of us know what key things are being discussed.

You can decide which group you would like to observe.

*Email Sue Hoffman at rshuffyburg@bex.net. to volunteer.*



## League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

### **President:**

Nancy Kelley  
njkway@gmail.com  
419-866-6013

### **Membership Chair:**

Josette McCarthy  
jmccarthy5778@  
sbcglobal.net  
419-987-1685

### **Voter Editor:**

Roseanne Barker  
roseannebarker@  
sbcglobal.net  
419-874-5151

### **LWVPA**

**P.O. Box 712  
Perrysburg, Ohio 43552**

### **LWVPA E-Mail**

lwvperrysbur@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**

## President's Letter

Dear League Members,

As I am writing this letter in late December it seems a good time to look back at the previous year to see what has happened in 2015 in the life of the League in Perrysburg. We have had many interesting speakers on various topics. In January we had a sobering presentation about Human Trafficking and the unique threat to Northwestern Ohio. Laura Neal of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition said while progress is being made every day there is much to be done. Educating the public, those who work in law enforcement, and service providers about the problem remains high on the list.

In February we heard a panel discussion composed of a Wood County farmer, a senior director for the Ohio Farm Bureau, and the LWVoters NW Ohio Regional Representative. It is always interesting to hear how government policies, while well meaning, do not always work in practice as they are designed to.

In partnership with Way Library's set of programs called Topical Tuesdays we have learned about the problems and benefits of fracking, the homeless situation in the area and what local groups are doing about the problems of hunger, and the need for such groups as The Black Swamp Conservancy.

In September a BGSU Professor, Dr. James Evans, enlightened us about the history of dams and why it is necessary to remove dams in Ohio and elsewhere. While it could have been a very dull topic Dr. Evans was very engaging and most of us left that evening understanding why the dam in nearby Fremont was no longer necessary and removing it would not cause the problems that critics were writing about.

Not only did we have some excellent programs, we also provided the Candidates Forum in October for the general public. The Forum, as well as the printed copy of the Voter's Guide, provided guidance to many Perrysburg area voters.

Who could forget the lovely reception that was held at the Manor House at the 577 Foundation on September 27, to present the 2015 Stranahan Citizenship Award to local activist Dr. Earl Campbell MD. Dr. Campbell is an advocate for the environment and has served on the boards of the Lake Erie Water Keepers and the Wood County Park District.

The coming year of 2016 will be a busy and exciting year for our league as well as the nation as we gear up for the Presidential Election and all the debates, primaries and conventions. Ohio's primary election will be March 15, and as Ohio is considered a swing state, all eyes will be on our state. While the LWV is a non-partisan political organization, we do encourage informed and active participation in government and we always encourage people to register to vote.

*Nancy Kelley*



## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016 – Noon** *Soup and Salad Luncheon and Annual Program Meeting.* Way Library. **MEMBERS ONLY.**

**Tuesday, Jan. 12 — 7 p.m.** Dr. Kim E. Nielsen, University of Toledo Professor of Disability Studies, Way Library

**Tuesday, February 23 — 7 p.m. New Date**

Dr. Joel Voss, University of Toledo Professor, Political Science, Way Library

**Tuesday, March 22 – 7 p.m.** *Understanding Constitution 101.* Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Zeitlow, UT Law School, Way Library

**Tuesday, April 12 – 7 p.m.** *Community Gardening.* Speaker: Yvonne Dubielak, Toledo Grows. Way Library

**Tuesday, May 17 — Noon** *Annual Spring Luncheon.* Speaker: Dr. Brandon Withrow, University of Findlay, Carranor Club, Topic: *Challenges of Change*

## We Need Your Support ....

The annual Finance Drive by the Perrysburg League of Women Voters is off to a slow start this year. Down 35% from this time last year, these funds are extremely important to the work we do. The Finance Drive helps enable the League to provide services to the community, such as the *Voters Guide*.

If you have not yet donated to the drive, please consider doing so soon. A donation to the League's Education fund is tax deductible.

## Welcome New Member Laura Brown

Welcome New Member Laura Brown!

Please add her information to your Membership Booklet.

Laura Brown

337 Osage Court, Perrysburg, OH 43551

847-894-1400

comeau.brown@gmail.com

## Natural Resources Report:

### Microbead Ban Passed by Congress

The Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 was passed by the U.S. Senate on December 18 and signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 28. The House of Representatives had approved it earlier in the month.

This act requires the manufacturing of products containing tiny bits of plastic known as microbeads to end by July 1, 2017, and the sale of them to cease by July 1, 2018. Microbeads are mostly in health and beauty products, such as soaps and toothpaste.

The Senate version of the bill was authored by U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R., Ohio). Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are believed to be the worst places for microbead pollution in the Great Lakes. Barely large enough to be seen by the human eye, microbeads are devastating to wildlife and human health.

Many companies have already voluntarily committed to replacing the plastic microbeads with natural alternatives, such as crushed almonds, oatmeal and pumice

The microbeads are only part of a larger problem of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes, but the microbead ban is an important first step in solving this dilemma.

## In Memoriam

We regret the passing of former LWVPA member Josephine Johnstone. Josephine, age 89, died on December 21, 2015. She was the mother of League member Stephanie Johnstone.

A lovely lady with a beautiful smile, she will be greatly missed by her family and friends.