



The Voter

September 2015

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Dr. Earl Campbell, MD, Will Receive 2015 Stranahan Citizenship Award

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters is delighted to announce that community activist Dr. Earl William Campbell, MD, will be awarded the League's 2015 Virginia Secor Stranahan Citizenship Award.

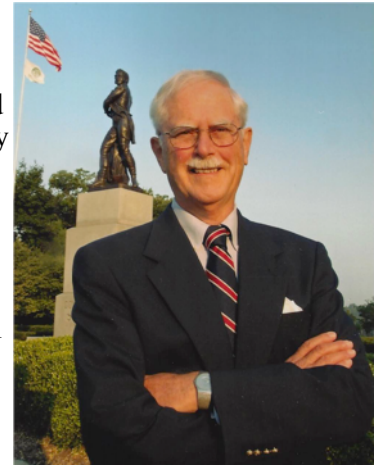
A ceremony will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, at the former Secor Home, now known as the 577 Foundation.

This year's award winner is a true advocate for the environment and community. Born and raised in Wood County, Dr. Campbell is highly motivated to keep our community a great place to live.

He turns his beliefs into action, often participating in activities that either educate our citizens regarding issues or help to solve problems with our environment. Dr. Campbell is a volunteer Maumee River water sampler. He is also on the executive boards of both the Lake Erie Water Keepers and the Wood County Park District.

Dr. Campbell has a wide variety of interests and makes many presentations to community groups. In July he did a presentation on the Rheinfrank Hospital, which was established in the 1800's in Perrysburg and specialized in goiter problems.

Along with the awards ceremony on September 27, Way Library Librarian Richard Baranowski will speak about his recently published book *Perrysburg Village Voices, Hometown Stories of the Past*.



Dr. Earl William Campbell

Why Are Dams Being Removed in Ohio?

In conjunction with Way Library, the Perrysburg League of Women Voters will present Dr. James Evans, Professor of Geology at Bowling Green State University, for a discussion on aging dams.



Dr. James Evans

This Topical Tuesday program will be held on Tuesday, September 29, at 7 p.m. at Way Library.

The presentation will focus on why dams were constructed, why dams create problems and risks, especially as they age, and why dams are being removed. Dr. Evans will also discuss the historical changes in rivers in Northwest Ohio and the concept of river restoration.

Want to help with Candidates Forum?

Call Carol Russell at
419-931-4416



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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:

September is always such an exciting month for many reasons. For students, it is the time to buy or bring out the fall clothes as school has started. For parents, now that the children are back in school, it's time to work on projects that have been set aside and to start thinking about Halloween and costumes. For League members it's our busy time of the year also, because we will walk in the Harrison Rally Day Parade on Saturday, September 12 at 10 a.m. and don't forget the Stranahan Citizen Award Reception at the 577 Foundation at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 27. (Please mark your calendar.)

How many remembered that on August 26, ninety-five years ago, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, officially granting women the right to vote? It is now called Women's Equality Day and on that day and every day we should celebrate the milestone that made the voices of so many more Americans heard. Can you imagine not being allowed to vote?

And speaking of voting, the state League has been invited to apply for a grant to fund 2016 political engagement projects focused on young women. If the project is approved for funding, it will include pass-thru grants for participating local Leagues. The project is called *Women's Voices; Preparing the next Generation of Women Leaders*. It would include holding an event at the high school, providing ongoing mentoring, and giving high school girls tools to become engaged voters. I answered back that we would be interested and to include our League with updates.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Nancy Kelley

Needed: Parade Volunteers

The Perrysburg League needs volunteers to walk with us in the Harrison Rally Day Parade. Bring your spouse or children — all are welcome.

*All that is required is you walk a few blocks,
wave an American flag or carry a sign.
(flags and signs will be provided)*

Please call Nancy Kelley at 419-866-6013 today to volunteer



Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, Sept. 27 – 2-4 p.m.

Reception for Virginia Stranahan Citizenship Award. Speaker: Richard Baranowski, author of *Perrysburg Village Voices: Hometown Stories of the Past* Manor House, 577 Foundation

Tuesday, Sept. 29 – 7 p.m.

Why Are Dams Being Removed in Ohio?, Dr. James Evans, BGSU. Way Library

Tuesday, Oct. 13 – 7 p.m.

Drilling for Natural Gas: Potential Impact to Ohio's Water Resources. Dr. Ralph Haefner, US Geological Survey. Way Library

Sunday, Oct. 18 – 2-4 p.m.

Candidates Forum. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Way Library

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Noon

Holiday Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Andrew Shockett, 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

Board Votes to Endorse Perrysburg School Levy

The Board of the Perrysburg League of Women Voters voted to support the Perrysburg Schools 1.9-mill Permanent Improvement Levy at their September meeting. School Superintendent Tom Hossler and School Board Member Jarman Davis presented information on the levy to the board and answered questions.

The five-year levy is not a new tax. It is a renewal of a levy which will expire at the end of this year. The tax rate for the levy will remain the same. It will cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$9.70 per month.

Permanent improvement funds can only be used for maintaining buildings, purchasing busses and educational equipment. Without this levy, money for repairs, busses, boilers and building maintenance would have to come from the general fund, leaving less money for the district's educational program.

Some of the proposed permanent improvement levy projects include: replacement of older busses; roof replacement; building renovations, security improvements, HVAC repairs, parking lot repairs and much more. The district has nine buildings to maintain.

The permanent improvement levy protects community property values by maintaining Perrysburg Schools, making our school buildings and equipment safer and more efficient. This aligns with the League's program, which calls for supporting levies when shown to be needed to sustain current educational standards and/or to provide specific needed improvements.

The permanent improvement levy will be on the November ballot.

Potential Impact of Drilling on Water Resources To Be Topic of October LWV Meeting

Dr. Ralph Haefner, Deputy Director of the Michigan-Ohio Water Science Center and hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey will be our guest speaker for our October LWV program on Tuesday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at Way Library.

Dr. Haefner will give us an update of hydraulic fracturing and potential impacts on water resources in Ohio. Typically, two to eight million gallons of water are required for each hydraulic fracturing job. While the water may be used and recycled to the next well, eventually the water is disposed of in deep injection wells. Dr. Haefner will briefly discuss Ohio geology and then how this process affects our water resources.

A student of geology and water resources of the nation, Dr. Haefner has published over 30 articles related to groundwater flow and water chemistry. He obtained his BS degree in geology from the State University of New York College, an MS degree in geology from Bowling Green State University and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

Observers Program Volunteers Needed

It is that time of year when we kick back a little and settle into more of a routine. I am hoping that a few of you would add being an observer to your schedule. The League could use 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.

The process is simple. Attend a meeting, jot down on paper or via a tablet or phone the key points you think members and citizens should know about. The after the meeting, send these to Sue Hoffman and Roseanne Barker. News will be posted in the next *Voter*. If we have several people interested in each, we can work out a schedule.

With the upcoming election, there are many topics of interest to all of us, and it is always so much better to be informed. I hope you will consider this and email me at rshuffyburg@bex.net. Thanks for considering this vital role.

Sue Hoffman, Chairperson

Fair Districts Equal Fair Elections: LWV Ohio Shows Gerrymandering Took The ‘Swing’ Out of Swing State

EDITORIAL NOTE: *This guest blog post was written by Carrie Davis, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio*

Ohio is widely considered to be the ultimate swing state. Ohio voters have picked the winning U.S. Presidential candidate every year since 1964, routinely switching parties. So how can a state that is evenly split between supporting Democrats and Republicans have an elected legislature made up overwhelmingly by one party? The answer: gerrymandering.

Curious about how easy it is to draw political boundaries to give one party an advantage over the other? Check out this great piece from the *Washington Post* -- “This is the best explanation of gerrymandering you will ever see.”

Gerrymandering is not a new concept. American politicians have been manipulating district lines since the early 1800s to make sure their party won, often creating oddly shaped districts in the process. The term “gerrymander” was coined when then-Governor of Massachusetts Elbridge Gerry created a district shaped like a salamander.

No offense to Governor Gerry, but Ohio has raised the practice to an art form, one that involves “packing and cracking,” as reported by the *Columbus Dispatch*.

Predictable Results: A Report from the League of Women Voters of Ohio Comparing 2011 Gerrymandering to the 2012 and 2014 Election Results (PDF) concluded that Ohio’s legislative districts are rigged to yield completely predictable results. Voters can predict with 97 percent to 100 percent accuracy which party will win every single legislative race in the state, because the ***districts are that rigged.***

In fact, the party that drew the maps received 57 percent of the total votes statewide for Congress but managed to win 75 percent of the Congressional seats by packing the opposing party into as few seats as possible.

Ohio may be a swing state in picking a president, but the maps guarantee no swing in the legislature.

So this is illegal, right? Wrong. When the disfavored political party sued, claiming that the maps and process violated the rules in the state constitution, the Ohio Supreme Court declared that the rules are discretionary.

The result is that Ohio has become a Wild, Wild West for unchecked gerrymandering.

Fret not, fair reader, for there is a solution to this manipulation of voter intent. The Ohio League and a diverse group of supporters hope to pass a ballot issue this fall to amend the state constitution to change how Ohio draws legislative districts.

Supporters of reform have a very simple way of explaining the goal: Fair Districts = Fair Elections.

We’re working to ensure election integrity by preventing politicians from manipulating our elections system for their benefit. We believe our elections should be fair, free and accessible to all voters and that entails voters picking their representatives, not the other way around.

If approved by voters this fall, the state constitution will be amended to make sure we have clear rules for redistricting that are binding and reflect voting patterns; require a transparent process with public input; and establish a bipartisan commission that can only approve maps with votes from both parties.

If fair districts supporters win on the ballot this fall, the new legislative districts drawn after the next census should more accurately reflect the “swing” in swing state.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio endorses “Fair Districts for Ohio,” which will appear as Issue 1 on the November 2015 ballot. Issue 1 will change how Ohio draws state legislative districts. It will create a new bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission that will have to follow strict criteria designed to keep communities whole and better reflect voter preferences.

*To learn more about the League of Women Voters of Ohio's work,
follow them on Facebook and Twitter.*

Is There Plastic in Your Sushi?

*By Joyce Quinlivan
Natural Resources Chairperson*

Microbeads, those tiny bits of plastic that make up the abrasives in hundreds of personal care products like skin exfoliants and soap, are a serious part of plastic pollution in our oceans and in the Great Lakes.

Approximately the same size as fish eggs and too small to be filtered through our water treatment systems, microbeads are mistaken by fish as food, thereby becoming a part of our food chain. The surface of microbeads has been proven to attract and absorb pollutants such as PCBs and DDT from the marine environment. They accumulate in the gut and circulatory system of fish. As other predators eat those fish, the toxins contained in the microbeads get concentrated in the food chain and could cause harm in humans who are eating those larger fish.

Researchers from the State University of New York found, on average, 17,000 bits of microbeads per square kilometer in Lake Michigan. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario had much higher concentrations with 46,000 and 1.1 million particles per square kilometer respectively.

Many commonly-branded skin cleansers/scrubs, toothpastes, lotions and other personal care products contain plastic microbeads in spite of growing concern about their negative effects on our health and environment. Lists of these products can be found on websites such as beatthemicrobead.org.

On May 21, 2015, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) introduced the Microbeads Free Waters Act of 2015. The Act would establish a definition of microbeads and set uniform dates for the prohibition of manufacture and sale of products. The bill was coauthored by U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and cosponsored by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Mark Kirk (R-Ill.).

In the meantime, we can all do our part to combat the problem by stopping the purchase of cleansers with the plastics polyethylene or polypropylene on their ingredient lists and by utilizing websites such as beatthemicrobead.org.