



## League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



### *CAPITOL VOTER*

JUNE 2015

**IN THE JUNE  
CAPITOL VOTER**

**EQUAL MEANS  
EQUAL**

**LWVLA CALENDAR**

**SUMMER STUDY  
GROUP**

**NEW BOARD  
MEMBERS**

**BITS & PIECES**

**CO-PRESIDENTS  
MESSAGE**

**STATE CONVENTION  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**FROM THE JACKSON**

**CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

**CELEBRATING THE WORK OF  
THE LEAGUE BOARD**

As many activities end for the summer, June is the beginning of a new year for the League board of directors. Following the election of officers at the May annual meeting, we are welcoming three new members, saying thank you to former board members Judy Karandjeff and Kathy Lovell and working with several board members as they move into different roles. Ann Marston will be serving in a new position as Vice-President for Program, working with other board members to initiate and

**UNIT**  
**LWVMI CO-  
SPONSORS DEBATE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS**  
**BOOK GROUP**  
**SUMMER PLANS**

**EQUAL MEANS  
EQUAL**

**Wednesday  
June 10**

**Lecture & Book  
Signing with author**

**Jessica Neuwirth**

Michigan Library and  
Historical Center  
702 West Kalamazoo  
Street, Lansing, MI  
48915

Reception doors open  
at 5:15 pm

[Click here for online  
reservations](#) or call

517-484-1880 x203.

LWVLA is a co-sponsor  
of this event.

for details)

- **Thursday, June  
25, 5:30 p.m.,  
Money in Politics  
Debate (See item  
at right for**

coordinate a range of program offerings for the months ahead. Carol Swinehart will be working closely with others to communicate the League's message. The roles of each board member mesh with the others to help make a strong organization.

As co-presidents, we appreciate the dedication and commitment from board members and those qualities were certainly demonstrated at the June 1 board meeting. The board discussed a request for this League to co-sponsor a Lansing ballot proposal for an anti-corruption ordinance. After serious and deliberate discussion, board members voted to not co-sponsor the proposal at this time due to concerns about the lack of grass-roots support. It was the quality of the discussion that had us both feeling very proud to be working with this group of League volunteers.

**STATE CONVENTION:  
INFORMATION SHARING  
AND INSPIRATION**



Those were the concepts mentioned most frequently by the six delegates from the Lansing Area after attending the LWV-MI convention in Kalamazoo. Giving Voice to Democracy was the title for a two and a half day event that featured thoughtful speakers, workshops on various aspects of League program and management, and time for sharing local League successes and challenges. LWV-LA delegates were Camilla Davis, Beth Moore, Patience Drake-Rosenbaum, Marilyn Wilson, Deanna and John Hanieski. Some of the highlights:

- Watching as Judy Karandjeff, LWV-LA

details.)

- No July board mtg.
- Monday, August 3, 6 p.m., LWVLA Board Meeting, LWVMI office, 600 West St. Joseph, Lansing

### **SUMMER STUDY GROUP: "MONEY IN POLITICS"**

Contact Beth Moore [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu) if you would like to be part of a small study group that will gather a few times this summer to prepare for the fall presentations related to the LWV-US studies on campaign finance and on amending the Constitution. This is a great way to get acquainted with other League members and to learn about these important topics.

### **NEW MEMBERS JOIN BOARD**

Three new members were elected to the LWV-LA Board at the

state board and Camilla Davis will serve as nominating committee chairperson. Congratulations to you all!

- Receiving a certificate from LWV-US for a ten percent growth in membership in 2014.
- Congratulating the local League recipients of the Belle Ringer Awards. Named after LWV-MI's first president, Belle Brotherton, these awards honor the service in support of League priorities. Marilyn Wilson was given the award for Voter Service, Judy Karandjeff for Member Recruitment and Engagement and Rita Klein for Advocacy.
- The sense of excitement and dedication among the delegates, totally committed to embracing change and strengthening and expanding this organization.

Photo above: Marilyn Wilson, Camilla Davis, Beth Moore, Patience Drake Rosenbaum with LWVLA display board.

### **FROM THE JACKSON UNIT**



Over four days in May, seventy-six high school seniors were registered to vote at Jackson High, Leslie and Michigan Center. That included one-third of the MCHS Senior Class. Each morning LWV volunteered for two hour periods. The April 28 Forum regarding the May 5 Ballot Initiative had small attendance but was very informative.

LWV is partnering with the Jackson Forum to hold mayoral and ward candidate forums this fall on either September 17 or October 15. The Chamber of Commerce has also expressed interest in partnering with us on future events. The Jackson Unit now has a Facebook page. [Click here](#) to visit it.

*Mary Lee Clark, Jackson Unit Chair*

### **LWVMI CO-SPONSORS**

May 19th Annual Meeting. Sherlynn Hogenson will serve as a Member-At-Large, Carol Swinehart as Publicity Director and Debby Starnes as Development Director. At the June 1 board meeting, Mary Lee Clark, chairperson of the Jackson Unit, was appointed as a board member. We will be sharing more information about these new board members in the next *Voter*.

speakers, networking, field trips, and planning for the year ahead for the organization. For more information, go to <http://www.lwvlmr.org>



**"LIKE" LWVLA ON FACEBOOK!**

Click on the Facebook icon above to go

## MONEY IN POLITICS DEBATE

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a debate on Thursday, June 25 at 6 pm at the Lansing Center, 333 East Michigan Avenue. Addressing the topic Money in Politics: How Much Should be Disclosed, the debaters will be Rich Robinson from the Michigan Campaign Finance Network and Bradley Smith, author of the 2001 book *Unfree Speech: the Folly of Campaign Finance Reform*. Kyle Melinn, editor of the online political news service MIRS will moderate the debate. The Federalist Society is the other co-sponsor and the event is free. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 pm.

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### CHALLENGES FACING EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN



Kathleen Straus, member of the State Board of Education, candidly discussed the serious challenges facing Michigan's system of public education at the 74th Annual Meeting of LWV-LA on May 19th. She praised the dedication of teachers and discussed the increased pressures in favor of for-profit management systems. She encouraged involvement from the League and from individual members. Kathleen is a long-time League member from Detroit and she was first elected to the State Board of Education in 1992.

Annual meeting attendees enjoyed conversation and a light supper provided by board members prior to the program. A cake honoring the 95th birthday of the League was served to the group. A brief business meeting afforded time to adopt the 2015-16 budget, approve the bylaws and local program positions and elect the slate of officers.

directly to LWVMI's Facebook page.

Consider sharing LWVMI Facebook news with your friends.

### Quick Links

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

Comments about the *Capitol Voter* are always welcome. If you have suggestions about content, format, or anything else, [click here](#) to email Camilla Davis.

### Bits and Pieces...

This is a way to share short news bits about League events and people.

- Marilyn Wilson and Camilla Davis gave a voter registration Power Point presentation to two classes and registered 3 students at St. John's High School.
- Beth Moore, Patience-Drake Rosenbaum and Rita Klein are now serving on the LWV-MI Advocacy Committee, making recommendations to the state board regarding possible action on state legislation.
- The next state convention will be May 19 - 21, 2017 at Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

### BOOK GROUP PLANS SUMMER READING

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness* will be the focus for discussion at the LWV-LA Book Group on Tuesday, July 14, at 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. This book, by Michelle Alexander, examines the societal impact of our criminal justice policies.

On August 11 and September 8 the book group will be sharing some of the literature from the LWVUS reading lists concerning campaign finance and amending the constitution. On October 13 the group will discuss the book *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America* by Linda Tirado. Everyone is welcome to attend these gatherings, whether or not you've read the book. Books will be available at the book group table at both Schulers. Contact Beth Moore at [mooreeee@msu.edu](mailto:mooreeee@msu.edu) for more



information.