



The Voter

March 2018

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Protecting the Integrity of Our Electoral Process Will Be Explored at March Topical Tuesday Meeting

Alleged interference in board of election functions in some areas of the country has brought increased attention to the integrity of our elections.

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters, in conjunction with Way Library, will host Carol DeJong and Terry Burton, Wood County Board of Elections Directors, for a Topical Tuesday event on Tuesday, March 13 at the library at 7 p.m. The theme of the meeting will be *Voter Participation*.



Carol DeJong and Terry Burton

Ms. DeJong and Mr. Burton will provide an update on what is occurring in voter technology and what is being done to keep this important democratic process safe and easily accessible to all.

Making it easy to vote and hard to cheat is a tough job, but one the Wood County Board of Elections takes seriously. If you have questions about how our right to vote is being kept safe or want to know what the future holds in voting technology, be sure to mark your calendars to attend this meeting.

Welcome New Member!

Please add the following information to your membership directory:

David A. Stratso
29685 Durham Drive
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419-666-5689
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Transit Levy Campaign Kickoff

The City of Perrysburg's Transit Levy will be on the ballot for renewal on May 8, 2018. Perrysburg Transit provides door-to-door transportation services for city residents who need a ride to medical appointments, work, church, shopping trips and much more within the City of Perrysburg.

Perrysburg4Transit is coordinating an advocacy campaign in support of the levy renewal. The campaign would like to invite the community to a campaign kickoff event at O-Deer Diner (416 Louisiana Ave.) on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Come and support the Transit Levy Campaign.



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,

Our November program was all about fake news and social media, presented by Dr. Montana Miller, a professor at BGSU. The other day I was thinking about this program and fake news and it caused me to think about truth, so I did some reading and came up with the following thoughts and comments.

The dictionary defines truth as “an obvious or accepted fact.” Another definition the dictionary gives is “conformity with fact or reality.”

The following is what Anthony P. Castle calls a word-picture from his book *Quotes and Anecdotes*. One can tell lies without literal mis-statement. “During a lull in the cold war, a Russian diplomat was explaining to an English one the difference between Russian and British newspapers. Suppose you and I had a race, and you came in first. Your newspaper would report: ‘The Soviet and British ambassadors yesterday had a race. The British Ambassador won.’ In *Pravda* the report would be: ‘A race took place yesterday between diplomats. The Soviet ambassador came in second. The British Ambassador finished only just in front of the last man.’”

Another comment on truth from the Mr. Castle’s book is more humorous.

Father: “I want an explanation and I want the truth.”

Son: “Make up your mind, Dad, you can’t have both.”

So, I say it is up to us as citizens to separate facts from lies. Use critical thinking skills, verify your sources and if the information sounds too good to be true, be very skeptical.

Nancy Kelley



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, March 13 —
7 p.m. *Voter Participation*,
Wood County Board of
Elections Directors Carol
DeJong and Terry
Burton, Way Library
Meeting Room

Tuesday, April 24, —
7 p.m. *Regional Water
Authority*, a panel
discussion. Way Library
Meeting Room

Tuesday, May 22 — 11
a.m. *Annual Meeting*. Noon
Luncheon, Sheila Otto,
Storyteller, Carranor Club

Natural Resources

Learning More About Solar Power

By Sue Hoffman Natural Resources Chair

Over the last few months, I have focused on water, one of our necessary natural resources. This month I turn to solar power. From doing some research, I find that we only need to go to Bowling Green, Ohio to find a successful solar power farm. What is solar power?

Solar power is the use of the sun's energy either directly as thermal energy (heat) or through the use of photovoltaic cells in **solar panels** and transparent photovoltaic glass to generate **electricity**.

"Bowling Green has a 165 acre solar field which consists of 85,000 panels and is capable of producing 20 megawatts of alternate current electricity which could power 3,000 homes. It will also avoid approximately 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year since the energy is generated from a non-fossil fuel resource" www.bgohio.org/solar-field-begins-operation/.

Next, there are a number of really great sites on line; they are very understandable, user friendly and may even inspire you to think about some solar improvements. Here are a few articles and sites I found in my research for this article:

Large Solar farms Proposed in Three Ohio Counties statenews.org>port>large solar farm

www.bgohio.org

www.solarpowerrocks.com

2018 Guide to Ohio Home Solar Incentives

Finally, remember our biggest resource, the sun, could help us become less dependent on oil and gas. We need to be open to alternatives. As for me, I absorb the sun coming through my windows, warming not only my room, but my heart. Add to that the Vitamin D I get when outside in the sun, and I feel better already. Have fun checking out the websites, and don't forget all those wonderful books such as: *Solar Power Your Home for Dummies*, *Complete Idiot's Guide to Solar Power for Your Home* and *The Solar House: Passive Heating and Cooling* by Daniel Chiras.



FYI: A Press Release from the Ohio League of Women Voters

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ® OF OHIO

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February 16, 2018



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LWV Ohio Statement on Shooting in Parkland, FL

Columbus, OH - Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick and Alison Ricker, League of Women Voters of Ohio Co-Presidents, issued the following statement about Wednesday's mass shooting:

"The senseless murder of seventeen children and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida shows once again the tragic results of lax gun regulation in our country. The League of Women Voters of Ohio believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. For that reason, LWVO supports strong federal measures to limit accessibility and regulate ownership of these weapons by private citizens. In particular, we believe that deadly weapons like the AR-15, used in all of the most recent mass killings throughout our country, should be kept out of civilian hands. We will make every effort to fight against laws that further erode restraints on the ownership and usage of guns in Ohio."

All-Member Conference Call

Dial into the League of Women Voters Ohio's (LWVO) All-Member Conference Call the first Tuesday of each month, from noon – 1 p.m. Topics vary each month and cover issues being addressed by local Leagues (such as Voter Guides) and the Ohio League (such as Fair Districts). League members from all across the state are on the call. You can ask questions, voice your opinion or just listen. It is an excellent way to learn what's happening with the League throughout the state!

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN: PIN: 4691505#

If you cannot join the actual conference call, a recording at [All Member Call](#) will be available a few days after the live call is concluded and remains available through the end of the month. Please note that the call recording is intended for LWV members and guests (just like the calls) and therefore should not be shared with anyone outside the League family.

Get a reminder of the calls – and other news from the LWVO -- by signing up for LWVO newsletters. Go to: [Get Involved > Get Updates](#) .

February 2018 Observer Report

Observations of City Council Meeting on 02/20/18

- There was much discussion regarding the appointment of a new city prosecutor and the termination of the assistant city prosecutor:
 - Before approving the 02/06/18 City Council Meeting Minutes, council approved amending the minutes to include a statement regarding the fact that City Prosecutor Aubry dropped his City Prosecutor badge in front of Council President Matuszak.
 - During Citizen's Concerns, a citizen informed the Council and Administration that he had/was intending to request all relevant documents related to the new city prosecutor appointment.
 - During Citizen's Concerns, a citizen read a statement regarding recent events surrounding the city prosecutor position saying that he was afraid that the lack of cooperation seen in Washington DC was making its way to Perrysburg. He urged Council and the Administration to work together and to not let partisanship enter into their decision-making process.
 - Mayor Mackin read prepared remarks and said he had submitted them to the Perrysburg Messenger and that they were posted on the [City's Website](#).
 - Council Member Ghanbari read prepared questions/remarks surrounding the termination of Assistant City Prosecutor Corey Speweik.
 - Council President Matuszak said the public did not have all the facts and that council was exercising its right to get to the facts and ensure the process was fair. He questioned who is responsible for overseeing contracts such as the one for the assistant city prosecutor and he gave a rebuttal to the Mayor's prepared remarks.
 - The Mayor said they will start the process over.
 - Read [City Council Meeting Minutes](#). (Observer's Note: minutes are not posted immediately.)

- As required, Committee Reports were given for various committees including the Finance and Economic Development Committee's report for its meeting on 02/13/18. This report included several items under the heading *2018 Budget Amendment* including the following: Mr. Matuszak also requested that a line item be added for independent counsel to represent City Council.

- Meetings Announced
 - March 6, 2018, 5:30 – 6:30: Special Public Utilities Committee Meeting regarding the Toledo Area Water Authority (TAWA). Read [TAWA Memorandum of Understanding](#). Meeting held in the Municipal Building and is open to the public.
 - March 21, 2018, 6:00: City Charter Review Commission. Council will appoint 10 members to this Commission from a pool of approximately 30 applicants. Meeting held in the Municipal Building and is open to the public.

*Debra Greenley Gorman
Observer*