



## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



### *CAPITOL VOTER*

**AUGUST 2016**

### LWVLA CALENDAR

Sept. 13 - LWV Book Group, 10 a.m. at Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing.

Sept. 21 - Kick-off for the campaign for Making Democracy Work. 7 p.m. (light hors d'oeuvres at 6:30), Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing

Sept. 28 - Candidate Forum, East Lansing School Board, 7 p.m. at Hannah Community Center, East Lansing. Sponsored by LWVLA

Oct. 5 - Candidate Forum, 71st House District, 7 p.m. at Delta Township Library. Sponsored by LWVLA

Oct. 12 - Candidate Forum, Delta Township Officials, 7 p.m. at Grand Ledge City Hall. Sponsored by LWVLA

Oct. 11 - LWV Book Group, 10 a.m. at Grand Traverse Pie Company, East Lansing

Oct. 27 - "State and Local Governments: the Fiscal Puzzle", community forum and panel discussion, 7 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing

Nov. 8-ELECTION DAY - Be sure to vote!! LWV observers will be at selected polling places in Lansing and East Lansing

Nov. 10 - LWV lunch celebrating our voter service efforts-details later

Nov. 14 - LWVMI Government Finance Consensus meeting-details later

### Clarifying the League's Policy

The League, as an organization, never supports political parties or candidates but we do take positions on issues, based on member study and consensus. League members, however, can be as active as they choose in supporting particular candidates or political parties. Only the League President (or co-presidents) or Voter Service Director cannot be involved with candidates or political parties.

#### CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

#### 2016 VOTER SERVICE

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### WORKING ON VOTING RIGHTS

#### BOOK GROUP NEWS

#### LWVLA ASSISTING AT SWP

#### **DONATE TO LWVLA OR PAY DUES ON-LINE!**

To donate to LWVLA or pay dues using a credit card or Pay Pal. go to the [LWVLA](#) web site and click on either **Donate** or **Join** in the list of options on the left side of the page. Follow the directions for a quick and easy transaction.

Many thanks to

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

#### A PLEA FOR HELP!



A detailed chart captures the key elements of this League's extensive outreach plan for sharing election information with tri-county voters. We are working closely as a team with Marilyn Wilson, voter service director, to be responsive to the many requests for information and also to target new audiences and new methods of communication. In the coming weeks, many of you will be contacted by phone or email, asking for your help with two specific projects:

- Distributing voter guides-The League is well known for our printed voter guides and this year we plan to distribute them more widely throughout the three counties. Sherlyn Hogenson has developed an extensive distribution plan and lots of help is needed in order to make the plan work.
- Observing the polls on election-day-We once again have a grant from LWVUS for the Public Advocacy Voter Protection (PAVP) project. We will need a large number of League members to take two hour shifts on election-day to observe the voting process.

Webmaster Judy Culham and Barry Culham for facilitating the addition of this service!

## **WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE**

Barry Culham joined the League in the process of helping the LWVLA webmaster, Judy Culham, add new features to the website. Thanks for the help, Barry!

## **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY - AUGUST 26**

August 26 is the day designated by Congress for the nation to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

## **LWV LAKE MICHIGAN REGION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 14 & 15**



Registration is now open for the 2016

November 8 is an especially important election, with lots of decisions being made at all levels of government. The League can play an important role and we hope that you can help. Please contact either of us if you have questions or if you want to say yes, I will help!

*Beth Moore & Camilla Davis*

## **THE LEAGUE'S 2016 ELECTION PLAN**

An enthusiastic Voter Service committee met recently to review plans for the weeks ahead. Here are some highlights of voter service commitments:



- Voter education/voter registration-League members have been at the Allen Street Market, the Southside Farmers Market, the Young Leaders Advocacy Summit and other venues. More events are planned for September. Special thanks to Rita Klein, Nell Pizzo, Trudy Bower, Sherlyn Hogenson and Marilyn Wilson.
- Candidate Forums-The calendar above shows the times and locations of three forums-more details will be in the next Voter. Thanks to Kathy Esselman, Deanna and John Hanieski for planning these events.
- Vote411-Candidates for school board elections as well as all primary candidates are being asked for their responses to questions for the League's on-line voter information resource. Thanks to Judy Karandjeff, Patience Drake-Rosenbaum and Mary Scoblic for all of their help with this massive effort.

Annual Conference & Meeting, October 14 & 15 at Spring House Inn in Porter, Indiana. Anyone with an interest in the Great Lakes, including all League members and their guests, is invited to attend. Come for field trips, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, speakers, the arts, and more. See the schedule and registration information on the [2016 Annual Conference page](#).

### LWVLA 2016-17 BOARD

#### Co-Presidents

Beth Moore  
Camilla Davis

#### VP - Program

Ann Marston

#### Secretary/Membership

Outreach  
Deanna Hanieski

#### Treasurer

John Hanieski

#### Directors

At-Large: Sherlyn  
Hogenson

#### Children & Youth/Health

Mary Scoblic

#### Education

Jenny Alvarez

#### Finance/Fund Raising

Debby Starnes

Plans are underway for many other efforts: the printed voter guides, outreach efforts at MSU and at the South Washington Housing complex, exploring another candidate forum, coordinated public relations planning, a Get-Out-the-Vote effort, and the PAVP project. Please contact [Marilyn Wilson](#) if you'd like more information or if you'd like to volunteer.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**September 21** is the kickoff for the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. We will be highlighting issues related to voter rights and voter suppression. The program will be at 7 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing. There will be more details in the September *Capitol Voter*.

**October 27** is the community forum focused on "State and Local Government: the Fiscal Puzzle." An experienced panel will discuss the challenges, constraints and policy options facing local governments in the tri-county area. This program will offer an important overview of fiscal issues and it will also be an introduction for the November 14 consensus meeting for the LWVMI Government Finance study. These meetings are being planned by the Program Committee under the leadership of Ann Marston

### WORKING ON VOTING RIGHTS ISSUES



LWVUS continues to work in Congress to restore parts of the Voting Rights Act that were declared unconstitutional. The League has also been actively involved in lawsuits in several states to overturn punitive voter ID laws and to restore voter access. Recently, a federal appeals court agreed with the North Carolina League that that

**Jackson Unit**

Mary Lee Clark

**Membership/Webmaster**

Judy Culham

**Parliamentarian  
Government/ Money in  
Politics**

Cele Friestater

**Publicity**

Carol Swinehart

**Voter Services**

Marilyn Wilson

**Voter Rights/Advocacy**

Ellen Link

**VISIT OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE****FOR PICTURES OF THE  
ANNUAL MEETING AND  
THE LWVUS  
CONVENTION****BE SURE TO LIKE  
US!****QUICK LINKS**[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)[LWVLMR\\*\\*](#)

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state's voter suppression laws were discriminatory. There have been other successes in Kansas, Wisconsin and Texas but still a great deal of work to be done. More information about these cases can be found on the [League of Women Voters issues page](#). Read the June issue of the [LWVMI VOTER](#) for an excellent overview of Michigan's election laws and opportunities for possible reform.

**LWV BOOK GROUP  
MEETS SEPTEMBER 13**

On September 13 the group will discuss the 2016 East Lansing One Book, One Community book selections. *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario is the story of a 17-year old Honduran boy who makes the difficult journey to the United States to find his mother. *City of Thorns* by Ben Rawlence weaves the stories of nine people living in a huge refugee camp in northern Kenya. Participants are encouraged to read one of the books and join the discussion. The book group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. For more information contact Beth Moore at [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu).

**LWVLA ASSISTING AT LANSING'S SOUTH  
WASHINGTON PARK APARTMENTS**

LWVLA is assisting the residents of the South Washington Park Housing Complex with the election of their Resident Council. Working with residents and building management, Marilyn Wilson and Camilla Davis will conduct an information meeting about the purpose of the Council and the nomination process. LWVLA will also manage the election of Council members in late September. More details about this on-going project in the next addition

**update of the  
organization's  
initiatives.**

of the *Capitol Voter*.

### **INPUT WELCOME!**

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