



# The Voter

November 2014

## League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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### **Solving Our Lake Erie Algae Crisis ... A Look at Current Local Research Projects**

Our early August water crisis brought a real life experience related to a contaminated lake to all Toledo area residents as we all stood in lines to get water when we could not use the water in our public water system.

Our local newspapers and broadcast journalists have done a good job presenting information on the multi-faceted problem of Lake Erie water safety.

On Tuesday, November 18, our guest speakers for our monthly program will be presenting current, active research projects here in Northwest Ohio that are working at solving this problem. The program will be held at Way Public Library at 7 p.m.

Dr. Carol Stepien and Dr. Daryl Dwyer, faculty members from the University of Toledo Department of Environmental Science and the Lake Erie Center, will be presenting current research being done regarding the algae and methods for getting pollutants out of the water. They will be joined by Dr. Robert Michael McKay, Director of Bowling Green State University's Marine Biology program, who will be sharing his research in environmental microbiology in Lake Erie. With Northwest Ohio certainly a focus for the algae issue, we are fortunate to have these experts who are on the front line of this problem.

### **LWV December Holiday Luncheon to Feature Mary Bilyeu, Toledo Blade food Editor**

Mary Bilyeu, Toledo Blade Food Editor, will be our guest speaker for our annual holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 9, at the Carranor Club in Perrysburg. Her focus will be on the Toledo area food scene -- the city's ethnic eateries, the range of dining options, from comfort food to high-end artistry, and also the generosity of programs that help to care for those in need.

Mary does not come from a journalistic nor food background. Her explanation for her arrival is "more an example of following your passion, whatever it may be." And her passion can be illustrated no better than her accomplishments in food contests.



Mary Bilyeu

**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**

**Go Vote!**  
**Remember to vote November 4**

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## 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](http://www.perrysburg.oh.lwvnet.org)

## President's Letter

Dear League Members:

At the October 7 program meeting, Dr. Dale Lanigan from Lourdes College said that the League of Women Voters' greatest mission should be voter education. He feels that his students and many adults are sorely lacking in basic knowledge about the U.S. system of history and government. He stated that he gave his classes ten questions from the Citizenship Examination and they could only correctly answer one or two of the questions.

So, let's see if we League members can answer the following ten questions that are given to an applicant applying for citizenship. (*Answers on Page 3*)

Let me know next month how you did on the quiz.

1. What are the colors of our flag?
2. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
3. Who is Vice President of the United States today?
4. For how long do we elect the president?
5. How many branches are there in our government?
6. How many senators are there in Congress?
7. Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. military?
8. Who becomes President of the U.S. if the President and Vice President die?
9. How many representatives are there in Congress?
10. What is the national anthem of the United States?

*Nancy Kelley*

### **Welcome New Member!**

Liz Laurer  
591 Carol Drive, Perrysburg, OH 43551  
419-297-7742  
lizlaurer@gmail.com

*Please add her information to your Membership Directory.*



**Tuesday, Nov. 18 – 7 p.m.**  
*Solving Our Lake Erie Algae Crisis*, Dr. Carol Stepien and Dr. Daryl Dwyer, University of Toledo

**Tuesday, December 9 – Noon.** Holiday Luncheon.  
Speaker: Mary Bilyeu, Toledo Blade Food Editor.  
Location: Carranor Club

**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.*

**December Holiday Luncheon**

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Cooking contests used to be one of Mary's primary hobbies. She has won or placed in more than 60 competitions over the years. Her Special Mocha Cupcakes, featuring four types of chocolate, won Taste of Home magazine's grand prize in 2007, earning Mary a trip to New York City to appear on CBS The Early Show.

Mary's food/journalism adventure began when she started writing about food for AnnArbor.com (now renamed the *Ann Arbor News*) in 2009. She then began her own blog, Food Floozie, soon after. In 2011, the *Washtenaw Jewish News* invited her to contribute a column each month, and she continues to do this. Mary has also worked on a University of Michigan library exhibit, showcasing Jewish foods, coordinating the section devoted to food festivals. *Repast*, the publication of the Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor, has printed two of Mary's essays, and she has served as a judge and an emcee for a wide variety of cook-offs, from chili to pie and from cake to brisket.

Mary has enthusiastically embraced Toledo, wanting to learn about the city through its food, grateful for people who realize that the way to her heart is through her stomach. While the foods she gets to eat are a great perk, Mary maintains that the very best part of her job is the friends she gets to meet while enjoying so many delicious things.

You won't want to miss this fun event. Consider inviting friends or neighbors. It should be a wonderful holiday treat!



**Holiday Luncheon**

*Noon at the Carranor Club Tuesday, December 9*

The cost is \$20. Reservations can be made by calling Nancy Kelley at 419-866-6013. Reservation deadline is December 4.

**Answers to the President's Quiz on Page 2**

1. Red, white, blue
2. England
3. Joe or Joseph Biden
4. Four years
5. Three
6. One hundred
7. The President
8. The Speaker of the House
9. 435
10. The Star Spangled Banner

# ***Bottled Water: An Unsatisfactory Solution***

*By Joyce Quinlivan*

During the recent water crisis, many residents of northwest Ohio drove as far as 50 miles to find bottled water. But bottled water carries its own set of problems, and this is an appropriate time to remind ourselves of its downside. The following points are from the independent public interest organization Food and Water Watch.

## **1. Bottled water is expensive**

Americans are the largest consumers of bottled water in the world. We spend billions of dollars on bottled water each year, paying up to 1,000 times the cost of tap water. And almost half of all bottled water comes from municipal tap water supplies.

## **2. Bottled water is bad for the environment**

Bottled water wastes fossil fuels both its production and transport. Annually, bottled water in the United States uses the energy equivalent of over 30 million barrels of oil to produce and over 50 million barrels of oil to transport, enough to fuel about 1.5 million cars for a year. Seventy five percent of the empty plastic bottles are not recycled, ending up in our landfills, lakes, streams and oceans, where they may never fully decompose.

## **3. Under most circumstances, bottled water is not safer**

Tap water in the United States, which is regulated by the EPA, is subject to more stringent federal safety regulations than bottled water, which is regulated by the FDA. And despite the marketing claims of purity, studies have found wide variations in contaminant levels among brands of bottled water including bacteria, arsenic, and toxic chemicals. Many researchers believe that phthalates, which are chemicals used to soften plastic, can leach from plastic bottles into the water they contain. Phthalates and other substances used to make plastic have been linked to birth defects, cancer and developmental problems in humans.

So that's the bad news. The good news is that there are many ways that all of us can reduce the use of bottled water and as League members, set an example for our community.