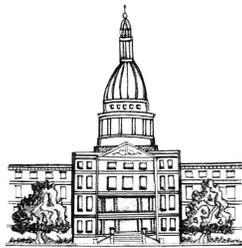


DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE LANSING AREA**

**CAPITOL VOTER  
APRIL 2018**



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!  
LWVLA EVENTS  
APRIL THROUGH JUNE**

Details about these upcoming events are highlighted in *Capitol Voter* articles.:

- Monday, April 30 -- Protecting Michigan's Water: Taking Action. 7 - 9 pm at Sycamore Creek Church, 1919 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing.

- Thursday, May 3 -- Promote the Vote Training. 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Grand Traverse Pie, East Lansing.
- Tuesday, May 8 -- LWVLA Book Discussion Group. 10 - 11:30 am, Grand Traverse Pie, East Lansing.
- Thursday, May 10 -- Solarize Delta Township. 6-7 PM, Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive.
- Saturday, May 12 -- Gun Violence Prevention Work Group. 10 - 11:30 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, 200 South Washington Square, Lansing.
- Tuesday, May 15 -- LWVLA Annual Meeting. 5 - 8:30 pm. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road.
- Monday, June 4 -- Lunch with the League. 11:30 - 1:00. Hall of Fame Cafe, 1601 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing.
- Saturday, June 9 -- Gun Violence Prevention Work Group. 10 - 11:30 am, Grand Traverse Pie Company, 200 South Washington Square, Lansing.

## Message from the Co-presidents

### REGISTERING TO VOTE IS JUST THE BEGINNING



As League members are organizing for a busy schedule of high school voter registration events and planning for assistance with voter registration at MSU, recent information has also intruded:

- only 14% of University of Michigan students cast ballots in the 2014 midterms (NY Times, March 4, 2018) with similar results from other campuses
- millennials don't see voting as a duty; 50% voted in 2016 (Kjerstin Thorson, April 9, 2018).

These and other stories about turnout among younger voters suggest that we need to adjust our focus to go far beyond the voter registration efforts of past years. For the first time, students are providing contact information when they register and we plan to follow up with information about the election and reminders to vote. Read the story below about our plans for the weeks ahead and decide how you might make a contribution-of time or money or suggestions or connections! Contact us for more information.

Beth & Camilla



## LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 15

LWVLA's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road. Join members and guests for an evening of socializing, dinner, the annual business meeting, and an interesting program. The featured speaker will be Craig Mauger, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network. His topic will be Behind the Curtain: How Big Money Influences Voters and Shapes Public Policy

Here's the evening's schedule.

- 5:00 - Social Time (Cash Bar Available)
- 5:30 - Dinner (See below for reservation information)
- 6:15 - Annual Meeting
- 6:45 - Program

Guests are welcome!

Dinner reservations required by Sunday, May 6. Click here for [Eventbrite](#) and search for LWVLA Annual Meeting 2018 to make reservations, including selecting your menu choice.

Questions? Call 517-624-9224 or email [elainedfwvla@gmail.com](mailto:elainedfwvla@gmail.com).

## PROTECTING MICHIGAN'S WATER: TAKING ACTION

Plan to attend this important meeting organized by the LWVLA environmental work group on Monday, April 30, 7 - 9 PM at Sycamore Creek Church, 1919 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing.



Scheduled panelists and their timely topics will be:

- Sean McBrearty of Oil and Water Don't Mix on Enbridge Pipeline 5 in the Straits of Mackinac;
- Erica Rogers from MSU Extension on agricultural runoff;

- Peggy Case of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation on large water withdrawals;
- Claire McClinton of Democracy Defense League about lead in drinking water supplies.

Participants will also learn about League of Women Voters consensus positions on natural resources and the environment, as well as actions LWV has taken to advance and defend those positions through education, policy development, legislation and litigation at the international, national, regional, state and local levels.

Attendees will leave with information about actions they can take to support natural resources and the environment. For further information, contact: Ellen Link at [elink767@gmail.com](mailto:elink767@gmail.com) or (517) 651-2005.

## **REGISTER - EDUCATE - MOTIVATE!** **The League's Voter Service 2018 Initiative**



**Voter Registration** - A grant from LWVUS is helping expand our voter registration efforts in the schools. Marilyn Wilson has currently arranged for registration at 10 educational sites, in addition to Peckham Industries, and about 15 League members have been trained to help with these efforts. Marilyn is also a member of the MSUVOTE coalition, making plans for voter registration on campus in the summer and fall. There will also be voter registration at many other Lansing area events in the weeks ahead. Contact Marilyn at [wilsonm@msu.edu](mailto:wilsonm@msu.edu) if you'd like to help.

**Voter Education** - Anna Scott is getting ready to start entering information for VOTE411 for the tri-county area. We need League members in each of the three counties to follow-up with candidates to ensure greater participation in this electronic voter guide. Later on, we will need help with distributing voter guides, helping with candidate forums, advertising VOTE411 etc.

**Getting Out the Vote** - During the summer, we need to organize a committee to plan an extensive get-out-the-vote effort. Contact Beth Moore, [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu) if you have ideas.

## **PROMOTE THE VOTE: SIGNATURES NEEDED!**



Now that the weather is better and outdoor activities are increasing, it is the perfect time to be gathering signatures to put a proposed constitutional question on the ballot to make voting in Michigan more convenient and more secure. The month of May is the critical time for getting petition signatures so that the issue can be on the November ballot. This ballot proposal is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Michigan, ACLU, NAACP and other groups and local Leagues need to increase our contributions in terms of signatures as well as financial support.

If you've been collecting signatures, THANK YOU! Some of you have been doing terrific work. If you know where you will be collecting signatures, post the location on the [www.promotethevotemi.com](http://www.promotethevotemi.com) website so that others can join you.

We need more League members to gather signatures from family, friends and colleagues. Come to a training session on **May 3 at 5:30 pm** at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing and pick up petitions. Help the League increase our signature contribution in this critical month.



## **LEAGUE BOOK GROUP DISCUSSING *ELIGHTENMENT NOW***

Join other League members on Tuesday, May 8 at 10 a.m., at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing to discuss the book by Stephen Pinker titled "Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress." Everyone is welcome. Contact Donna Mullins ([mullinsdj@outlook.com](mailto:mullinsdj@outlook.com)) with any questions.

## **WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE!**

**We extend a welcome to these new League members:**

- **Denise Carr, East Lansing**
- **Linda Dykema, East Lansing**
- **Michele Root-Bernstein, East Lansing**
- **Kendall Joy Darrach, Laingsburg**

- **Susan Steffel, Okemos**
  - **Linda Dykema, East Lansing**
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## **IN MEMORY**

LWVLA Life Member, Mary Tuttle, passed away on March 13th. Mary had been President of the Dearborn League in the 1960's before moving to the Lansing Area and she remained devoted to the League throughout her life. At the memorial service, her daughter commented that she used to resent the League because it took so much of her mother's time, but that she was proud to become a member of the Ohio League last year and carry on her mother's tradition.

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## **GUN VIOLENCE STUDY GROUP CONTINUES**

The group is re-convening in order to focus League attention on this important issue by sharing resources with League members. Martha Couretas and Melinda Frame have announced that the study group will meet on the second Saturday of the month, (May 12 and June 9), 10-11:30 am, at the Grand Traverse Pie Company, 200 South Washington Square in Lansing. The goals of the group include: tracking Michigan and U.S. gun legislation, discussing issues related to gun violence, discussing current research and information from data sources, and tracking and informing members about actions and opportunities to participate in the democratic process. Contact Martha Couretas [couretam@comcast.net](mailto:couretam@comcast.net) for more information about this group.

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## **LEAGUE SPONSORS SOLARIZE DELTA TOWNSHIP**

This workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 6-7 PM in the Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive. Lansing area solar owners will share their experiences with solar energy. Other presenters will discuss how solar works, cost savings, net metering, financing, tax credits, selecting a solar system and contractor, and much more.

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## LEAGUE LUNCHES TO CONTINUE

The League Lunches at Hall of Fame Café provide an opportunity for new and long-time members to become acquainted and to hear about some aspect of the public policy process. The lunches initially featured League members talking about political involvement. In April, we featured Dr. Kjerstin Thorson, talking about social media and youth political participation. Mark your calendar for the next lunch on Monday, June 4th, featuring MSU professor Matt Grossman who will be talking about political polling. More details to follow.

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## LWVUS OPPOSES CITIZENSHIP QUESTION ON CENSUS

The U.S. Commerce Department recently proposed adding a question to the 2020 Census that asks a person's citizenship status. LWVUS, along with other groups, is fighting to get this question removed. The League called the addition of the question a step that would undermine the rights of eligible voters and threaten a process vital to our democracy. Visit the League Management Site for updated talking points. You can also sign our petition urging Congress to act and correct this issue. Add YOUR voice to protest the addition of this unnecessary question. The U.S. Constitution says to count all persons, not all citizens.

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## ORDER YOUR LWV NAME BADGE

Order a professional badge to wear at League events.

Order directly from Midwest Graphics and the badge will be sent to you. The cost is approximately \$15 with shipping.

To order: Email the League's account contact, Adam Hernandez

([adam@midwestgac.com](mailto:adam@midwestgac.com)). Identify

yourself as a LWV member and provide the name you want to appear on the badge and your shipping address.

If you have questions about this process, please contact LWVMI Board member, Paula Bowman at [paulabowman9000@gmail.com](mailto:paulabowman9000@gmail.com).

STAY CONNECTED:

