



The Voter

March 2023

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area



March Topical Tuesday Meeting: State of Perrysburg Township To Be Topic of This Month's Meeting

Topical Tuesday's March 14 program will be held at the Perrysburg Township Fire Station, 26609 Lime City Road at 2 p.m. Topical Tuesdays are co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area and Way Public Library.

Jon Eckel, the recently retired city administrator for the City of Perrysburg, was named as the new township administrator at the October 19 regular trustees meeting. He will speak on the state of the township. Mr. Eckel had spent his career working for the city of Perrysburg before joining the township, which included working in water treatment and directing the Service Department for many years.

Mr. Eckel will be joined by Thomas Brice, Fire Chief for the Township, and other divisional heads. Chief Brice has been a member of the department since 1993. Currently Chief Brice is certified as a Paramedic, Firefighter II, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Instructor, and a CE Instructor.

Please plan to attend this interesting and informative program.

2023 LWVO Statehouse Day Postponed

The League of Women Voters Ohio has decided to postpone Statehouse Day, originally scheduled for this month, until the fall.

The meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, September 20.

The decision was made due to the low number of registrations, which the LWVO Board attributed the fact that their last statehouse event took place fairly recently in December.

Registration fees can be refunded, held for the September event or donated to sponsor a student to attend the fall event.



In This Issue:

State of the Township To Be Topical Tuesday Meeting	1
2023 LWVO Statehouse Day Postponed	1
Board Letter	2
Upcoming Meetings	3
Annual Members-Only Meeting Was Great Opportunity to Hear from Members	3
Sustaining Insects and All Wildlife with Native Plants	4

Have you had a change of address recently — e-mail or snail mail? A new phone number? Please let the Membership Chairman know of any changes to your information.



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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

<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area>

**The deadline for
Voter articles is the
25th of each month.**

Board Letter

Dear League Members:



Making A Little Difference

From the time I could read, I was aware of how important quotes are to understanding perspective and others' views and for inspiration. Quotes show that many little things done can achieve greatness, inspire others and make a difference. Vincent Van Gogh said, "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." The League of Women Voters brings so many ideas, plans and actions together. Regardless of the time you have, you can be a contributing member. So, how can you help?

First, Jen Miller, our Executive Director, states that, "In 2023, I look forward to continuing to fight gerrymandering, educating voters on challenging new changes to voting, recruiting more League members and volunteers and advocating for voters in hearings, lobby visits, media interviews and courtrooms." All together this seems taxing, an immense undertaking, and yes, doable. How? Each of us can pick what we like to do and what we might be good at. Do you like to write? Write your representatives on local, state or national levels. Send postcards to friends as election reminders. Do you like to speak? Go to city council meetings, school board meetings, township meetings or even state meetings and express your thoughts. Are you computer savvy? Post League positions on FaceBook, Instagram...

Second, get more involved by attending local league meetings, state meetings via Zoom, or even in person. If that is too much, find one League topic that you would love to be a part of. Maybe it is the environment; you can use paper bags instead of plastic or take your own cloth bags. Maybe it is voter registration. You can volunteer to register voters with whatever time you have. Perhaps it is as simple as sharing the League's Vote411.org website with people. Finally, you can join your local league to be more in the loop or make a monetary contribution. Funds are always needed for defending our democracy through publications and educational materials.

As Sherry Rose stated in her article *Small Victories – Long Road Ahead*, our 2023 agenda to protect Ohio voters includes:

- Seeking opportunities to improve democracy
- Educating and training League members
- Defending direct democracy
- Continuing to demand Fair Districts
- Updating our Voter Education materials
- Connecting with disenfranchised, young and infrequent voters
- Continuing to provide Vote411.org materials
- Continuing our core mission to provide voter education and to fight for equal access to the polls for all people. (Ohio Voter, The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, January 2023.)

Regardless of how you get involved, remember to "enjoy the satisfaction that comes from doing little things well." — H. Jackson Brown, Jr. Let's join together and make a difference. See you at the polls, a league meeting, a local government meeting, or even at the local recycling center. Every little action helps the common good. The whole is equal to the sum of the parts. I hope you will be an active part.

Suzanne Hoffman

Membership Co-Chair



Upcoming Meetings

For the most up-to-date information on League activities, click on

[League Calendar](#)

Tuesday, March 14 —

2 p.m. *State of the Township*, Perrysburg Township Administrator Jon Eckel and Thomas Brice, Township Fire Chief,
Location: Township Fire Station, 26609 Lime City Road

Tuesday, April 25 —

7 p.m. *Economic Development in Wood County*, Wayne Gottschalk, Ex. Dir., Wood County Economic Development Office.

Tuesday, May 16 —

11 p.m. *Annual Meeting*, Noon Luncheon and presentation by Richard Baranowski, Way Library Local History Librarian,
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Levis Commons

All meetings will be held at Way Library unless otherwise noted.

Annual Members-Only Meeting Was Great Opportunity to Hear from Members

LWVPA had its annual members-only program planning meeting on Tuesday, February 28, from noon to 2 p.m. The eighteen members in attendance were treated to a soup, salad and dessert luncheon provided by the 2022-2023 board.

The meeting was part business and part brainstorming on areas of focus for the upcoming program year:

- Jacki Stedman reviewed the updated Investment Policy. The recent gift from the Charles and Ann Dana Foundation was an impetus for the board to update the policy. The goal is to maintain the principle by investing and allow for investment in more aggressive funds. Also, to be able to withdraw cash in order to fund projects and activities. Carol Hall motioned to approve the Revised Investment Policy, dated 10 4 22 and Shirley Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Debra Gorman led the group on a review of the Making Democracy Work (MDW) platform adopted by the LWVUS in 2016. MDW combines many of the League's existing positions on voter services including: voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics, redistricting and direct election of the United States President by popular vote. Debra explained that the Campaign Finance/money in politics position was adopted in 1973 and the direct election of the president by popular vote was adopted in 1970. The LWV of Ohio asked each local league to review the platform and take a formal vote of support as a priority for the LWV Ohio. Debra asked for a vote indicating our support for the "Making Democracy Work" platform. The vote to support the platform was unanimous.
- The LWVPA members then had a healthy discussion on whether or not we should send additional priorities, specifically natural resources and education, to the LWV Ohio. It was noted that although the state league is working to get back to the League's "roots" by focusing on democracy, it does not preclude our local league from continuing to work on priorities of interest to us. Roseanne Barker motioned to make "Making Democracy Work" the primary focus of the Ohio League for the next two years with Natural Resources and Education remaining concerns." The motion was seconded and passed.

Continued on Page 4

Members Meeting

Continued from Page 3

- Jacki Stedman then opened the floor to ideas for programing for 2023-2024. Based on the earlier discussion, it was apparent that education on the MDW platform (in particular the direct election of the president), the recently passed Elections and Voting Law (HB458) and natural resources (specifically, the safe passage of trains carrying hazardous materials and the disposal of the hazardous waste in Ohio communities) were areas of interest for the upcoming year. There was a question as to where one can get information on HB458. In our [February 2023 The Voter, page 4](#), there is an article with a link regarding the bill. We are awaiting some clarification on the bill.
- Further, members suggested that we increase outreach to senior living facilities regarding voter ID laws and Topical Tuesdays and consider how we can assist rural voters who may be isolated.
- Additional ideas that had been shared prior to the meeting included: videotape conversations with public officials so the public can understand their functions; scholarships; seminar with lunch; quarterly ads in The Messenger, establish a Dana Fund; host a movie about climate change; education on hazardous materials traveling through our community; other MDW issues such as money in politics, voter participation and truth in democracy; encourage members to attend board meetings.

Your board is always open to member ideas for programs or activities. If you have ideas or would like to discuss any of the above information, please contact Debra Gorman or Jacki Stedman.

Sustaining Insects and All Wildlife with Native Plants

*By Jan Dixon
Natural Resources Committee*

“If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.”

E. O. Wilson (Pulitzer Prize-Winning American Biologist)

Let’s begin with plants: what is so great about plants? Plants are brilliant; they have figured out how to get energy from the sun and use it to grow and sustain their life. The process is photosynthesis, something all of us learned about in grade school.

What is so great about insects? Insects have figured out how to use the energy created by plants to grow and sustain their lives. Insects are the basis of the planet’s biodiversity.

Continued on Page 5

Sustaining Insects and all Wildlife with Native Plants

Continued from Page 4

What is so great about biodiversity? It is literally what sustains us by providing the energy we need to survive. Not many people in America eat insects, but insects are eaten in other countries because they contain high levels of protein. What most people eat however is derived essentially from insects through the food web where energy is transferred from insect to bird, from bird to coyote, from coyote to you get the idea. But, of course, most of us eat and enjoy vegetables. Perhaps we do not need insects just plants. Not so, insects are what pollinate our plants so they are able to reproduce.

Finally, getting to the point of this article, what is so great about native plants? Aren't all plants the same, able to manufacture energy from the sun thru photosynthesis? Yes, this is true, however, what must be considered is **the insects that are able to use the plant to sequester energy**. A native plant is one that shares an historical evolutionary history with other living things around it. Insects have evolved along with the plants that were in close proximity. The various life stages of an insect can eat and digest the chemicals found in specific plants. The best-known example is the Monarch butterfly. The Monarch caterpillar can only eat plants from the milkweed family. If this plant is not available the caterpillar will die.



Gray Dogwood Flowers with bees

This same interdependence of insect and plant is true all across the earth. The insects in our area depend on our local native plants for survival. An alien plant, such as one from China, might look great, but it will not sustain our insects and the biodiversity we depend on. E. O. Wilson wrote in *The Diversity of Life*, "Biodiversity is our most valuable but least appreciated resource." Biodiversity includes the diversity of all life forms on earth, as well as the variation in genes that allow species to adapt and continue to survive in an ever-changing world.

The ecosystem is sustained by essential biodiversity upon which all humans depend. The ecosystem has been compared by Dr. Doug Tallamy in *Nature's Best Hope* to a well-oiled machine. If one of the parts is not working it affects all the other parts and the whole. To continue the analogy, if one screw is loose the machine may work, but when more screws become loose the machine no longer works. Landscaping with natives has the affect of tightening a loose screw. It helps to make our ecosystem function more effectively.

Nearly 3 billion birds gone since 1970 – a headline in a published report in *Science*, Sept. 2019. We have lost 3 billion adult breeding birds across North America in the last 20 years. Why? The food and habitat the birds depend on is no longer available. Birds eat many different kinds of seeds, but when it comes to feeding their young they need the protein that is supplied by insects and caterpillars. Native plants are what can ultimately save our birds and many other forms of life, including ourselves.

Continued on Page 6

Sustaining Insects and all Wildlife with Native Plants

Continued from Page 5

The good news – gardeners can play an essential role in supporting insects and all wildlife by planting native species in their landscape. Gardeners can do something we all want to do – **make a difference**. Every native plant added to the landscape makes a difference to biodiversity and our ecosystem. This is crucial since the loss of available land for wildlife is ever increasing with development.

Doug Tallamy has proposed people everywhere join the growing movement, **Homegrown National Park**. This is a nationwide conservation effort where individual homeowners can put their piece of property on the conservation map by planting natives, removing invasive and alien species, and controlling for storm water runoff. With action we can get all of Ohio on the Homegrown National Park map. For more information on native plants and resources visit <http://www.toledonaturalist.org> and <http://www.wildonesoakopeningsregion.org>.



Sneezeweed and Meadow Fritillary



Joe-Pye Weed

All Photos by Jan Dixon