



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

MAY 2016

LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 17 - 5:30 pm
Michigan Hall of Fame Café, East Lansing
Featured Speaker: David Hollister

David Hollister, former state legislator and Lansing mayor, will be talking about the successes and challenges of regional economic development. Plan to join other League members on Tuesday, May 17, at Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing. A social time at 5 p.m. will be followed by dinner and a brief annual meeting prior to the speaker's presentation. The former policy-maker and educator is actively involved in local issues related to economic development, education and public finance. He has been instrumental in telling the story of the efforts to keep General Motors in the Lansing Area through the book and movie, *Second Shift*.

The League's annual meeting affords an opportunity to take care of the business of the organization: adopting a

budget for 2016-17, amending bylaws, adopting local program, and electing a board of directors. Information on each of those agenda items was sent out on April 17 and copies will be available at annual meeting.

The \$24 cost includes a choice of four entrees, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and gratuity. **Reservations may be made until May 15 by either of these methods.**

#1. Register and pay on-line using Eventbrite. [CLICK HERE](#) for a link to Eventbrite.

#2. Call Camilla Davis at 517-668-6156 to reserve your seat and pay for your meal at the event.

Hope you can join us!

CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

NEW FEATURE

NEW MEMBERS

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

HEALTH REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

BOOK GROUP NEWS

2016 VOTER SERVICE

JACKSON UNIT NEWS

BRIEF NOTES

THE LEAGUE IN ACTION

This is a new column in the Voter, briefly noting action being taken by the state and national

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS



May is a time of transition for the local League organization, marked by the annual meeting and the process of electing a new slate of officers and adopting a budget. In a major election year it is also the turning point for focusing on how the League can most effectively play a significant role in educating the citizenry.

As we prepare a presidents' report, we celebrate the successful programs on important policy issues, the growth in membership (132), and the active interest in voter service activities. We also recognize the need to continually work to expand and diversify our membership and our leadership team. We are excited to be continuing for one last term as your co-presidents, feeling that our experience of the past two years will help us work more creatively in the two years ahead.

organizations.

Federal Election Commission

Based on the new LWVUS position on Money and Politics, the national League has endorsed legislation to create a new independent agency to replace the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The Federal Election Administration Act of 2016 would restructure the commission. Members are encouraged to contact their members of Congress concerning this legislation.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AnnMarie Schneider

lives in East Lansing and directs program planning and development for the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) and directs the

We are looking forward to representing the local League at the national convention in Washington, D.C. in June. LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara wrote: "In this unusual and important election year, we are committed as an organization to our democracy as is reflected in the Convention theme, "Making Democracy Work® for ALL." We look forward to this gathering of League activists from around the country to connect together as a united force for citizen interests and committed to register, educate and mobilize voters and protect the right to vote in every state in the country."

Beth Moore & Camilla Davis

BOOK GROUP DISCUSSES DEMOCRACY IN BLACK



League members will gather on Tuesday, June 14, to discuss the book *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul* by Eddie Glaude Jr. This new book, written by a Princeton professor, examines what he calls the "value gap" that has permeated American society throughout our history. The book group meets at 10 a.m. at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. Everyone is welcome to attend and the book will be available at both Schuler's. There will be no gathering of the group in July and information on future selections will be in the next Voter.

Canadian Studies
Center at Michigan
State University.

Lois Simon

lives in East
Lansing and is re-
joining the
League. Welcome
back!

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

Mary Scoblic,
LWV-LA Children
and Youth
director, reports
this month about
sexual assault on
college campuses.
In a random
sample of nearly
5,500
undergraduate
females, 19% of
women reported
some type of
attempted or
completed sexual
assault since
entering college.
During 2014,
11.4% of
University of
Michigan students
experienced some
type of non-
consensual sexual
behavior, including
22.5% of
undergraduate
females and 6.8%
undergraduate.

PLANNING FOR THE 2016 ELECTION



The Lansing Area League is busily working on several initiatives in preparation for the 2016 primary and general elections. Marilyn Wilson and the Voter Service committee have formed sub-committees, established timelines and are working on details. More volunteers are always welcomed. The plans include:

- Voter registration/education - League members have registered more than 200 students in area schools this spring, along with speaking to classes about the importance of voting. The committee will continue to look for appropriate venues for registration and education.
- Media messaging - A subcommittee is working with Carol Swinehart on messages to encourage greater voter turnout.
- VOTE411 - Patience Drake-Rosenbaum, Judy Karandjeff and Mary Scoblic are entering data and getting ready to send out candidate questionnaires for all of the races in Ingham, Clinton, Eaton and Jackson Counties for the League's on-line voter guide.
- Voter Guides - Discussions are underway with *Lansing City Pulse* to continue the partnership started in 2014 for inserting the League's Voter Guide. We hope to have additional copies for distribution. Christine Canning-Peterson is working with other members of the Jackson unit to print a League voter guide.
- Election observers - LWVLA members will again be acting as poll

INFORMATION ON HEALTH ISSUES



[Click here](#) for information from Kathy Esselman, LWV-LA Health Care director, in her monthly report on current health issues. The May report includes information from the Ingham County Infant Mortality Coalition, a description of the Ingham County Health Department's Strong Start/Healthy Start campaign titled "Get Real About Breastfeeding," and new data about the Zika virus.

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observers for the November election. We've received a Public Advocacy, Voter Protection (PAVP) project grant for working with local clerks to determine polling places where it is helpful to document how the process is working. The project seems especially important this year.

- Contact Marilyn Wilson(wilsonm@msu.edu or 517-927-7164) if you need more information or if you'd like to volunteer.

NEWS FROM THE JACKSON UNIT



At the May board meeting, Mary Lee Clark reported that the membership had been involved in a Bridges to Justice program in the community. Some members are once again conducting voter registration at personal needs centers in various locations. The group is planning two candidates' forums and is gathering information for the Voter Guide. The League is partnering with the Jackson District Library to lead a non-partisan organization titled Rally the Vote, focused on voter registration, voter education and voter participation in Jackson County.

BRIEF NOTES



Twelve members of our local League joined nearly 100 other members from around the state at the recent LWVMI workshop titled Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work. Participants heard Sally Williams from the Michigan Bureau of

QUICK LINKS

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

[LWVLMR*](#)

*LWVLA is a member of the LWV - Lake Michigan Region. Click on LWVLMR for an update of the organization's initiatives.

Elections talk about the fact that voter registration is relatively high in Michigan but voter turnout is where we need to focus attention. Craig Mauger, new Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, encouraged attendees to "get people to talk about money in politics-talk about this as an issue." The website for the network is www.mcfn.org.

INPUT WELCOME!

Comments and suggestions about the *Capitol Voter* are always welcome. Send your ideas to Camilla Davis at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com.