



The Voter

November 2015

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Mental Health and Homelessness Will Be Topic of November LWVPA Meeting

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters, in conjunction with Way Public Library, will welcome two local experts for a discussion on mental health and homelessness on Tuesday, November 17. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the library.

Ken Leslie is the founder of Veterans Matter (1Matters.org), a national nonprofit supported by John Mellencamp, Dusty Hill, ZZ Top, Kix Brooks and others in the music industry working to house the unhoused.

A formerly homeless alcoholic/addict, Mr. Leslie has spent the past 25 clean and sober years building a successful recruiting firm and as a philanthropist funding new programs designed to provide financial and domestic autonomy for those on the streets.

He will discuss the human aspects, past the labels and into the heart of the people many have dismissed.

Jessica Schmitt is the executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Wood County. She has a background in psychology and has worked in the mental health field, including a residential facility for adults with autism and a psychiatric inpatient facility for children and adolescents.

She joined the NAMI Ohio board in the spring of 2012 and is currently serving her second term. She has attended numerous state and national conventions to bring new and current initiatives back to Wood County. Ms. Schmitt will present a personal perspective on mental illness and homelessness. She will be speaking for the families and individuals affected by mental illness and homelessness.

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

Please make the following address change in your membership booklet:

Evelyn Gifford
26064 Turnbridge Drive
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Phone and email remain the same.

Please mark this and all our meetings on your calendar ... thought-provoking topics guaranteed!



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**

President's Letter

Dear League Members,

By the time you are reading this letter the election will be over and hopefully the results will have been published. Candidates for office at every level have asked for the job of representing you. Quoting from Wylecia Wiggs Harris, the new Executive Director of the National League of Women voters, "If elected, the decisions they make will influence public policy for years to come. Every vote helps to decide who gets the job. When you cast your ballot, you're taking control by telling leaders what issues matter most to you." This is an excellent way to think about every election, isn't it?

Other things to think about include this quote by author George Eliot- "Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns." (Can't you tell that fall is my favorite season?)

And here is a recommendation for a book that demands to be read — *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. The story takes place in Minnesota in the early 1960's. It is a mystery, but not the usual kind as it deals with life and death issues and deals with them compassionately. It is a book that makes the reader feel better just by having been exposed to the delights of the story. It is also a book that will stay with you for quite some time. We read it for one of my Book Clubs, and I am going to suggest it to my other group, just as I am suggesting it to you.

Enjoy the weather before winter gets here.

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Nov. 17 – 7 p.m.
Issues of Homeless. Panel Discussion to include mental health and veterans perspectives. Speakers: Jessica Schmitt, NAMI Wood County, Ken Leslie, Veterans Matter. Way Library

Thursday, Dec. 10 – Noon *Holiday Luncheon*
Speaker: Dr. Andrew Schocket, BGSU. Carranor Club

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

February Program — TBA

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

Author and Historian to Speak at Holiday Luncheon

Our Holiday Luncheon will be held at noon on Thursday, December 10, at the Carranor Club in Perrysburg.

The speaker will be Dr. Andrew M. Schocket, Ph.D., from Bowling Green State University's department of history. He will discuss what we are saying as citizens, or as political candidates, when we talk about the American Revolution. This talk will address how the speaker came to wonder about this question and how we might understand the role of the American Revolution in contemporary life.

The cost of the luncheon will be \$20. Reservations can be made by calling Carol Russell at 419-931-4416, sending her an email at crussell@bex.net or by sending a check made out the LWVPA to Carol at 13917 Eckel Junction Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Deadline for reservations is Friday, December 4.

Please join us for this kickoff to the holiday season and remember that you are welcome to invite guests for this occasion.

Please note that the holiday luncheon will take place on a Thursday— a departure from our usual day.

More About Dr. Andrew Schocket ...

Andrew M. Schocket is author of *Fighting over the Founders: How We Remember the American Revolution* and *Founding Corporate Power in Early National Philadelphia*. His writing has appeared in numerous academic journals, as well as in the *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *History News Network*, *Salon*, and other popular outlets.

Dr. Schocket is Director of American Culture Studies and Professor of History and American Culture Studies at BGSU. He studies and teaches early American history and culture, the American Revolution, and the Atlantic World.



Dr. Andrew M. Schocket

It's Not Too Late to Volunteer

Would you like to be a League Observer?

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. Plus you can decide which group you would like to observe.

Email Sue Hoffman at rshuffyburg@bex.net. if you would like to volunteer.