



The Voter

November/December 2017

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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We Need Observers

Call Starr Wlodarski at 419-872-0064 if you are willing to serve as an observer at School Board or Township Meetings.

Fake News and Social Media Will Be the Topic Of the LWVPA November 14 Meeting

The subject of our November meeting is a particularly timely Topical Tuesday event.

Dr. Montana Miller, associate professor of popular culture at Bowling Green State University, will speak *on Fake News and Social Media*.

Co-sponsored with Way Library, the meeting will take place Tuesday, November 14, at 7 p.m. at the library.

Dr. Miller's talk will focus on the new attitudes toward and perceptions of truth and responsibility in political culture and journalism and examine ways in which beliefs — often perpetuated by “fake news” — are transmitted, shared, reinforced and contested.



Dr. Montana Miller

Dr. Miller holds a PH.D. and Master's degree in Folklore and Mythology from UCLA and a BA from Harvard University.

Her life has taken some interesting twists and turns. Starting out as an aerial acrobat in her youth, she has traveled the world as a flying trapeze artist, cliff diver and most recently a professional skydiver.

Her research interests include: emerging traditions and symbolic expression in youth culture; Internet communities, including adolescent social networks and support groups; dramatic drunk driving prevention programs in American high schools, and experienced/professional skydivers' beliefs and attitudes regarding death and mortality.

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

Natural Resources Report:

WTOL has an app that has a series on the algae problem in Lake Erie. It is really worth watching and has lots of relevant facts and information. To get to it, download the app and go to special stories and play.

Sue Hoffman
Natural Resources Chair



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,

Because we have a Topical Tuesday/ League Program on Fake News on November 14, at 7 p.m., I thought I would do a little “fact checking” on my own to see what this topic really means.

According to Bruce Bartlett in his book *The Truth Really Matters*, “Fake News” is a term that has come into common currency since the election of Donald Trump. Google trends says that interest in it took a big jump right around Election Day 2016.

Originally, fake news referred to satirical news – stories that appeared on *The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report*. More recently, President Trump has used the term as an accusation against news organizations reporting accurate news he does not like.

Bartlett says that fake news goes all the way back to Ben Franklin when he published a counterfeit newspaper to mislead the British public and create sympathy for the new American republic during diplomatic negotiations.

However, in today’s world, the current techniques of using the Internet and social media have made it very easy to promote lies. One would like to believe that these same methods could be used to inform people of the truth, but this has not happened. Political scientists have found that simple repetition of a lie, even in the course of refuting it, lends it credibility. Another reason is confirmation bias -- people believe what they want to believe.

I could write more about this topic, but I will let Dr. Montana Miller take over from here. Plan to come to the program and hear what she has to say.

Nancy Kelley

Interested in coming up with ideas on how to grow our League’s membership?

Call Roseanne Barker or Nancy Kelley if you would be willing to be part of a committee to discuss new ideas and strategies.



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Nov. 14— 7 p.m.
Fake News and Social Media
Dr. Montana Miller, Dept. of
Popular Culture, BGSU

Tuesday, Dec. 5 — Noon
Holiday Luncheon. Carranor
Club, Helona Norton-
Westbrook, Director of
Collections, Toledo Museum
of Art

Tuesday, Jan. 16 — Noon
Annual Program Meeting.
Luncheon

Tuesday, Jan. 23 — 2 p.m.
The Gender Wage
Differential. Dr. David
McClough, College of
Business Administration,
Ohio Northern University

Tuesday, Feb. 13 — 2 p.m.
State of the City of
Perrysburg, Bridget Kabat,
Perrysburg City Administrator

Tuesday, March 13 — 7 p.m.
Voter Participation, Wood
County Board of Elections
Representative

April Meeting — TBA
Tuesday, May 22 — 11 a.m.
Annual Meeting. Noon
Luncheon, Sheila Otto,
Storyteller

** All programs will be at Way
Library, unless otherwise
noted.*



You and your guests
are cordially invited to



The Perrysburg League of Women Voters Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 5, at Noon
Carranor Club
502 E. Second Street

Speaker: Helona Norton-Westbrook, Director of Collections
Presenting: **My Journey to the Toledo Museum of Art**

Cost: \$20

Reservation Deadline: November 27

Reservations and checks
made out to LWVPA may be sent to:



Jenna Luce
127 W. Second Street
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
480-320-8186, text for information

Vegetarian option available upon request with reservation.