



The Voter

March 2014

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Women in Public Service Will Speak During March Meeting at Way Library

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters, in partnership with Way Public Library, will host a panel discussion on women engaged in public service on Tuesday, March 11.

Dr. Shannon Orr will open the discussion with an introduction on the topic and will also participate in the panel discussion. Dr. Orr is originally from Canada and has been teaching at Bowling Green State University for 11 years in the Department of Political Science. She received her PHD from Wayne State University in Detroit. Her research is focused on environmental policy.

The panel will also include Sara Weisenburger, who was appointed to Perrysburg City Council in June 2013, where she was chair of the Personnel Committee and also sat on the Finance Committee and the Economic Development Committee. She was defeated in the November election, but still actively participates in council and committee meetings. Ms. Weisenburger, a 2004 graduate of the University of Toledo, worked as an independent auditor for a regional accounting firm and later became an internal auditor at the University of Toledo.

Also speaking will be Doris Herringshaw, who was appointed Wood County Commissioner on January 10, 2013, to fill the unexpired term of Tim Brown. She is vice president of the Board of Commissioners and is serving on a variety of committees representing the Board of Commissioners.

Her community-wide organizational involvement includes the Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation Board, Project Homeless Connect and the BGSU Falcon Health Center Management Board. Prior to becoming commissioner, she completed a long career with Ohio State University Extension in Wood County and was Area Leader working with county commissioners and Extension Educators in a ten-county area.

Commissioner Herringshaw has an undergraduate degree from Kent State University and master and doctorate degrees from BGSU.

Jill Engle, Wood County Treasurer, will round out the panel. Ms. Engle has served as the Wood County Treasurer since 2000 and was Chief Deputy Treasurer for 16 years. She also served as an account clerk for the County Commissioners for seven years. She was on the Elmwood Board of Education for one term, acting as president for two years. Ms. Engle is also past president of the Northwest Ohio Treasurers Association and County Treasurers Association of Ohio. She is responsible for the collection of real estate, delinquent personal property and mobile home taxes. The average portfolio of Wood County is around \$95 million, which she monitors and invests on a daily basis.

The program is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

LWVO Statehouse Day

Saturday, April 29

Registration Deadline:

Monday, March 24

Please note in your directories that Mary Baldoni's e-mail address has changed to baldoni.195m@gmail.com



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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:

On February 15, I attended the Regional Meeting of Northwest Ohio League of Women Voters, sponsored by the Ohio LWV. It was held at the Kent Branch Library of the TLCPL and was presided by Kristin Vessey of the Bowling Green League, who serves as our regional coordinator and is a Director on the LWV of Ohio Board. Several topics were talked about, but the two main topics were Agriculture and Judicial Reform.

The majority of the time was spent on the agriculture position of the league as the national LWV is asking Leagues to study and answer Consensus Questions by this April. (As our league has not studied this topic recently, we will not be taking part in this discussion.) There was a long power point presentation that Kristin was asked to facilitate, but between the usual technology problems and the fact that Kristin had not had a chance to preview the material before hand, it was a very disjointed discussion. However, someone from the Toledo League had invited three Wood County farmers and a Wood County farm wife, and they provided current information on how the Farm bill really is working.

They were mostly positive on points that the League had questioned and it was very good to hear from people who know what is actually happening. (I have a business card from one of the farmers and he would be willing to speak to our group if and when we study the issue.)

The last part of the program was spent viewing a powerpoint on the judicial system in our country. The Ohio LWV is studying and testifying on reforms which the group believes will promote the independence of the judiciary. On November 14, 2013, Nancy Brown, President of the LWV of Ohio, spoke to the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Committee on the Judicial Branch and the Administration of Justice. She stated that "an independent judiciary is critical to our current system of government. That independence is being challenged by our current system of selecting judges. Although there is no perfect system, electing judges in a partisan system creates the appearance, if not the reality, that judges are accountable to a political party or to the special interests which contribute significantly to their election." (If you would like to read more of her testimony, go to the LWV of Ohio web page.)

While it was an interesting half day spent with fellow league members from Bowling Green, Tiffin, and Toledo it could have been improved if the materials had been sent before the meeting, so that we could have been better prepared and more knowledgeable.

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, March 11 – 7 p.m. Women Engaged in Public Service. Dr. Shannon Orr, BGSU. Panelists: Doris Herringshaw, Jill Engle and Sara Weisenburger. 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

Finance Committee Runs Highly Successful Drive

Our 2013-2014 Finance Drive has been quite successful. Your committee members -- Jean Duston, Sue Hoffman, Regina Hyldahl, Nancy Kelley, Judy Reitzel, Carol Russell, Carol Shepard and Mary Clark -- accepted the challenge to raise additional funds this year to help offset some additional Voter Services expenses and to help ensure adequate funding for our excellent educational community programs. Here is a short recap of funds received to date:

Members	\$2,225.88	32% increase over prior year
Non-members	\$2,338.50	19% increase over prior year
Total	\$4,564.38	25% increase over prior year

Donations are still being accepted. Thank you to our members for your continued support.

Mary Clark, Finance Drive Chair

Spring Voting Deadlines

The deadline for voter registration for the May primary is April 7. The primary election takes place on May 6. The application deadline for mail-in ballots (absentee ballots) is May 3 at noon. In person voting begins April 1.

LWVO Summary of 2013-14 Ohio Election Legislation

Three bills -- SB 205 (absentee voting), SB 216 (provisional ballots) and SB 238 (cut first week of early voting) -- are pending in the House. The House Policy and Legislative Oversight Committee amended and passed SB 205 and SB 238 on February 11. SB 216 is still pending in the House Policy and Legislative Oversight Committee and was expected to be amended and voted out of committee the week of February 17.

In light of this timing, we do not expect these proposed changes to be in place before the May primary election, but they will likely be in effect for the November general election.

On January, 2014, Secretary of State Jon Husted issued Directive 2014-01 that set uniform statewide early voting hours for the May 2014 primary election. Regrettably, the hours set include only one evening and part of one Sunday. The hours are:

- 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 1, 2014 through April 4, 2014

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- 8 am to 9 pm Monday, April 7, 2014;
- 8 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, from April 8, 2014 through April 11, 2014;
- 8 am to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, from April 14, 2014 through May 2, 2014
- 8 am to noon, Saturday, May 3, 2014

The Ohio General Assembly (OGA) has been busy this session, proposing numerous changes to Ohio's election system.

In the prior 2011-2012 session of the OGA, the legislature passed an omnibus election bill, House Bill 194 (HB 194). Certain portions of the bill were so objectionable to voting advocates that a referendum campaign was mounted. Seeing that the referendum campaign submitted enough signatures to make the ballot, the OGA took the extraordinary move of repealing their own bill.

The battle over HB 194 has influenced the OGA's strategy for election reform legislation this session. Instead of one big bill that makes all their changes, the OGA has broken up proposed reforms into individual bills. Thus far, more than 20 bills have been introduced on elections, and we have every reason to believe that there are more to come.

Here is an overview of the bills that have moved or may be expected to move. LWVO's testimony on these bills is available at www.lwvohio.org.

Last updated February 12, 2014

SB 10 (accessibility for disabled voters)

Sponsor: Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Township, Butler County) Status: Passed in spring 2013; went into effect on June 26, 2013.

SB 10 does a number of things including a requirement that polling places are ADA compliant, that disabled voters are entitled to assistance, increasing the maximum time a voter can be in the voting booth from five minutes to ten minutes, says that if an early in-person voter is in line when the voting location closes that the location must stay open to allow him/her to vote just like on election day.