



# The Voter

September 2017

## League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

### In This Issue:

<b>Fair Districts = Fair Elections</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>President's Letter</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Natural Resources Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Observer Report</b>	<b>3</b>

*Please Note: New Location for Candidates' Forum this Year  
October 8 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter*

## Fair Districts = Fair Elections

On Saturday, September 2, the Bowling Green, Toledo/Lucas County and Perrysburg Leagues of Women Voters joined forces for a Drive-Through Fair Districts Petition Signing. Through our combined efforts, we collected 650 signatures on just that one day! It was great having the three Leagues work together and we have already had a meeting on future petition signing activities. Thank you to all of our Perrysburg League Members who participated!

In order for the Fair Districts petition to qualify for the ballot, we need signatures equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of votes in the last gubernatorial election, which means we need 305,591 valid signatures. Of that signature total, we need at least 44 counties to have signatures equal to or greater than 5% of each county's total number of votes in the last gubernatorial election.



On July 20, the Fair Districts Coalition emailed this exciting news: "Today, we are announcing that in the past month redistricting reformers from all over Ohio collected more than 100,000 signatures. This is a testament to the hard work of volunteers who are committed to fair elections and improving representational democracy."

For over 35 years, the LWV has advocated to stop gerrymandering in Ohio. In November 2015, Ohio voters passed Issue 1 when more than 71% of Ohio voters supported creating the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission to end gerrymandering of **state legislative districts**. The League is now working to extend this reform to Ohio's **congressional districts**.

LWVOhio is one of the founding members of Fair Districts = Fair Elections – a coalition that seeks to end gerrymandering of Ohio's congressional districts.

Learn more about Fair Districts = Fair Elections:

[www.FairDistrictsOhio.org](http://www.FairDistrictsOhio.org)

[What Is Gerrymandering?](#)

[Text of the Proposal](#)

[Ballot Summary Approved by the Ohio Attorney General](#)

[Highlights of the Proposal](#)

### *In Memoriam*

Long-time member Beverly Seeman passed away on August 13.

Quoting from her obituary, "Bev was a dedicated gardener and world traveler, first with her husband and children, then with myriad like-minded friends. Bev was even more passionate about providing opportunities to every person in areas of equal rights, education, farmland preservation and advocating for clean water and air."

She will be sadly missed by our League members. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Black Swamp Conservancy, Perrysburg LWV and Way Public Library.



## 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,

I hope everyone had a happy and relaxing summer. I know I did as I used much of my leisure time reading and actually cleaned out a couple of closets! Speaking of reading, from time to time I like to draw members' attention to the books I have read. *Books For Living* by Will Schwalbe is one I would recommend. Each chapter is the name of a book he fondly remembers. Some are children's books, some are classics and others are recently published novels.

In the chapter on the book *Lateral Thinking: An Introduction* by Edward deBono, Will says that this book helps you figure out solutions when you have the questions all wrong. I will quote an example from the book. "DeBono begins the book with the story of a merchant in debt. The banker who holds the debt wants to marry the merchant's daughter, against her will. He suggests a game of chance to determine her fate. They are standing on a "pebble-strewn path", pebbles everywhere, so the banker proposes that he place into a bag two pebbles: a white one and a black one. If the merchant's daughter draws the white one, she doesn't have to marry the banker and the debt is relieved. But if she draws the black one, then she must marry him. If she refuses to draw, then the merchant will go to debtor's prison.

They all agree. But the daughter notices that the banker has actually slipped two black pebbles into the bag, not a black and a white. If she draws, she can only get a black pebble and she will have to marry the banker. If she refuses, her father goes to jail. And if she tries to reveal the situation, she'll be accusing the banker of lying. He'll probably then cancel the whole idea of the game and send the father to debtor's prison, as is his right."

If you are a vertical thinker, Edward deBono points out, those are the only choices.

Lateral thinkers, however see other paths. They don't just work with the tools they are given, assuming that no other options exist. They challenge assumptions and find new tools.

The merchant's daughter is a lateral thinker. She draws a pebble, but before anyone can see what color it is, she drops it on the pebble-strewn path. Clumsy her. But by showing everyone that the pebble left in the bag is the black one, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that she chose the white. For the banker to dispute this, he would have to admit that he cheated. So the debt is discharged, and she's free to marry whomever she likes.

*Nancy Kelley*



## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday, Sept. 12** — 7 p.m.  
*Bullying Prevention*, Brent Swartzmiller, Perrysburg Schools

**Sunday, Oct. 8** — 2 p.m.  
*Candidates Forum*. Holiday Inn French Quarter  
**New Location**

**Tuesday, Oct. 24** — 7 p.m.  
*American Government*, Dr. Jeff Broxmeyer, Political Science Department, University of Toledo

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 15** — Noon  
*Holiday Luncheon*. Carranor Club, Halona Norton-Westbrook, Director of Collections, Toledo Museum of Art Economics, BGSU

**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

## Natural Resources Report

Did you know that the University of Toledo has a new water testing lab? This will enable all of us in the Toledo area to know the levels of any toxins detrimental to our water quality including microcystin, and it will do it in a timely manner, perhaps in a day. Although we have not had to resort to bottled water, there is still algae bloom on the Lake that needs to be monitored, and the University of Toledo is doing just that.

Remember, chemicals and run offs do contribute to issues with our lake; it is only together that we can help keep the lake clean and healthy.

Did you know that many people in our community will be donating their time on September 23 for the annual Clean Your Streams? This is the 21st year for this, and you can still be a part of it. Registration is until September 18th and you can register at [www.PartnersforCleanStreams.org/event/cys](http://www.PartnersforCleanStreams.org/event/cys).

Last year more than 1,000 volunteers collected 26,136 pounds of trash from 67 different sites along 34 miles of river. Here are the kickoff locations: Olander Park, University of Toledo Law School, Monroe Street Methodist Church, Middlegrounds Metro Rotary Pavilion, Three Meadows Park, University of Toledo Medical Center, and Side Cut Metropark. Be there at 8 a.m.

Last, check out these sources for information any time.

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie and The University of Toledo Lake Erie Center.

## May to August Observer Report

### *Perrysburg City Council Meetings Observed*

- 05/02/17, 05/16/17, 06/06/17, 07/11/17 and 08/01/17

### *Observations of these City Council Meetings*

#### 05/02/17 Meeting

- Passed Resolution 10-2017: placing a replacement levy on the 11/07/17 General Election Ballot for trash collection and disposal. (1 mill, 2 years, commencing 2017)

#### 07/11/17 Meeting

- The City sent data to the State Treasurer's office for the Ohio Checkbook program (a State of Ohio database of local government spending that can be accessed by the public). The State will format and the City will review before it is available for the public.
- Mayor Olmstead will be forming a Mayoral Advisory Committee regarding renovations at the Senior Center.

#### 08/01/17 Meeting

- Council went into Executive Session regarding pending litigation.

*Debra Greenley  
Gorman  
Observer*