



## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



### *CAPITOL VOTER*

**FEBRUARY 2017**

#### **LWVLA CALENDAR - Winter/Spring 2017**

**February 13** - Path to Public Service: The Legislative Perspective-Joan Bauer, League Lunch Series, Hall of Fame Café, 11:30-1 p.m.

**February 14** - Happy 97th Birthday to the League of Women Voters!

**February 14** - Discussion of *Hillbilly Elegy*, League Book Group, Grand Traverse Pie Co. East Lansing, 10 a.m.

**February 19** - Community Forum on redistricting, Judy Karandjeff, LWV-MI President, East Lansing Public Library, 3 p.m.

**March 7** - Path to Public Service: the Executive Perspective-Janet Olszewski, League Lunch Series, Hall of Fame Café, 11:30-1 p.m.

**March 14** - League Book Group, Grand Traverse Pie Co. East Lansing, 10 a.m.

**March 22** - Challenges Facing Our Public Schools, League community forum, Hannah Community Center, 7 p.m.

**March 28** - Budget Policy: What Do We Value?" Community forum co-sponsored by LWVLA and other organizations, East Lansing Public Library, 7 p.m.

**April 11** - League Book Group, Grand Traverse Pie Co. East Lansing, 10 a.m.

**May 8-** Path to Public Service: the Advocacy Perspective-Pat Sorenson, League Lunch Series, Hall of Fame Café, 11:30-1 p.m.

**May 19 to 21** - LWVMI Convention, Kellogg Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing

**May 24** - League Annual Meeting-The U.S. Constitution in the Current Environment, Kary Moss, ACLU Michigan, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

#### **Path to Public Service: the Legislative Perspective**

Joan Bauer, former member of the Michigan House of Representatives and of the Lansing City Council

11:30 to 1:00

Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe

1600 E. Lake Lansing Road

RSVP to Camilla Davis at [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com).

This is the first in a three-part series featuring League members sharing their experiences in the public sector.

#### **Remembering....**

This League marks the passing of two members who contributed greatly to the organization and community

Louise Sause, MSU Professor Emeritus of Education and long-time League activist, passed away this week at age 104. Coming to MSU in the 1950's, she was an innovative educator beloved for decades by her students. After retirement, she became a tireless League advocate for children and families at both the state and local level. Described by board members as "the epitome of a League member," she knew her subject, was convincing and persuasive. "She was a tower of strength in a tiny frame."

Doris Sutherland was a former librarian in the Lansing schools, long-time League member and community activist who passed away in late December.

#### **CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS**

**KARY MOSS TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING**

**JACKSON UNIT NEWS**

**HELP NEEDED!**

**Featured Article**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**

**LEAGUE FORMS ISSUE GROUPS**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

#### **GRAPPLING WITH THE "WHAT CAN WE DO?" QUESTION**

*Message from the Co-Presidents*

Against a backdrop of disturbing national news, the title for our January 24 luncheon meeting, "What Can the League Do?" constantly reverberates in our

**LWVLA SPONSORS  
EDUCATION FORUM**

**REDISTRICTING  
PROGRAM SCHEDULED**

**BUDGET POLICY SERIES**

**LWVMI CONVENTION IN  
LANSING**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR MAY 24**

Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan ACLU, will talk about the U.S. Constitution in today's political climate at the League Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 24, starting at 5:30 p.m. More details to follow.

**INTERESTED IN AN  
EVENING BOOK GROUP?**

League member Kathleen Johnston-Calati is interested in starting a new book group that meets in the evening. Contact her at [johnstoncalati@gmail.com](mailto:johnstoncalati@gmail.com) or at 517-285-7407. Such a group offers a way to meet other League members and to explore books that deal with the public sector.

**BOOK GROUP WILL  
DISCUSS  
*HILLBILLY ELEGY***

**GRAPPLING WITH THE  
"WHAT CAN WE DO?"  
QUESTION**



*Message from the Co-  
Presidents*

Against a backdrop of disturbing national news, the title for our January 24 luncheon meeting, "What Can the League Do?" constantly reverberates in our thinking. How can this local League work most effectively in the current climate? How can we provide the information and opportunities that the wonderful group of new members is seeking? How do we all work to protect the values that seem at such risk?

The formation of the four issue groups is just one first step to answering some of those questions - read below for more information. We also, as an organization, need to actively and quickly seek new and better methods of communication, both with our membership and with external audiences. We need to find meaningful ways to bring together the strength and reputation of the League with the energy and purpose of today's reality.

To make any progress on meeting these and other needs, we need your help.

Watch for a survey (when in doubt, organizations do surveys!) asking about your interests, talents, availability, etc.

That is only a starting point. We need your suggestions, your involvement, your challenges to our comfort with doing things a certain way. Together we need to help the League work more effectively and actively at all levels, but with a special emphasis on local action.

*Beth Moore & Camilla Davis*



Plan to join the League Book Group on Tuesday, February 14, at 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis*. JD Vance tells his own story of growing up poor in a Rust Belt town and thus examines the struggles of the white working class. The book is available at both Schuler's. Anyone is welcome to attend the discussion. If you have questions, contact Beth Moore. [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu)

study, presented by Marge Duane, Fran Parker and Mary Lee Clark. The Jackson Unit now has 27 members, including 15 who are new.

**KNOW YOUR  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS  
HELP NEEDED!**

League members are needed to help revise the three brochures that provide contact information for all of the elected officials in each of the three counties - Ingham, Eaton and Clinton. In recent years we have gathered the information and posted it on the web, and published it as a brochure

## LEAGUE FORMS ISSUE GROUPS

Four new issue groups were organized at the January 24th meeting titled "What the League Can Do." While the League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, we do advocate positions established through our consensus process.

Every year, Leagues review national, state and local positions as part of planning for the year ahead. This year, based on the interest expressed by members and the potential for action, we have established issue workgroups to develop recommendations for future action. Members are encouraged to join one of the four groups. The conveners and their contact information are listed below:

- Voter Rights and Protection - Marilyn Wilson ([wilsonm@msu.edu](mailto:wilsonm@msu.edu))
- Environment - Ellen Link ([elink767@gmail.com](mailto:elink767@gmail.com))
- Public Education - Jenny Alvarez ([alvarezjenny134@gmail.com](mailto:alvarezjenny134@gmail.com)) and Camilla Davis ([cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com))
- Gun Violence Prevention - Martha Couretas ([couretam@comcast.net](mailto:couretam@comcast.net))

The workgroups will become more familiar with the LWV positions and past and current activities; explore what other groups are doing with regard to the issue; identify the players, whether advocates, legislators, policy makers, or researchers; track legislative and policy developments; and present recommendations for further action to the board by the end of April.

when funding and technical help is available. Please contact Beth Moore at [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu) or 517-332-0096 if you can help with this project.

**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.

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

**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**



**BE SURE TO LIKE US!**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

This League now has 177 members, with more than 50 joining since the election. These are the newest members:

**DeWitt:** Melinda Frame,

**East Lansing:** Judith Andre, Shannon Schokora, Carrie Olmstead, Justine Richardson

**Lansing:** Elaine Fischhoff, Brenda Frezell, Teresa and Julie Libarkin, Dorothy Tappenden, Stacia Chick, Norma Eppinger, Darla Jackson

**Okemos:** Patricia McKane,

**Mason:** Cyndi Mark

**Williamston:** Barbara Bidigare, Denise Donahue

**Perry:** Ralph and Marion Gorton, Kellie and Tom Wilson

**Jackson:** Linda Furgason, Deborah Davies, Ed Peterson, John Parker, Judy Seitz, Catherine Novak, Margaret Warner, Rebecca Mehall, Dorothy Schmidt

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES**

Plan now to attend an important community forum, Challenges Facing Our Public Schools, on Wednesday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. Three local school board members will discuss some of the external factors that affect school success and student achievement. Panelists include Peter Spadafore - Lansing, Erin Graham - East Lansing and Greg Talberg - Williamston.

**FEBRUARY 19  
REDISTRICTING  
PROGRAM SCHEDULED**



Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI President, will make a presentation on redistricting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 19 for a community forum at East Lansing Public Library. This program can provide useful background for League members interested in this topic.

**COALITION ANNOUNCES BUDGET  
POLICY SERIES**

Dr. Charles Ballard, MSU Economics Professor, will be the first speaker in a series of public presentations on the federal budget. The community forum titled "Budget Policy: What Do We Value?" will be held on March 28 at 7 p.m. at East Lansing Public Library.

Organized by the Peace Education Center, the coalition of co-sponsors includes Edgewood United Church, the Justice and Peace Task Force, Michigan League for Public Policy, ACLU, the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area, the Meta Peace Team and MSU Peace and Justice Studies. The series is designed to bring the public's attention to the budget process and to examine how we spend our money and how changes affect how we live.

The second scheduled program is on May 8 at 7:00pm (location TBA), featuring Dr. Tom Weisskopf, University of Michigan Economics Professor Emeritus. His topic will be: "Does the U.S. Spend Too Much on Defense?" Other speakers may be added to the series.

**LWVMI TO HOLD CONVENTION  
EAST LANSING**

## MAY 19 - 21

The League of Women Voters of Michigan will hold its bi-annual convention at the Kellogg Center on MSU's campus May 19 through May 21. Registration information will be sent to members in March.

LWVLA volunteers will be needed to help at the convention. Contact Camilla Davis at

[cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com)