



# The Voter

March 2016

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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### In Memoriam

Our condolences go out to the family of former LWVPA member Dean Duston. Dean, 93, passed away on February 17. He was the husband of long-time League member Jean Duston. A faithful supporter of the League and an active community member, he will be sadly missed.

## What Is and Isn't Constitutional?

### Learn More About the Constitution At LWVPA March 22 Meeting

We often hear discussion on what is appropriate constitutional change and whether or not a proposal is constitutional.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio lobbied against the marijuana bill in last November's election, not because they were necessarily against marijuana, but because they did not feel it was an appropriate constitutional amendment.

On Tuesday, March 22, at 7 p.m. Dr. Rebecca Zietlow will present a program entitled *Constitution 101*. She is a constitutional scholar and should provide an interesting evening helping us to better understand the Constitution.

Dr. Zietlow is a Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values at the University of Toledo College of Law, where she teaches Constitutional Law, Federal Courts and Constitutional Litigation.

She received her B.A. from Barnard College and her J.D. from Yale Law School. In 2012 she was the recipient of the University of Toledo Outstanding Faculty Research Award.

Dr. Zietlow's scholarly interest is in the study of the Reconstruction Era, including the meaning and history of the thirteenth and fourteenth Amendments. She is also an expert on constitutional theory, examining constitutional interpretation outside of the courts. Her book, *The Forgotten*

*Emancipator: James Mitchell Ashley and the Ideological Origins of Reconstruction*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. Her first book, *Enforcing Equality: Congress, the Constitution and the Protection of Individual Rights*, studies the history of congressional protection of rights and the implications of that history for constitutional theory. Her work has also been published in the *Columbia Law Review*, *Boston University Law Review*, *Ohio State Law Journal*, *Florida Law Review*, the *Wake Forest Law Journal* and the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*, among other publications.

Dr. Zietlow is married and the mother of two teenage daughters. Her grandmother was an avid member of the League of Women Voters.

The March program will be presented by the Perrysburg League of Women Voters in conjunction with the Way Library Topical Tuesday series.



Dr. Rebecca Zietlow



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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,

During this busy and never-ending primary season there have been many, many editorials and columns in various newspapers. I would like to quote from two columns that appeared recently in the Toledo Blade.

Marilou Johaneck in an Op-Ed article on February 27, entitled *What You Don't Know Can Hurt You, Especially in Politics*, writes "But for the most part, voters don't know about state politics, and don't care to find out. In general, they are content to remain largely in the dark about public affairs, and accept whatever a pandering politico - real or not - says without question ... In hindsight, what you don't know about the people who claim to represent you can be a grave liability."

S. Amjad Hussain in an Op-Ed article on February 29, entitled *Personal Conversations Can Provide Common Ground* offers one solution to the problem of not knowing what is happening in the world of politics. In a well written article he talks about a dinner party he attended where six people with different religious and political affiliations ended up talking about the state of the nation during this primary season. He concludes the article with the following, "It is through such personal conversations that we learn about others, and in the process discover some blind spots in our own vision as well."

This leads me to a suggestion why don't we as a League schedule some brown bag lunches or coffee and conversations for our members so that we could talk about current issues and get to know each other better. At our program planning session in January everyone left feeling good about being among people who are interested in current affairs. Perhaps we could talk about what we heard in a Topical Tuesday Program or some other current happenings in the news.

Please let me know what you think about this idea and if you think it would work.

*Nancy Kelley*



## Upcoming Meetings

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

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

**Tuesday, May 17 — 11 a.m.** Annual Meeting  
**Noon — Spring Luncheon.** Speaker: Dr. Brandon Withrow, University of Findlay, Carranor Club, Topic: *Challenges of Change*

## January Observer Report

### *Perrysburg City Council Meeting February 26, 2016*

#### **Passage of Legislation**

Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Perrysburg Youth Soccer Association (PYSA) regarding use of the City Athletic Fields (Ordinance 13-2016). PYSA is a non-profit organization that provides soccer programs for youth residing in Perrysburg, with an emphasis on fun for all participants and an emphasis on playing more than winning. Effective in 2016.

#### **Legislation Not Approved and Sent Back to Committee**

A 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Perrysburg Amateur Baseball Softball Commission (PABSC) regarding use of City Athletic Fields effective in 2016 (Ordinance 14-2016) was brought to Council by the Recreation Committee. PABSC is a non-profit organization established to provide baseball and softball programs for youth residing in the Perrysburg School District. Revenue sharing between the City and PABSC is part of this MOU. The MOU was sent back to Committee after a Citizen pointed out to Council some issues regarding PABSC's tax filings and questions about revenue reporting procedures. The next meeting of the Recreation Committee is on Wednesday, March 9 at 6 p.m.

*Debra Greenley Gorman*  
*Observer*

### **The following letter was sent to the Perrysburg Messenger Journal on behalf of the LWVPA Board**

Dear Editor,

The Board of the Perrysburg League of Women voters unanimously voted to support the Way Public Library operating levy that will be on the ballot March 15.

Library Director Janel Haas spoke to the group and explained that the levy is for 1.9 mills, which is a renewal and a small increase. The library needs this money if it is to continue operating at its current level of service to the community. For instance, the book budget needs to be increased in order to buy more books that are in demand by the public. How many people realize that the average price of a hardback book is \$26? Higher utility bills and maintenance costs to repair or replace aging equipment call for more money to be allotted to the budget. If the levy passes the library trustees intend to expand the hours that the library is open in order to better serve the public. This will be an additional cost.

The LWV of Perrysburg has always supported good library service. Knowing that adequate funding is needed to keep Way Library operating, we encourage everyone to vote yes for the levy on March 15.

Sincerely,  
Roseanne Barker  
Vice President and Membership Chair  
LWV of the Perrysburg Area