



# The Voter

September 2018

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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## Civil Discourse Is the Timely Topic Of the League's September 25 Meeting

This month's Topical Tuesday, sponsored jointly by the League and Way Library, will address a particularly timely subject — civil discourse.

Dr. Dale Snauwaert, Toledo University professor of philosophy of education and peace studies, will explore civil discourse as essential for a functioning democracy, as well as its basis in a respect-based conception of tolerance.

The central importance of civil discourse for the exercise of public deliberation, the idea and practice of reasonable disagreement and their rational basis in the principles of respectful toleration and a duty of civility will be discussed.

Dr. Snauwaert is co-director of the Graduate Certificate Program in the Foundations of Peace Education and the Undergraduate Minor in Peace Studies in the Department of Educational

Foundations and Leadership, Judith Herb College of Education at UT.

He is the Founding Editor of *In Factis Pax: Online Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice* and is widely published in such academic journals as the *Journal of Peace Education*, *Educational Theory*, *Educational Studies*, *Peace Studies Journal*, and *Philosophical Studies in Education* on such topics as democratic theory, theories of social justice, the ethics of war and peace, and the philosophy of peace education.

He is the author of several books in his field. His core interests and expertise lie within the following topics: peace education, democratic education, human rights education, democratic theory, theories of justice, human rights theory, the philosophy of nonviolence, teaching through reflective inquiry.

Dr. Snauwaert was awarded a Fulbright Specialist grant at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia.

He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago and his master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Dr. Dale Snauwaert

*“Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here...”*

*Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.”*

From Senator John McCain's final letter to the nation, August 28, 2018



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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,

In July, I had the opportunity to spend four days at Chautauqua Institute in New York State. The theme of the week was *The Ethics of Dissent*. Beautiful weather, thoughtful speakers and good company, what more can you ask for?

In this column I will tell you about what one of the speakers, Bari Weiss, a writer and editor who covers culture and politics for the *New York Times* opinion section talked about. Ms. Weiss offered the modern-era “Seven Dirty Words” needed in society. Quoting her, “We are living through the obscene era of American history. Nothing is scared, everything can be said and seen. The very notions of decency, of civility, of tolerance, seem almost embarrassing in their earnestness.” It is a “paradoxical” time, she said; people are taking free speech to its legal limit, but society is pulling on the reins. Divisive issues have become radioactive -- touch them and face the risks.

So, remembering how George Carlin’s seven nasty words rocked the world in the 1970s, she proposed her own set of words — imagination, humility, proportion, empathy, judgment, reason and doubt.

She explained that these seven words are falling out of fashion or favor today. The first word she wanted to explain is *imagination*. The liberal left and the far-right are both guilty of “identity politics.” They refute the idea that there is something beyond race, gender, and ethnicity that bind us together as Americans. Bari feels that “being an American only requires a commitment to a set of ideas which can be found in our Declaration of Independence.” The antidote to identity politics is imagination, “a moral and political imagination that allows us feel the spark of an electric cord that binds us, even today.”

In next month’s column I will tell you about the use of her words -- *humility and proportion*.

*Nancy Kelley*

## **Documentary Takes a Look at Toxic Waste and Lake Erie**

League members may be interested in attending a showing of the documentary film *Toxic Puzzle 2018* at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12.

This thought provoking film deals with issues often addressed by our Natural Resources Committee and contains scenes of Toledo and Lake Erie. Harrison Ford is the narrator.



## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday, Sept. 25** — 7 p.m.  
*Civil Discourse*, Dr. Dale Snauwaert, Univ. Toledo Law School.

**Sunday, Oct. 7** — 2 p.m.  
*Candidates Forum*. Holiday Inn French Quarter, 2 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 9** — 7 p.m.  
*North Korea*, Neil Englehart, PhD, BGSU Political Science Department.

**Tuesday, Nov. 13** — 7 p.m.  
*Perrysburg Moving Forward*. School Asst. Supt. Kadee Anstadt, Mayor Tom Mackin, Police Chief Dan Paez, Fire Chief Rudy Ruiz, Councilman Haraz Ghanbari.

**Tuesday, Dec. 4** — Noon  
*Holiday Luncheon*. Carranor Club, Music.

**Tuesday, Jan. 15** — Noon  
*Annual Program Meeting*. Luncheon. MEMBERS ONLY.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22** — Time TBA. *Women Running for Office*.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26** — 2 p.m.  
*Effects of Global Warming in the Midwest*. Timothy Davis PhD, BGSU Biology Dept.

**Tuesday, March 26** — 7 p.m.  
*Free Speech on College Campuses*, Dr. Samuel Nelson, Univ. of Toledo Political Science Dept.

**April 23** — 7 p.m. *Net Neutrality*. Dr. Samuel Nelson, Univ. of Toledo Political Science Dept.

**Tuesday, May 21** — 11 a.m.  
*Annual Meeting*. Noon Luncheon, Presentation: *One Hundred Years of the League of Women Voters*.

\* All programs will be at Way Library, unless otherwise

## The Magic of Water

By Sue Hoffman Natural Resources Chair

Loren Eisley said, “If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in the water.” If you have been watching the news this summer, then you know we have lots of water issues. Locally, we are watching the algae bloom on Lake Erie. This week, there are some areas close by that may develop into a concern; monitoring will hopefully keep our water safe to drink. In Florida, the red tide has already killed manatee, fish and turtles in increasing numbers; much of this could be prevented with more restrictions on industries that are dumping waste. This tide covers over a hundred miles of shoreline and as it spreads, its devastation increases. Tourism is affected as well.

In the East and across the continent, heavy rains, flooding and erosion threaten farms, wildlife, homes and our infrastructure. In addition, fires create widespread devastation and future areas of erosion and flooding.

In addition to all of this, we see numerous pictures of how polluted our rivers and oceans are becoming. Yet, we continue to be a throwaway society. I came across a website and source of some products that will help us reuse. It is called *MightyFix*. I intend to subscribe and see what these products are. If I can reuse rather than throw away, I just may help to save an ocean reef, a sea turtle or put less debris in our waterways. I may even help to keep the magic in the water.

## Observer Report

By Starr Wlodarski, Observer Chair

Debra Gorman observed the July 31 City Council Meeting and the August 14 Recreation Committee meeting. The City Council approved the Charter Amendments to be placed on the ballot in November. In both of Debra’s reports, she has commented on some disagreement on the Recreation Committee, centering on the chair not distributing information before the meeting, preferring to give it out at the meeting. At this meeting, sound was once again an issue, making it difficult for the audience to hear.

I am looking for observers for both Perrysburg School Board and Perrysburg Township. If you are interested in either, please contact me. My goal for this committee is to observe City, Township and School Board meetings.

## Don’t Miss Our Next *Brews and Views* Event

Our first two LWVPA *Brews and Views* were great successes! Over 35 people attended each event, including many of our members, members from the Toledo/Lucas County and Bowling Green Leagues, and the general public. Spirited conversations began with such topics as “civility” and went forward from there.

Please join us for our next *Brews and Views* on Monday, September 10, at 5 pm at the Fifth Street Pub. *Brews and Views* is a chance to relax, socialize and engage in civil conversation on topics important to our communities and our nation. Each gathering has a starter topic for conversation, but feel free to bring your own interests and concerns. Waitstaff will be available to take your food or drink orders if you choose. We provide the pizza! Friends and family are welcome.



# Virginia Kase



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Virginia Kase is the CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Prior to joining the League, she served as COO of CASA, an organization at the forefront of the immigrant rights movement representing nearly 100,000 members. In that leadership role, Virginia managed the strategic growth, direction, and operations of the organization and served as a key thought leader on its politics and policy team.

Prior to CASA, Virginia spent eight years serving as the National Technical Assistance and Training Manager at the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) in Washington, DC. While at CNE she developed a grant making and capacity building program for grassroots non-profits addressing issues of urban violence, economic, racial and social inequality. During that time, she also studied what made them effective, using that information

to assist groups in deepening their impact by replicating best practices and identifying opportunities for cross-sector movement building.

Virginia's career started in her early 20's when she co-founded a youth-led non-profit in her hometown of Hartford, CT. There she organized current and former gang members and other at-risk youth and sought to provide them with a pathway out of a destructive lifestyle through leadership development and access to employment and educational opportunities. The idea for this work was formed out of her desire to create a change in her community because of her experience as a teenager living in one of the city's most violent and gang-infested neighborhoods.

Virginia has more than 20 years experience working in the non-profit sector and is a passionate activist and advocate for social justice. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. She is the mother of two awesome sons and lives in Maryland with her fiancé and her rescue dog Boss.