



The VOTER

The Monthly Publication of the League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552

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Citizen Award to Be Presented at 577 Foundation

The 2012 Virginia Secor Stranahan Citizen of the Year will be honored on Sunday, September 23 at the former Secor home, now known as the 577 Foundation.

The award will be presented to Phyllis Morton, who has been described as "a woman of great integrity and high energy who has dedicated her life to helping others."

The LWVPA presents the Citizen of the Year award to someone whose volunteer activities and contributions to the community best perpetuate the memory of Mrs. Stranahan, who was herself a model of benevolence. Mrs. Morton's name will be inscribed on a silver bowl which bears the names of all previous winners and rests on a shelf in the 577 Residence.

The reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the manor. Also included in the meeting will be a Perrysburg public transportation information update.

This is the League's first meeting of the year and is open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring guests who might be interested in learning more about the League.

More About Our Citizen Award Winner ...

Throughout her years in Perrysburg, Phyllis Morton has given back to the community in innumerable ways.

Phyllis received her bachelor of science degree in psychology from Brown University and her masters degree in the art of teaching from Seaton Hall in New Jersey. She also earned a certificate in legal assisting from the University of Toledo.

Phyllis returned to Perrysburg in 1974, a widow with six young children to raise, to be closer to family. She spent 30 years until her retirement as Service Manager for Zoar Lutheran Church's Abundant Life Center.

Currently, she is Coordinator of Christian Seniors Interacting (CSI), sponsored by the First United Methodist Church of Perrysburg and is first vice president of the Perrysburg Area Historic Museum. Some of her other volunteer activities include: Citizens Review Board of Lucas County, acting as a surrogate parent to children who lack an advocate, longtime member of the Landmarks Commission, co-chair of the Zoar Lutheran Soup Kitchen and volunteer on the TARTA Board.

In addition to all of this, Phyllis is the grandmother of 16 grandchildren!



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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:

Here it is September already í and I hope you are all ready for what should prove to be an interesting year in the LWV, both locally and with the state of Ohio.

First of all, please circle Sunday, September 23, on your calendar. This will be our first meeting and will celebrate our Virginia Stranahan Citizenship Award winner. It will be held in Virginia's home, 577 Foundation, at 2 p.m. In addition, we hope to provide an opportunity for the community to learn about the proposed transportation levy for Perrysburg residents that will be on the November ballot. It is important to note that this will be an information meeting. While the League may decide to take a position on the levy, we will not be advocating for a position at this event.

As most of you are aware, the LWV Ohio spearheaded a coalition of organizations in getting a referendum on the ballot for the November ballot that would make changes in the State Constitution in how the redistricting process occurs because of population shifts in the ten year census count. (Ohio lost two congressional seats because of the population shift in the 2010 Census). Perrysburg area LWV members assisted in the process, primarily working the Farmer's Market during the month of June, getting signatures required to get the referendum on the ballot. You will see additional articles in this newsletter regarding the issue. It will certainly be a focus for the LWV this fall as we prepare for the November Ohio election.

Our program committee has been working diligently on topics and speakers that should provide opportunities for lively discussion and critical thinking. We are also collaborating with the library on Voter registration and will need some volunteers to help with that project.

Welcome back and we're looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Carol Russell



Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, Sept. 23 — 2-4 p.m.
Reception to present Virginia Stranahan Citizen of the Year Award and Perrysburg public transportation information update. Location: 577 Foundation, 577 E. Front St.

Tuesday, Oct. 9 — 7 p.m.
Redistricting/Gerrymandering. Speaker: David Jackson, PHD, BGSU. Location: Way Library Meeting Room

Sunday, Oct. 14 — 6:30 p.m.
Doors Open
Candidates Forum. Program at 7 p.m. Location: First Methodist Church, 1526 E. Wooster, Bowling Green.

Tuesday, Nov. 13 — 7 p.m.
Election Analysis. Speaker: Dr. Melissa Miller, BGSU. Location: Way Library Meeting Room

Tuesday, Dec. 11 — Noon
Holiday Luncheon. Speaker: TBA Location: Carranor Club, 502 E. 2nd St.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 — Noon
Luncheon
LWVPA Program Planning Session. *Members only.* Location: Way Library Meeting Room

Tuesday, Feb. 12 — 7 p.m.
Perrysburg in the 21st Century
Speaker: Bridgett Kabatt, Perrysburg City Administrator. Location: Chamber Quarters, 201 W. Indiana Ave.

Tuesday, March 19 — 7 p.m.
The Asian Carp Situation in the Great Lakes. Speaker: Sandy Bihn, Exec. Dir. /Water-Keeper. Location: Way Library

Tuesday, April 9 — 7 p.m.
Daytime Tour of Maritime Academy of Toledo. Location: 803 Water St., Toledo

Tuesday, May 21 — 10:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting, LWVPA 2012
Way Computer Lab

Noon Luncheon
LWVPA Scholarship presentation. Speaker: TBA Location: Way Library Meeting Room

Perrysburg Transportation Levy

Over the summer a volunteer grassroots citizens group was formed with the specific interest of supporting the transportation levy which will be on the ballot for the November election. The committee is non-partisan and includes business people and Perrysburg residents. The committee believes that the levy is worth support for the following reasons:

- Property owners will pay approximately half the dollar amount in taxes for quality transportation services compared to taxes paid to TARTA.
- Approximately \$4-6 in local economic activity is generated for every \$1 invested in public transportation by increasing the local customer base.
- Real estate served by public transportation has a higher value than similar properties not served by transit.
- Public transportation is the only means of transportation for many who are elderly and disabled.
- If the levy is passed the City will contract with a private company for five years giving the voters the ability to control the quality and cost of services provided.

The LWV Perrysburg has been on record for supporting public transportation. Currently, Jean Duston, Kevin Rantanen, and Carol Russell have been participating in the citizens group. Jean is currently serving as Assistant Treasurer of the group. If you are interested in helping, here are some ways that you can support the effort:

1. Make a financial contribution. Checks should be made out to Perrysburg 4 Transit 2012, P.O. Box 1124, Perrysburg, OH 43552.
2. Place a yard sign at your home and/or business. (you can contact Jean or Carol)
3. Volunteer to help efforts.
4. Write a letter to the editor regarding how public transit is important to our community.

You can contact the committee at perrysburg4transit@gmail.com. Also you may join on Facebook at Perrysburg4transit. **A document describing proposed services, prepared by Marie Ermie, has been posted on the League web site.**

LWV Ohio Regional Conference Held at Way Library August 18

LWV Perrysburg Area hosted the LWV Ohio regional conference at Way Public Library on Saturday, August 18. The conference specifically addressed three topics: (1) Leadership Training, (2) How do we remain non-partisan in a partisan political environment, and (3) Information on Votersø First, the referendum sponsored by a coalition of organizations spearheaded by the LWV to change the constitutional process of redistricting which will be on the November ballot.

The morning session, regarding leadership, offered important information on best practices in organization and activities for the LWV. Non-partisan policies, consensus building, guidelines for our candidate forums and Votersø Guides were reviewed, specifically in relationship to our referendum activity which will be a challenge in maintaining our non-partisan traditional events. The role of the leadership of local LWV groups was reviewed in terms of keeping non-partisan positions, i.e. you cannot run for political office and be on the executive board of a LWV organization.

Our afternoon sessions were largely focused on how we are going to remain non-partisan even though we have taken a political position on the redistricting referendum. In summary, it will be important to keep our political position on redistricting separate from the Candidate Forums and the Voter Guides. In the issues section of the Votersø Guide, we will need to present it like any other issue that we normally cover í presenting both pros and cons of the issue. If we sponsor a program advocating for the issue, we need to make sure that the opposition is represented at the program and is allowed to speak to it. This is really a simplified summary, but the bottom line is that to maintain our non-partisan mission, it is important to program for this issue as we would with any other issue with both sides represented.

The following members of the LWV Perrysburg were able to attend the day and/or part of the day for the regional conference: Jacki Stedman, Jan and Gary Samples, Carol Shepard, Ann Dana, Roseanne Barker, Carol Russell, and Tom Galloway. Members from Bowling Green, Toledo/Lucas County, and Lima were also participants in the conference.

Vote Yes for Issue 2 on November Ballot

This summer a number of your fellow LWVPA members gathered signatures to put the LWVOhio led coalition of organizations to change the redistricting process.

Why should you vote yes on Issue 2?

1. It provides a process controlled by citizens that draws districts that are balanced, it provides a process that is transparent, and it provides incentives for accountability for politicians.
2. The current process controlled by the politicians is not working.
3. Voting yes on Issue 2 ensures that neither party can unfairly dominate the political process, the outcomes of elections. It offers fair representation so that every personø vote counts.
4. Current system is a conflict of interest for politicians.

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Vote Yes for Issue 2 *Continued from Page 4*

5. Voting yes on Issue 2 sends a message to politicians that we are tired of business as usual.
6. It is a step in the right direction.

For further information regarding this Issue, go to the LWV Ohio web site at www.lwvohio.org and look at the information under the following ..

Fact Sheet on Voters First

Draw the Line Ohio

•The Elephant in the Room• A transparency Report

For those of you who have been in the LWV for many years, you will remember when we sponsored a similar issue and were accused of siding with the Republican Party. This is not a new issue for the LWV.

Thank up to all who made the effort to sign the petition for the referendum. A special thank you to those who spent time at various locations in Perrysburg gathering signatures: Martha Baldoni, Dodie Strauss, Jan and Gary Samples, Jackie Brown, Sue Hoffman, Stephen Long, and Tom Galloway.

LWVPA Endorses School Levy

At the September LWVPA board meeting Perrysburg Schools Superintendent Tom Hosler presented information on the school operating levy that will appear on the November ballot. The levy is a four-year replacement for the operating levy which expires at the end of this year.

Mr. Hosler noted that the district continues to provide excellent academics despite \$3.8 million in budget cuts from the state since 2008. He also noted that the district has added 288 students in the past four years • the equivalent of half an elementary school • and that expenses have only risen one half of one percent in that time period.

If the levy fails, the school district will lose 20% of its funding which would necessitate major cuts in services that the district is currently providing.

Some of the ways Perrysburg schools have cut costs over the past four years include freezing the pay of teacher, support staff and administrators, partnering with Maumee City Schools to save money and reducing staff 6%.

Mr. Hosler informed the board that the monthly increase to the owner of a \$200,000 home would be \$26 with the replacement levy.

Following his presentation, the board voted to support the replacement levy. A letter to the editor will be submitted to the Perrysburg Messenger Journal explaining why the LWVPA endorses the levy.

For more information on the school levy, go to www.citizensforperrysburgschools.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

Candidates Forum

Sunday October 14, 2012

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Location: First United Methodist Church
1506 East Wooster Street
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Sponsored by: League of Women Voters Of Bowling Green
League of Women Voters of Perrysburg Area
American Association of University Women
Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce
BGSU Undergraduate Student Government
BGSU Retirees Association