



The Voter

February 2016

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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It's Not Too Late to Volunteer

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.

You can decide which group you would like to observe.

Email Sue Hoffman at rshuffyburg@bex.net to volunteer.

Topical Tuesday

Fundamentals of Terrorism Is the Topic To Be Explored at Our February 23 Meeting

A very much in the headlines subject will be the topic of our February meeting.

Dr. Joel Voss, assistant professor of political science at the University of Toledo will speak about *The Fundamentals of Terrorism* on Tuesday, February 23, at Way Public Library. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

This program is being held in conjunction with Way Library as one of their Topical Tuesdays.

Dr. Voss will discuss the subject of terrorism and hold an open question and answer session in hopes of shedding light on one of the most compelling issues of our times.

Dr. Voss joined the University of Toledo as an assistant professor of political science in the spring of 2015.

Prior to that, he was a postdoctoral scholar in international studies and faculty in residence for global programs at North Carolina State University. He received his doctorate in August 2015 from the University of Virginia.

With his primary area of expertise being the intersection of international law and international relations, he examines the role of international organizations in the creation and implementation of human rights.

In his spare time, Dr. Voss is an avid traveler— having visited over 50 countries — and a sports and technology enthusiast.



Dr. Joel Voss

Don't Miss this Hot Topic Meeting!



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,

On January 12, 2016, a small but energetic group of members met for our Annual Program Planning Meeting. Not only did we enjoy the delicious soups, salads and desserts, but we accomplished a great deal.

First of all, we reviewed the material we received from the National LWV on the topic of *Money in Politics*. Then we answered the many consensus questions as best we could. Each League was instructed to gather the answers and then send them digitally to the national Money in Politics (MIP) Review and Update Committee which I did. The current League position was last revised in 1982. The new position will be available to all of us in April. Questions such as "How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced?" And "Should spending to influence an election by groups such as Political Action Committees (PACs) or Labor Unions be limited?"

Secondly, we discussed holding a Town Hall or a Moderated Discussion on the topic of traffic problems/solutions, both current and future, in the greater Perrysburg area. This would include, but not be limited to, current construction, roundabouts and Ride Right, the dial-in-ride-service that was passed by a 5-year levy in 2013. Two of our members have already agreed to be on the steering committee if this program idea is adopted by our League at our Annual Meeting on May 17. Be thinking about ideas to discuss and perhaps agree to serve on the committee.

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, February 23
— 7 p.m. **New Date**

Dr. Joel Voss, University of Toledo Professor, Political Science, Way Library

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,
Topic: *Challenges of Change*

Lessons to Be Learned from Flint Water Crisis

The recent Flint, Michigan water crisis is a national tragedy, but particularly hits home with people in the Toledo area. The fact is thousands of children will feel the devastating effects of lead poisoning from simply drinking the water that comes to their homes due to circumstances that should sound very familiar to Toledo residents.

- Warnings from the EPA and other environmental groups that are ignored.
- A lack of foresight in dealing with community infrastructure.
- Government officials who do nothing to alleviate an obvious problem.

In addition, Flint suffered under the auspices of a state appointed manager who had absolute control and made a decision to switch the source of the city's water supply based solely on the bottom line — what it cost — and not public safety.

Now back to Toledo. Since a Lake Erie algae bloom in the summer of 2014 caused high levels of microcystin to leech into the city's water system, making it unsafe for consumption, nothing substantial has been done to correct the situation. Nothing on the local level, nothing on the state level and nothing on the federal level.

Just last week, all three Lucas County commissioners implored the Toledo City Council's committee-of-the-whole to support their effort to get the 4-million acre western Lake Erie watershed designated as impaired, by state and federal officials.

If the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were to designate the area impaired as defined under the federal Clean Water Act, pollution sources would be better identified and stricter limits could be placed on what is released into our waterways, according to the commissioners. It would also make the area eligible for more federal funds.

However, after two hours of discussion the committee adjourned without taking a vote. Councilman Tom Waniewski, the only council member to actually speak out against the issue, called the potential designation a “public relations nightmare.”

Opponents to the highly debated subject say it would drive away business.

Meanwhile, Toledo area residents are in the same position they were a year and a half ago — just one rainy summer away from another water crisis.

Flint, Michigan is on everyone's mind right now and no doubt, immediate aid to the residents of that community should be top priority. However, it would be shortsighted of us not to wonder if Toledo is next.

Editor