



The VOTER

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

P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552

January 2013

In This Issue:

Great Lakes Compact Approved	1
Presidents' Letter	2
Upcoming Meetings	3
New City Administrator Will Speak at February Meeting	4
Letter from Public Utilities Director	4

SAVE the DATE

Regional LWVO Meeting on Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Kent Branch of the Toledo Lucas County Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo. To attend you must register ahead of time on the LWVO Web Site. Click on Regional Meet-

Please put March 19 on your calendar. This is the date for our annual **State Day** in Columbus for all Ohio Leagues í more information to follow in our March newsletter.

Great Lakes Compact Approved At January Program Meeting

At the January program meeting for Perrysburg League of Women Voters members only, the League approved the Great Lakes Compact. The compact is the work of a coalition of groups concerned with the Great Lakes, including the Michigan LWV. All Ohio leagues will be considering the compact this month.

LWVPA President Carol Russell and Natural Resources Chairman Ann Hymel presented the compact, which is intended to achieve protection and improvement of this valuable international resource.

The compact includes protective measures, covers threats to the ecosystem, defines the role of government and sets research priorities.

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) provided League member with the following facts about the Great Lakes and the compact before the vote:

A Valuable but Vulnerable Resource

The Great Lakes are one of our country's most unique and precious resources, providing freshwater for 33 million people who live within the basin and supporting the region's ecosystem and economy.

The Great Lakes Basin contains nearly 20% of the earth's fresh surface water. It is the only freshwater system of its kind in size and ecological diversity. The Great Lakes are essential to humans and wildlife alike.

While the Great Lakes are a vast and valuable resource, they are not unlimited. Each year groundwater recharge, rainfall and snowmelt replenish only 1% in the basin. The other 99% is finite and non-renewable.

Our Lake Erie

Lake Erie is the shallowest, warmest and most biologically productive of all the Great Lakes and produces more fish for human consumption than all the other Great Lakes combined. It is essential to Ohio's environment and economy for agriculture, shipping, heavy manufacturing and electricity.

Continued on Page 3



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

Presidents' Letter

Dear League Members:

Happy New Year 2013! In the last month we survived the Mayan predicted apocalypse, our congressional delegation has in the last minute gotten us past the fiscal cliff, and we now will watch as negotiations heat up regarding the debt ceiling and working on balancing our budget and debt control.

While I often feel some lack of control of what is happening in Washington, I feel somewhat more encouraged about what we can do here in our Perrysburg Community! so here are some challenges:

LWV Perrysburg Membership: January is a good time to think about prospective members. Many of you worked on issues and on campaigns during the last election. Are there some of those hard-working people who would be wonderful LWV members in terms of their interest in things that we support, i.e. better government, environmental issues, supporting voter education? We can now offer them a ½ price membership to try us out. Please let Roseanne Barker or Josette McCarthy know of any individuals that we might invite to our meetings.

We have many state and local positions that we list on our websites and discuss in our planning meetings. While we may vocally support those positions, what might be some creative activities that we could engage our community in examining these issues in some open discussion?

Our nominations committee is beginning the process of getting the 2013-2014 slate of officers. If you've not had an opportunity, or if it has been a while since you've served on the board, please consider volunteering. It is a great way to get acquainted with active and interesting Perrysburg area women.

We have some very exciting programs left this year. I am wishing you all a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Carol Russell



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 8 — Noon Luncheon LWVPA Program Planning Session. *Members only.* Location: Way Library Meeting Room

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

Continued from Page 1

It supplies drinking water to 11 million people, 3 million of whom live in Ohio and supports one out of every 10 jobs along the Ohio Lake Erie basin. Lake Erie generates \$10.1 billion annually to Ohio in tourism and travel revenue and roughly \$3.7 billion from hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

Lake Erie is a resource worth protecting and improving.

The Compact

In 2008, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact was ratified by the Great Lakes states and territories, passed by Congress and signed into law. There is a companion agreement within the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

These agreements provide the most comprehensive water use protections for the Great Lakes in the last century. The enforceability of the Compact is what sets this agreement apart from other Great Lakes agreements.

For the first time in the Great Lakes basin, the Compact:

- Provides the Great Lakes, their tributaries and groundwater with the same environmental protection standards;
- Establishes protection of the ecosystem and the economies that depend on the Great Lakes as a priority elsewhere in the basin;
- Ensures that every Great Lakes state and territory will have the same set of rational protections.

These agreements close the door on exporting our Great Lakes waters by cargo tankers to the four corners of the world. It protects us from unsustainable water use in the basin.

The Compact addresses all water uses in a comprehensive and groundbreaking way. The Compact allows the Great Lakes region to maintain control over Great Lakes Water in the face of growing demand from across the nation and the world.

The Compact guarantees the long-term protection and sound management of Great Lakes water, ensuring that the water will be protected for generations to come.

The OEC's Recommendation

The Ohio General Assembly must now pass legislation to put into action the programs and protections required by the Compact. These include a permitting program for new or increased water withdrawals and consumptive uses, as well as a conservation program for all water users, including existing users.

Should Ohio's legislature adopt water use standards that are anything less than science-based, it will fail to fulfill the promise of the Compact and compromise both the ecological and economic value of Lake Erie and the streams and ground water that drain into the lake.

The Ohio General Assembly and Governor Kasich are in the process of developing legislation to implement Ohio's part of the Compact. This legislation will determine the fate of Lake Erie and Ohio's streams.



New City Administrator Will Speak at February Meeting

Bridgette Kabat, the new Perrysburg City Administrator, will address the Perrysburg League of Women Voters on Tuesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. at Way Library. Mrs. Kabat will discuss future plans for the City of Perrysburg.

Appointed in July after the retirement of former City Administrator John Alexander, Mrs. Kabat is the first woman to hold that position in Perrysburg. Formerly, she had served as chief of staff for the Lucas County Commissioners.

She served as the commissioner's chief of staff for seven years. Before that she was the assistant director of the county's Management and Budget Office.

Mayor Nelson Evans told the *Toledo Blade* that Mrs. Kabat brings a lot of experience and enthusiasm to the job. "She seems to have a very friendly personality, outgoing. She just seemed to click with everybody who has talked to her. I think she'll be a good fit," he was quoted as saying.

Mrs. Kabat grew up in Maumee and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Toledo. She is a certified public financial officer.



*Bridgette Kabat
Perrysburg City
Administrator*

Public Utilities Director Updates League on Perrysburg Water

Ann Hymel, LWVPA Natural Resources Chairman, spoke to Tim Warren, Perrysburg's new Director of Public Utilities, prior to the League's January program meeting. They discussed concerns regarding Perrysburg's water supply, and Mr. Warren followed up the conversation with the this letter, which Ann wanted to share with our members.

Ann,

It was a pleasure to speak with you this afternoon. The work the League of Women Voters is doing to help protect our environment is important. We appreciate your interest in the "state of the water resources" in Perrysburg.

The City was involved in a number of important projects in 2012. Most of these are on-going:

- The City completed construction of Cherry Street District 208 and started construction of Cherry Street District 209 of the Combined Sewer Separation Program. The City is on schedule to complete the program by 2017 in accordance with EPA's requirement at a cost of about \$20 million.
- Phase 3 of improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently under design. The City is on schedule to complete the improvements by 2017 at a cost of about \$20 million. The wastewater treatment plant improvements, in combination with the combined sewer separation program, will reduce the number of combined sewer overflows to the Maumee River.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

- The City formed the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) by splitting off the Division of Public Utilities from the Department of Public Service. The new structure allows DPU to focus on increasing regulatory requirements, rising costs, new technologies, and maintaining positive relationships with neighboring communities and stakeholders.
- The City started construction of two elevated water storage tanks at a cost of about \$5 million. The existing 250,000 gallon tank on Fort Meigs Road will be replaced with a one million gallon tank, and a new one million gallon tank will be constructed on Roachton Road. The tanks will improve fire flow capacity.
- The City took steps, including public education, adopting standards for new development, site development plan review, construction site inspections and storm sewer outfall monitoring, to implement a storm water management program to reduce pollution from storm water runoff.
- The City implemented a 7.5% annual increase in water rates and a 3.0% annual increase in sewer rates for 2013-2016. The minimum charges were reduced for customers using 900 cubic feet of less. The water rate increase is needed to keep pace with the rising cost of water from the City of Toledo. Toledo's rates have been increasing 9% per year. The sewer rate increase is needed to complete the combined sewer separation and wastewater treatment plant improvement programs.

The League may play an important role in educating the public of the importance of the City's water and sewer utilities. It's difficult to appreciate how valuable they are since most of the water and sewer infrastructure is buried underground. However, complying with increasing regulatory requirements and replacing aging infrastructure are monumental challenges.

Although the projects listed above have received the headlines, our personal actions as residents and business owners may have the greatest impact. The League has an opportunity to help educate the public and influence the way we live.

Potential areas of interest include lawn care, pet waste, use of pesticides and herbicides, and the disposal of used motor oil, antifreeze, unused paint, medications and other hazardous wastes.

We look forward to working with you to protect our water resources.

Timothy D. Warren, PE
Director of Public Utilities
City of Perrysburg