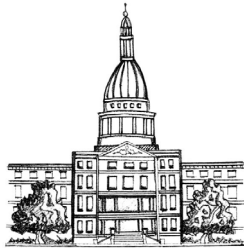




League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

MARCH 2017

LWVLA CALENDAR - Winter/Spring 2017

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. *Ratf**cked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy* by David Daley.

April 12 - East Lansing Schools Bond Issue Forum, Hannah Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

April 25 - Equal Pay Day. Rally at 12:30 p.m. Capitol grounds.

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

May 8 - Does the U.S. Spend Too Much on Defense? Community forum co-sponsored by LWVLA and other organizations, 7 p.m.
Location TBA

May 9 - League Book Group, Grand Traverse Pie Co. East Lansing, 10 a.m., *Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World*

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. Eagle Eye Banquet Center on Chandler Road.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Save Wednesday, May 24 for LWVLA's Annual Meeting

Kary Moss, Executive Director of the ACLU of Michigan will speak on the United States Constitution in this political climate. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at Eagle Eye Convention Center, 15500 Chandler Rd, with a social time, followed by dinner. There will be a short business meeting, followed by Kary Moss's presentation. Guests are welcome. Reservation information will be sent soon.

CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 24

EQUAL PAY DAY!

LWVMI CONVENTION

JACKSON UNIT NEWS

LWVLA BOOK GROUP TO DISCUSS HILLBILLY ELEGY

INTERESTED IN AN EVENING BOOK GROUP?

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

E.L. BOND FORUM

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BUDGET POLICY SERIES

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP UPDATE

HELP NEEDED

LWV TAKES ACTION

EQUAL PAY DAY

DON'T FORGET TO ACT LOCALLY

Message from the Co-Presidents

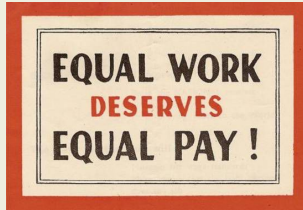


We continue to hear from both new and longtime members that they want to take action to change the current political climate. All want to make a difference as soon as possible.

All of us have contacted our state and national legislators about issues we care about. We usually get a form letter telling us that our concerns have been noted and a reassurance that the legislator is working on the issue. We need to keep communicating with our state and national representatives.

There's another place we need to remember to make our concerns known. Former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill (Speaker from 1977 though 1987) is credited with saying "All politics is local." So we can start at the local level and be part of a grassroots

TUESDAY, APRIL 25



The next Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 25. This date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

The Equal Pay Day Coalition led by AAUW of Michigan has reserved the Capitol Steps in Lansing for Michigan Equal Pay Legislative Day Rally at 12:30 PM, Tuesday, April 25 to rally supporters of proposed pay equity legislation.

Register by mail or via Eventbrite for the Legislative Day Briefing in the morning (9:30 AM-11:30 AM) at Central Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Avenue., Lansing.

LWVMI TO HOLD CONVENTION IN EAST LANSING MAY 19 - 21



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The League of Women Voters of Michigan will hold its bi-annual

movement to change the current political climate in our community, and hopefully it will spread through our state, and nation. Attend public meetings of school boards, city councils, township and county boards, and coffees hosted by state legislators. During public comment opportunities ask questions, state concerns, and advocate for issues important to you.

There are city elections this year in Lansing and East Lansing. Get involved in a campaign, be informed on the local issues and work to increase voter turnout.

We know others are forming groups to take action. We already have a strong group in the League of Women Voters. League principles will help us make a difference.

Beth Moore & Camilla Davis

LEAGUE SPONSORS FORUM ON BOND PROPOSAL

The League will sponsor a community informational session on the school bond proposal to be voted on by East Lansing voters on May 2nd. The forum will be at Hannah Community Center on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This League now has more than 205 members; these are the newest to join:

DeWitt: Ann Riley-Gawura, Dan Brown

Dimondale: Debbie Dell

East Lansing: Rick and Jan Bernsten, Irene Baker, Robert Baker, Arlene Weismantel, Charles Overbey, Ruth Stump, Lynda Patriarche, Nancy Barnes

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. Convention information is available on the [LWVMI web site](#).

NEWS FROM THE JACKSON UNIT



Jackson Unit Establishes Issue Work Groups

The Jackson unit, now with 32 members, has established five issue groups: Voter Rights and Protection, Prison Reform, Environmental Preservation, Public Education and Local Government.

BOOK GROUP TO DISCUSS REDISTRICTING



Plan to join the League Book Group on Tuesday,

Fowlerville: Patterson and Beverly Terry

Haslett: Jessica Sender

Holt: Jackie MacKinnon,

Leslie: Rosemary Edgar,

Lansing: Rita Riley, Lynn Schense, Jane and Paul Dykema, Suzann and Edmund Starr

Okemos: Cynthia Rachal, Julie Sawaya, Christina DeJong and Todd Wilson, Judith Fleishman

Mason: Teresa Hyndman

Williamston: Barbara Bidigare, Denise Donahue

Perry: Barbara Taylor Sparks

Jackson: Irene Sonnett, George Mohring, Janette Mraz

We also bid farewell to Sally Pratt, a long-time League member who is moving to Colorado. Hopefully, she finds a new League to join there.

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.

April 11 at 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing to discuss *Ratf**cked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy* by David Daley. Read the *New Yorker* article and the positive New York Times review of this important book on 2011 redistricting outcomes in states throughout the country. A League member who has read the book, suggested that if your time is short, be sure to read the first two chapters and the chapter on Michigan.

On **May 9** the group will discuss *Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World*. The books will be on the book group table at both Schuler's. We hope to see you all at both discussions. Anyone is welcome to attend the discussion. If you have questions, contact Beth Moore (mooreeee@msu.edu).

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

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.

NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES GROUP



The following article was written by Ellen Link, Convener for the Environmental Issues Group. In future issues of the Capitol Voter, we will include articles from the other three issue groups: Education, Gun Violence Prevention, and Voter Rights, Voter Protection.

Many people aren't aware that the League tackles not just voting rights and education but other topics of concern as well, including the environment. And environmental issues cover a wide range, from agriculture and the Great Lakes to wildlife and pollution.

The LWV-LA's environmental work group, one of four new such groups aimed at keeping the membership informed on specific issues, has been actively engaged in searching out and determining what issues they can realistically pursue and which might be most relevant and important to League members. They plan to begin (in the next Voter) with a short piece on the move to make solar panels and their green energy more affordable and accessible, and in the future hope to enlarge their scope with presentations for League members.

HELP NEEDED!

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.

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.**

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



BE SURE TO LIKE US!

Please contact Beth Moore at mooreeee@msu.edu or 517-332-0096 if you can help with any of these projects.

Know Your Government Officials

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 when funding and technical help is available.

VOTE411

This election year is the time for us to find two new people to coordinate VOTE411, the League's on-line resource for voters. This is an extremely important role and it would be far easier to learn the system this year, rather than in 2018. Judy Karandjeff and Patience Drake Rosenbaum have devoted countless hours during the past few years and they stand ready to help new coordinators.

A New Web Page!

Our local League web page is in need of revision and updating. If you have web design experience, we could really use your help. We're a volunteer organization on a tight budget but will be grateful for advice and counsel.

THE LEAGUE TAKING ACTION

- LWVMI is a plaintiff in a lawsuit protesting the provision in the FY18 state budget that provided \$2.5 million of the state

education budget for reimbursement to private schools. The League has a long-standing position, based on member study and consensus, against public money being used for private schools.

- LWVMI issued an action alert, urging League members to contact their members of Congress with the message to oppose proposed budget cuts to the federal funding for the Great Lakes. "Protect Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes."
- LWVUS has issued a call to action, urging members to contact their U.S. Representative, stating that the proposed American Health Care Act is unacceptable.

Remember that you are taking these actions as an individual-official communication has been sent from the League at the appropriate level.