



League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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February Meeting

Lucas County Land Bank — How They Turn Abandoned Properties into Success Stories

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters, in conjunction with Way Library, will host a program on land banks, featuring representatives of the Lucas County Land Bank. Part of the Topical Tuesday schedule, the meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 28, at 7 p.m. at Way Library.**

David Mann, president of the Lucas County Land Bank, and Shantae Brownlee, vice president and director of community engagement, are the speakers for the program.

Many cities have vacant properties or empty lots that are an eyesore and a burden on the city, and Toledo is no exception. However, the Lucas County Land Bank aims to change that. Their mission is to take vacant, abandoned properties in the county and turn them around, says Mr. Mann.

“The Land Bank takes control of those properties in order to really strengthen the neighborhoods so that they fit in and also help preserve the property values of the community,” he explains. “Because when a property is sitting vacant, it is very likely to be the target of vandalism or crime or nuisance conditions like animals.”

Since it was organized in 2010, the Land Bank has acquired almost 3,000 properties with plans to improve them. The Lucas County Land Bank was the second in Ohio after a change in state law allowed them to be created following a successful first land bank in Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Mann says there are now almost 40 land banks in Ohio because so many communities have realized how helpful they can be for dealing with vacant property. Wood County does not presently have a land bank.

The League looks forward to presenting this interesting program. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Learn about the Land Bank’s endeavors and successes over the last six years and how community members can play a role in strengthening our communities.



Please make the following change to your membership directory:

Donna Burke’s new e-mail address

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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 17, our League held its annual program planning meeting. The group enjoyed a potluck luncheon provided by several Board members and then proceeded to get to work.

We first looked at our own Program and decided other than some minor changes in wording our Program and Major areas of Interest would remain the same. Thus our Major Areas are: **Clean and Sustainable Water, Voter Participation, and Public Safety.** (Refer to you Membership Directory for the complete Program.)

The group then moved on to answer the Consensus questions provided by the LWV Ohio on the topic of the Ohio Primary Election Systems Study.

On the first question we said the we felt the most important purpose of primary elections is to provide a way for all voters, regardless of political party membership, to narrow the field of candidates (nonpartisan). Our answer would stay the same no matter what level of government for which the election is being held. The second question asked us what principles should a good primary election system encourage, and we checked the following: increase voter participation, enfranchise independent or third party voters who otherwise have no voice, the system should lessen partisan participation, reduce costs of elections and result in more competitive general elections. The third question asked us if we wanted to keep Ohio's current system for local, county and statewide offices, in which the voter may request any party ballot at the time of the election, and the vote may be challenged if he/she changed party affiliation. Our answer was no. The Fourth question was for the groups that answered no on the previous question, which would be us, but we could not come to a consensus of which of the six systems that were given to us we would prefer.

A spirited discussion was held in each of the four groups into which we were divided and more discussion followed when we tallied our answers. I sent our answers via e-mail to the state office. We will find out the final results at the May State Convention. It was a good afternoon!

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 28 —

7 p.m. *Lucas County Land Bank*. David Mann and Shantae Brownlee. Way Public Library

Tuesday, March 14 —

7 p.m. *Refugee Resettlement in Toledo Area*. Attorney Eugenio Mollo from Welcome to Toledo-Lucas County. Way Public Library

Sunday, March 26 —

2 p.m. *Stranahan Award*. 577 Foundation

Tuesday, April 25 — 7 p.m.

Perspectives on Declaring Lake Erie "Impaired." Karl Gebhardt, Ohio EPA and Sandy Bihn, President of Toledo Lighthouse Society and Executive Director of Lake Erie Waterkeepers Way Public Library

Tuesday, May 23 —

11 a.m. *Annual Meeting*. Noon *Luncheon*. Speaker TBA. Carranor Club.

Also on Tuesday, May 23

— 7 p.m. *Panel on Drug Issues in Wood County* featuring Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn and Coroner Douglas Hess. Way Public Library.

Deadline for Nominations for This Year's LWVPA Stranahan Award Are Due February 28

The Perrysburg League in 2002 created the Virginia Secor Stranahan Citizenship Award, named for a woman whose generous contributions and legacy have made a dynamic difference to the Perrysburg area. As one our League's early founders, her financial support continues to enable our organization to function effectively, providing political awareness and education to our community.

Nominees for this award may be either male or female and must be someone who has been active in the community and has made a profound impact on the Perrysburg area. A local group that has made a difference may also be considered.

The previous recipients of the Citizenship Award are: Juliet Beck, Robert Boyd, Fred Moor, Adelaide Morse, Jean Duston, Becky Williams, Robert Warnimont, Carlos Cordova, Connie Teare, Judith Justus, Phyllis Morton, Rose Marie Gerkovich, Debra Buker, J.D. Justus, and Dr. Earl Campbell.

The award will be presented on Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. at the 577 Manor House, the former home of Mrs. Stranahan.

Anyone who would like to nominate an individual or organization may use the form on Page 4 of this Voter.

Would You Like to Help with the Virginia Secor Stranahan Award Event?

We need volunteers to help plan and run our annual event this year.

It will not take too much time and it is a fun project!

Please contact Nancy Kelley if you are willing to help.

League of Women Voters of Perrysburg Area

VIRGINIA SECOR STRANAHAN ANNUAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____

Home Address

Business Address _____

Telephone (home/cell) _____ (work) _____

List the civic and/or community activities of the nominee which have had a positive impact on the Perrysburg area.

Are there personal qualities or traits that you believe have added to this nominee's effectiveness?

Is there one particular event or activity that you feel makes this nominee especially deserving of this award?

Name of person making the nomination _____

Telephone number _____ (if needed for clarification or questions)

Please mail the completed form by February 28, 2017 to: VSS Citizenship Award, League of Women Voters of Perrysburg Area, P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, OH 43552

Thank you for your nomination

Natural Resources

A Clean Lake Erie For Dollars & Sense

By Starr Wlodarski, Natural Resources Co-Chair

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable natural resources and an essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. The lake provides water for drinking and industry, shipping of commodities, commercial fishing, and waterborne transportation. According to the Office of the Ohio Treasurer, visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region spend more than \$11 billion dollars yearly — nearly 30% of Ohio's total tourism dollars. Regional tourism also supports over 100,000 regional jobs and generates \$750 million in state and local taxes. The Lake Erie region also contributes to:

- Exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities that annually attract 1.5 million hunters and anglers who spend \$2 billion.
- A recreational boating industry that supports more than 26,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$3.5 billion annually.
- The source of drinking water for over 3 million Ohio residents.

As these figures show, restoring and maintaining a clean Lake Erie is not just about correcting the mistakes of the past, but of leveraging a vital resource to build a better future.

Economic Benefits of a Clean Lake Erie

Restoring and maintaining Lake Erie advances Ohio's broader strategy of creating jobs, stimulating economic development and investing in freshwater resources and waterfront communities. A detailed study by the Brookings Institution found that fully implemented a Lake Erie restoration and maintenance strategy would generate 80 to 100 billion dollars in benefits for the region, including:

- \$6.5 billion to \$11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- \$50 million to \$125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- \$12 billion to \$19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas.

Source: Great Lakes Commission; 2015 Annual Report

January 2017 Observer Report

Perrysburg City Council Meeting January 3, 2017

- Passed ordinance 5-2017 authorizing the City to purchase property and roadway located on Fort Meigs Road (site of the Township Fire Station) for the purpose of building a second fire station. The purchase/transfer agreements will be between the City, Perrysburg Township, Wood County and Owens-Illinois.
- Heard a first reading of Water/Sewer Rates and Water/Sewer Capital Expansion Charges (fees for tapping into the water/sewer system). (Ordinances 1-2017, 2-2017, 3-2017 & 4-2017.)

Perrysburg City Council Meeting January 17, 2017

- Passed ordinances 6-2017 and Resolution 1-2017 accepting the petition of Leroy Wayne Heminger to be annexed into the City and to petition the Wood County Commissioners to change certain boundaries related to this annexation.
- Passed ordinance 7-2017 amending the code as to the location of swimming pools on private property (Code 1250.58(c))
- Passed ordinance 8-2017 approving a Storm Water Program Technician job description and amending the code to reflect this new position. (Code 266.15-2)
- Heard a second reading of Water/Sewer Rates and Water/Sewer Capital Expansion Charges (see above.)
- Passed two other resolutions appointing members to the equalization board for the Cherry Street sewer separation project and authorizing the City to request professional proposals for ditch maintenance. (Resolutions 2-2017 & 3-2017.)

*Debra Greenley Gorman
Observer*