



CAPITOL VOTER
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LANSING AREA



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
February 10, 2008

February 5, 2008: **LWVLA Board Meeting.** Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Hope Borbas Okemos Library.

February 26, 2008: **The City Clerks Explain It All.** Tuesday from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at East Lansing Public Library Meeting Room. Chris Swope, the City Clerk of Lansing and Sharon Reid, the City Clerk of East Lansing will explain the way their offices are dealing with the new Voter ID Law, discuss the new voting machines and respond to your questions. This program is co-sponsored by the MSU Women's Resource Center and the AAUW.

March 4, 2008: **LWVLA Board Meeting.** Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Hope Borbas Okemos Library.

March 5, 2008: **Susan B. Anthony Dinner.** This year's dinner, sponsored by the Ingham County Women's Foundation honors Joan Bauer on Wednesday from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Country Club of Lansing. Tickets are \$30 a person. Please register by February 26, 2008. Attendance is limited to 65 people. You can read more about this event in later preview.

March 25, 2008: **Sunshine Celebration. In the Public Interest: Michigan's FOIA Act?** from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at East Lansing Public Library Meeting Room. Joe Tuchinsky, who helped pass Michigan's FOIA bill will speak to its history and past use. Helen LeBlanc, a resident of Williamston, will discuss her and her husband's use of FOIA to retrieve Township Council information.

This program is co-sponsored by the MSU Women's Resource Center and the AAUW.

April 1, 2008: **LWVLA Board Meeting**. Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the East Lansing Public Library Meeting Room.

April 17, 2008: from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at East Lansing Public Library Meeting Room. **The Jobless Rate and Reality**. John Hanieski is the former economic advisor to Governors William Milliken and James Blanchard and current member of the Red Team to promote economic development in the Lansing area. In this program, he will offer his analysis of the employment figures and wage and price reports issued by the government. What are real wages? Who earns what? Inquiring minds should know? This program is co-sponsored by the MSU Women's Resource Center and the AAUW.

May 6, 2008: **LWVLA Board Meeting**. Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Hope Borbas Okemos Library.

June 13-17, 2008. **LWVUS 48th National Convention: Reaching New Heights Together** at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland Oregon.

October 26 – November 1. **Schuler Book Days**. During this week, Schuler Books and Music will donate 20% of all purchases to the LWVLA, if the customer asks the salesperson.

President's Report

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the League's upcoming program: **The City Clerks Explain It All** with Chris Swope of Lansing and Sharon Reid of East Lansing, which is scheduled for February 26, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at East Lansing Library Meeting Room. This program will focus on the impact of the Voter ID Act on the November election and January Primary. They will also discuss the impact of the new voting machines, Michigan's recount system and respond to any questions. There may also be a third City Clerk. We would like to have a full house for this program. Please make every effort to attend.

We want to say goodbye to a longtime League member George Thornton, who died on November 28, 2007. He was an active member until he moved to Chelsea, two years ago.

The LWVLA would also like to thank Mrs. Ann Leonard for her contribution to the League. In her very thoughtful note, she said that she wanted to support the LWVLA Voter Guide. In her note, she said: "I'm enclosing small check to you rather than national because I so respect what you do. I never see a fund raiser for local so I assume you receive some funds from National for your excellent info on local and State publications. . . The newspaper isn't clear on all issues but the LWV sets it straight and non-partisan. Great Job." She was given the Voter Guide at church and was kind enough to offer to help distribute the Voter Guide. Her vote of confidence was very welcome to everyone who works on Voter Services and the Voter Guides.

Mrs. Leonard said that she sent the check because she had never seen a fundraiser for the LWVLA so she assumed that the local League received funds from national to support our work. In fact, local Leagues received no support from the state of national Leagues.

If you have forgotten to renew your membership or would like to join the League, there is a form included in this edition of the Voter. We want to thank all those members who have taken the opportunity to renew their membership and remind others to send in their renewals. We particularly want to thank two national members, who switched their membership to the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area, Pauline Adams and Berttina Helmers.

By Kathy Esselman
President

Immigration Study Consensus Meeting

The Lansing Area League of Women Voters met on January 15 to discuss the national League immigration study and to decide on consensus questions prepared by the national study committee. Our members engaged in a thoughtful discussion, framed by the consensus questions which were printed in the last Capitol Voter. It is clear that questions and issues concerning immigration and the appropriate policy have complexities and implications that go well beyond simple answers. Local Leagues all over the United States have met in similar meetings and all these Leagues, including our League, have sent our responses to Washington. The

study committee will review all the League responses and report to the National Board of the League of Women Voters which will then decide what, if any, position should be taken by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Cele Friestater

Co-Chair of the Program Planning Committee

Susan B. Anthony Dinner

The Ingham County Women's Foundation (ICWF) will PRESENT, IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, THE ANNUAL "Susan B. Anthony Dinner" on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at the Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive. Ms. Anthony was a powerful public advocate of women's rights and actively participated along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton to make suffrage (women's right to vote) a reality for all American women. This year the dinner honors Rep. Joan Bauer for her lifetime dedication to public service, and her steadfast devotion to women's rights.

Cash bar begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and program at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. RSVP by February 26; space is limited to the first 65 registrants. For online registration visit our website:<http://www.icwfn.org/> or call Rebecca, 517-485-9127.

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Ingham County Women's Foundation

404 South Jenison Avenue, Lansing, MI 48915-1132 USA

on the web: <http://www.icwfn.org/> **email:** icwf@sbcglobal.net

The Ingham County Women's Foundation is a 501(c)3 IRS designated charity registered to do business in Michigan. For more information, please visit our website.

Bylaw Change

At the LWVUS 47th Convention in 2006, delegate approved a change in the language of Article II, Section 1 of the LWVUS Bylaws to emphasize the organization's inclusiveness by an overwhelming margin. It is imperative that the LWVLA bring our bylaws into consensus with the LWVUS Bylaws.

Article II

PURPOSE AND POLICY

Sec. 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation [of citizens] in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

Kathy Esselman

President

Membership Recruitment Initiative

The Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) was held here in Lansing on October 27, 2007. League members from around the state attended the forum. The National League of Women Voters put forth their plans for 2008 and beyond. The purpose of this initiative is to establish specific program components to attract newly retired women ages 50 -65 to the League of Women Voters.

I was very excited to be a part of this initiative. This generation is a wonderful resource and has many opportunities to do great things for their communities. My short time as a member of the Lansing League of Women Voters has been very gratifying. Helping with local Candidate Forums, downloading video podcasts on national issues such as Immigration contribute to my on-going quest for knowledge. Being newly retired myself, it is very important to me to continue to be involved in local & national issues and discussing these issues with like minded women enriches my life.

I hope you will come to one of our functions this year and see for yourself how great it is to be part of building consensus on timely issues. This is an especially important time in the history of our country; help make our communities strong, safe & healthy. It starts with one community at a time.

Hope to see you soon,

Gloria Kovnot- Grand Ledge
Retired University of Maryland, College Park
Center on Aging
Coordinator of Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy (A non-partisan
volunteer program for people over 50)



The total annual dues for 2008 are \$55.80. This includes \$26.80 for LWV-US, \$19.00 for LWV-MI, and \$10.00 for LWV-LA. If another member resides in the same household, the dues for the second member are \$27.90. National and state dues are assessed based on membership January 31, 2008.
I

Please complete this form and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

LWV-LA
P.O. Box 971
E. Lansing, MI 48826

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please note that we will keep your information confidential.

Amount enclosed:

\$ _____ \$55.80 for one member

\$ _____ \$83.70 for two members in the same household

Additional donations:

\$ _____ for LWV-LA

\$ _____ for League of Women Voters Education Fund

(Please use separate check)

Capitol Voter publication sponsored in part by the following:

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