



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

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LWVLA MEMBER

JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015

LWVLA members will meet for lunch at Claddagh's Irish Pub in Eastwood Plaza on Tuesday, January 20 at 12:30 pm. We'll be sending more details about the event to you after January 1.

Lunch will be followed by a discussion of program planning at the state level. In January of even numbered years, local Leagues in Michigan meet to discuss the LWVMI positions that allow us to advocate by supporting or opposing legislation at the state or local level. We'll discuss the current state positions and decide whether the positions should be retained, a study of a new position should be recommended, or an existing position should be

DIES
DATES TO
REMEMBER
NEED A GIFT?

**Mark Your Calendar
for January 13th
Book Group**



All League members are encouraged to attend the January 13 meeting of the Book Group at 10am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. Liz Homer, the author of *Pioneers, Reformers, & Millionaires*, will be talking about the book. It's the story of the influential pioneer settlers who built a capital city out of the wilderness area that is now Lansing. You are invited to attend whether or not you've read the book.

The selection for the February 9 meeting is *Dollarocracy: How the Money and the Media Election Complex is Destroying America* by John Nichols and

updated. The results of our meeting will be sent to LWVMI.

To learn more about current LWVMI positions, go to www.lwvmi.org.

**Message from the Co-Presidents
Camilla Davis and Beth Moore
Looking Ahead to the New Year**

With a feeling of satisfaction and gratitude for such strong member support, the 2014 election season is officially behind us. The Voter Service reports have been sent off to LWVMI and LWVUS and the feedback from our League's 23 election-day poll watchers has been shared with the Lansing and East Lansing City Clerks. The lists have been made concerning the lessons learned and the things we'd like to do differently/better.

As we move into a new year, we turn our attention in a more focused way toward thinking about League Program. What are the areas where the League of Women Voters has program positions that we need to explore? What are the interests of our members? What does the new national study on government mean for local leagues? What are the considerations regarding time and place? These are all questions that the board is grappling with and a small committee (Beth Moore, Camilla Davis, Ann Marston, Kathy Esselman, John and Deanna Hanieski) recently explored possibilities.

Plans are still being finalized but some major threads emerged:

- A need to try different times and locations, thus you see that the state program planning will be at a restaurant at noon.

Robert McChesney. Both books will be available on the book group table at both Schuler's.

LWV IN ACTION

During this three week "Lame Duck" session of the Michigan Legislature, the League of Women Voters is closely following the progression of several pieces of important legislation. An Action Alert was sent urging all members to contact their legislators, asking them to not divert funding from schools to pay for road repairs.

A letter signed by the LWV-LA co-presidents was published in the Lansing State Journal encouraging readers to tell their legislators to oppose HB 5974 which would change how Electoral College votes are allocated in Michigan. A similar letter was sent to all local representatives and senators.

On November 17, 2014, LWVMI

- Finding other organizations with similar interests to co-sponsor meetings. Look for information about an April meeting about protecting the Great Lakes.
- Providing a variety of options each month for members to come together with others with similar interests. This may mean a mix of evening general meetings, the monthly book group, some informal "Lunches with the League," a study group on the national study topics, small groups to look more closely at a local issue.

Look for more information in future issues of the Capitol Voter and contact either of us with your ideas: Beth at mooreeee@msu.edu or Camilla at cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com.

MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN

Almost half a million (459,000) previously uninsured low income Michigan residents have joined the ranks of the covered under the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) in just six months, far exceeding expectations. Jan Hudson, senior analyst at the Michigan League for Public Policy, shared this fact as part of her presentation at the LWVLA November forum.



The HMP is Michigan's Medicaid expansion enabled by the Affordable Care Act. It offers a comprehensive set of services with co-pays on many services, excluding preventive and chronic disease services and medications. Payments are income-related and co-pays need not be paid at the point of service. The HMP is contributing to system transformation with its managed care plan orientation, a wellness focus and team approach between patient and provider. Jan's

President Sue Smith delivered testimony before the Michigan House Elections and Ethics Committee regarding HB 5974. [Click here](#) for the content of her message.

LWVLA LUNCH & PROGRAM FEBRUARY 13

Join us for lunch at Clara's on Friday, February 13 at 12:30 p.m. LWVLA member and LWVUS treasurer Pat Donath will discuss the LWVUS study of amending the U.S. Constitution and constitutional conventions.

More information about the event will be sent in January.

Quick Links

[LWVLA](#)

[LWVMI](#)

[LWVUS](#)

GIVE A GIFT TO

presentation stimulated a healthy discussion and many questions. More information can be found at www.HealthyMichiganPlan.org. You can also follow Jan's blogs at www.mlpp.org.

Pictured above: Jan Hudson (left) with program organizer Patience Drake-Rosenbaum.

LWV MEMBER HAROLD LEEMAN

Harold Leeman, a member of League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area since 1999, died on November 25. A memorial service was held on December 3.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- No January LWVLA board meeting.
- **Tuesday, January 13 --**

LWVLA Book Discussion Group

- **Tuesday, January 20 --** Lunch at Claddagh's & Program Planning
- **Monday, February 2 --** LWVLA board meeting at LWVMI office. 600 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing.
- **Friday, February 13 --** Lunch at Clara's & discussion on amending the U.S. Constitution
- **May 15, 16, & 17 --** LWVMI Convention in Kalamazoo

THE LEAGUE DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Give a gift to the League this holiday season! Donate to the LWVLA general fund or give a tax-deductible donation made out to the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area Education Fund. Send checks to the League at P.O. Box 971, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

NEED A GIFT IDEA?



Here's the perfect gift! Give a membership to League of Women Voters. Share the satisfaction of being part of an organization that promotes voter education and participation and advocates for causes that benefit society. Download the membership form, send it in with your check, and your shopping is done. [Click here](#) for the membership form.

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

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