



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

JUNE & JULY 2016

LWVLA CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 13 - Meet the Candidates for Ingham County
Prosecutor, 6 to 8 pm, Board of Water & Light REO Town Depot.
Sponsored by ACLU.

Monday, August 1 - LWVLA Board Meeting, 6:00 pm at LWVMI office,
600 W. St. Joseph, Lansing.

Tuesday, August 2 - Primary Election. VOTE!

Tuesday, August 9 -- LWVLA Book Discussion Group, 10 am at the
East Lansing Grand Traverse Pie Company. See item below for
details about this month's book.

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**

HONORING LEAGUE LIFE MEMBERS

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2016-17 BOARD

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS



LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

Beth's Reflections: The speeches, workshops, and casual conversations all strengthened my commitment to the idea that the Lansing Area League has an especially important role to play during this election year. As I gathered new ideas about increasing voter turnout, registering voters and protecting the vote, my pride in being a member of this unique and important organization increased greatly. The League's 96-year heritage is truly amazing and it must be the foundation for building an organization that is more facile and diverse in every way.

Camilla's Reflections: Being in a room filled with League members who share an enthusiasm for voting and a dedication to protecting voting rights for all citizens is a truly energizing experience. Speakers emphasized the importance of the League in maintaining voter rights. Workshops offered ideas on strengthening our efforts to improve voter service. Conversations with dedicated League members from all over the country reinforced the commitment to continuing the mission of the League. LWV must continue to play an important role in Making Democracy Work! I'm excited to have a part in the process.

Beth Moore & Camilla Davis

HONORING LEAGUE LIFE MEMBERS



Four people who have been League members for more than 50 years were honored at the Annual Meeting in May.

Leona Good

joined the League in 1961 and served as an observer for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. She was involved with natural resource issues and served on the state board.

Shirley Sliker

joined in 1964 and became

2016 LWVUS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Read more about the 2016 Convention, including banquet speaker Ari Berman, author of *Give Us the Ballot*; decisions made by the delegates during

the regular observer to the Lansing City Council. Because of that involvement she was elected to the city's charter commission in 1979 and also served on the Lansing Housing Commission.

Beany Tomber

(pictured above with Beth Moore)

joined in the 1950's in Amherst, Mass. She served as president of this League in 1965-7 and of the state league in the early 70's. She talked about the special relationships formed over the years. She is currently active in the book group and serves on the program committee.

Liz Winder

said, "It seems like I've been in the League my whole life." She thinks she joined sometime in the 50's because, since childhood, she'd always been interested in politics and the League seemed a natural fit.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Martha Couretas

of East Lansing, is a retired educator who is active in States United to Prevent Gun Violence. She was active in the Chicago League in the 1960's.

Jeannette Pizzo

of Lansing, is now retired and volunteering for the Eaton County Democratic Party and

plenary sessions, and a special tribute to LWVLA member Pat Donath as she leaves the LWVUS board after serving as both secretary and treasurer. [READ MORE](#) about the Convention.

NEED PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION?

VOTE 411, the on-line Voter Guide provided by League of Women Voters is now available.

Go to [VOTE 411.org](http://VOTE411.org), type in your address, and find information about candidates on the August 2 election ballot. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this great service.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: THE 2016 ELECTION



This election year presents many opportunities for the Lansing Area League to inform voters and encourage participation in the political process. The information below combines a committee report from Voter Service Director Marilyn Wilson with a plea for your involvement. In order to be truly effective, we need the help of all members through a sharing of time, money and information.

Voter Registration - League volunteers registered 332 high school students across the tri-county area. The Voter Service committee is planning voter education/registration booths at area markets and volunteering for the Lansing City Clerk's mobile voter registration tent at other locations. Thanks to Rita Klein for chairing the subcommittee on voter education/registration.

Candidate Forums - Planning is underway for three potential candidate forums: East Lansing School Board, 71st District House of Representatives race, and Delta Township officer and trustee races. Information about dates, times, and locations will be posted on our Facebook page when they are finalized.

Mother Teresa House.

Roberta Sexton

is a new member of the Jackson Unit. She is retired from Consumers Energy, active in Lions and working on several United Way projects.

Mary Scoblic

Education

Jenny Alvarez

Finance/Fund Raising

Debby Starnes

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

Vote411 - Patience Drake-Rosenbaum, Judy Karandjeff and Mary Scoblic have devoted countless hours to gathering the information that covers 136 races in Ingham, Eaton, Clinton and Jackson Counties. VOTE411.org is the League's comprehensive website for election coverage. Help us publicize its availability by sharing the link with family, friends, local organizations, work colleagues etc.

Printed Voter Guides - The League will be printing Voter Guides prior to the November election and we will need a large number of volunteers to help with distribution. Look for more information in the August voter.

Encouraging Voter Participation - Carol Swinehart is chairing a subcommittee to work on media/messaging for the campaign season. Others are exploring different strategies for increasing voter turnout.

Poll Observing - This League has again received a grant from LWVUS to observe selected poll locations on November 8 under the PAVP (Public Advocacy Voter Protection) project. Contact [Beth Moore](#) or [Camilla Davis](#) if you are interested in participating.

Marilyn Wilson, Voter Service Director, will be looking for League volunteers to help with the organization of the candidate forums, to distribute printed voter guides when they become available, and to provide voter education/registration opportunities as they arise in the next several months. Please contact her at wilsonmlwvla@gmail.com or at 517-927-7164 if you would like to volunteer for any of these activities.

A CHALLENGE TO THE LEAGUE AT ANNUAL MEETING



David Hollister, former Lansing mayor, challenged the League to become the champion for greater intergovernmental cooperation as part of his presentation at the May 20th annual meeting. He talked about the large number of units of

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

FOR PICTURES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND THE LWVUS CONVENTION



BE SURE TO *LIKE* US!

government and the fragmentation of services in the tri-county area.

The annual meeting attendees adopted the League's budget for 2016-7, revised bylaws, approved local program and elected a slate of board members. The group extended a special thank-you to Kathy Esselman for her long service on the board. They also welcomed Ellen Link as a new board member, responsible for voter advocacy.

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.**

BOOK GROUP PLANS READING SCHEDULE



The next gathering of the League Book Group will be on Tuesday, August 9, to discuss *Broad Influence: How Women are Changing the World* by Jay Newton-Small. By interviewing more than 200 women in business and government roles, the author notes the strengths in communication and negotiation and concludes that women make noticeable changes in the culture.

On September 13 the group will discuss the 2016 East Lansing One Book, One Community book selections: *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario and *City of Thorns* by Ben Rawlence. 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.

NEWS FROM THE JACKSON UNIT



The Jackson Unit has been busy! Accomplishments and future events include:

- Registering over 60 high school seniors in four different high schools.
- Partnering with several local groups on Rally the Vote to interest more citizens in voting and provide information on the voting process. The first event was Rap the Vote, an opportunity to meet candidates running for city and county offices. Rappers talked about local issues and how voting can make a difference.
- Hosting a Timely Topics lunch with guest speakers from the International Baccalaureate Program in the Jackson Public Schools.
- Preparing a printed Voter Guide and information for VOTE 411, the LWV on-line voter information site.
- Planning for providing three Candidate Forums this fall: one for county commission candidates, one for state representative and Congressional seat candidates, and one for ballot initiatives.

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT



Youth in the United States and Michigan have never known a world where HIV and AIDS were not part of their experience and knowledge. Their awareness of the disease is that it is a treat-able condition and need not lead to the health issues mentioned above and eventual death. [Read more](#) about this issue in Mary Scoblic's June report.

INPUT WELCOME!

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

