



# League of Women Voters - Lansing Area

**Empowering Voters.  
Defending Democracy**



## *CAPITOL VOTER* DECEMBER 2018

### **CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, January 8** - League Book Group discussing *Hamilton* by Ron Chernow at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing at 10 am.

**Monday, January 14** - League lunch, featuring Jean Doss presenting an environmental scan of the new legislature. Hall of Fame Café, 1601 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. 11:30 am - 1 pm.

**Monday, February 12** - League lunch, featuring Bettie Menchik presenting an overview of Michigan's Schools of Choice program. Hall of Fame Café, 1601 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. 11:30 am - 1 pm.

**Tuesday, February 12** - League book group will discuss *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary*

**GUN VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION  
STUDY GROUP**

**ECO WATCH:PFAS**

**BOOK GROUP NEWS**

**RENEW YOUR  
LEAGUE  
MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY!**



Now is the time to send in your membership dues renewal. We need your support, at whatever level of involvement fits your current circumstance. Your League dues of \$65 (\$97.50 for a household membership and \$5.00 for students) support the lobbying, education and legal actions of LWVUS and LWVMI. It gives you membership in all three levels of the organization. Ten dollars remains to support our local voter service and programming efforts.

You can renew your membership by writing a check and filling in the form that you recently received in the mail OR by

*Power of Women's Anger* by Rebecca Traister.  
10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing.

**A MESSAGE FROM  
THE  
CO-PRESIDENTS**



As we complete the last of the voter service reports and move on to planning programs about League issues, it seems appropriate to mention some of the highlights of the 2018 election season. That season stretched from high school voter registrations in April through to Get-Out-the-Vote activities in November.

- The East Lansing City Clerk reported that turnout in the MSU student precincts increased by 300 percent from the 2014 midterms. The online newspaper, ELI, mentioned the League's work in registering student voters at MSU orientation.
- More than 60 League members helped with voter registration and candidate forums, delivered voter guides, spoke to community groups, etc. Many League members also made financial contributions to support those efforts. We are very grateful for all the contributions of time and resources.
- We formed new community partnerships with groups such as Action of Greater Lansing, ACLU, and NAACP. Thanks to the dedicated involvement of Voter Service Director, Marilyn Wilson, we have built a stronger relationship with the MSU Votes coalition.
- We utilized social media - mainly Facebook - more effectively than in the past. We were looked to as a resource on voting and voter participation by the Lansing State Journal, resulting in several inches of coverage in three articles prior to the election.

All of this builds a firm foundation for an even more robust voter education effort for the 2020

using the Pay Pal option on the [LWVLA web site](#). Also, check out the information on the form and website about the dues assistance policy.

Those members who joined after January 31, 2018, did not receive a dues notice because you were not included in the membership count for LWVUS. Therefore, you will not receive a dues notice until October 2019.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome ten new members, bringing our membership to 212.

**Karen Barrow**,  
Lansing

**Patricia Brown**,  
Okemos

**Richard Hill**, Haslett,  
joined as part of a household membership

**Teresa Mastin**, East Lansing

**Jo McGlew**, East Lansing

**Richard Pritchard**,  
Lansing, student member

**Harriet Posner**, East Lansing

**Diane and John**

election.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and thank you for your involvement and support.

*Beth & Margo*

## PROGRAM PLANS FOR 2019

Our League is fortunate to currently have three active issue study groups: environment, education, and gun violence prevention. The League program committee recently decided to utilize the work of those groups as the basis for some of our lunch programs and evening community forums. More details will be available in the weeks ahead.

### WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK FOR STATE GOVERNMENT IN 2019 - 2020?

Jean Doss, a long-time governmental affairs consultant in Lansing, will be the speaker for the first League lunch of the new year on Monday, January 14, 11:30 am -1 pm. Her presentation will be at the Hall of Fame Café, 1601 Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing, Jean will provide an environmental scan of the new legislature and executive branch. Who are the people in those roles? What might be the political dynamics? Jean is the Governmental Affairs Consultant and Partner for Capitol Services, Inc. She has more than 24 years of experience at the Capitol, specializing in appropriations, human services, education, environment, food policy and leadership training.

All League members and guests are encouraged to attend the lunch. We will order from the menu and each pay for our own meal.

Reservations are recommended because we have a limit of 40 attendees. Contact Elaine Fischhoff at [elainedifi@gmail.com](mailto:elainedifi@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 11 LUNCH TO HIGHLIGHT SCHOOLS OF CHOICE



**Revitte**, East Lansing  
**Susan Tons**, DeWitt  
**Jane Vieth**, East  
 Lansing



**KEEP UP WITH THE  
 LATEST LWVLA  
 HAPPENINGS!**

**VISIT OUR  
 FACEBOOK PAGE**



**BE SURE TO *LIKE*  
 US!**

**SHARE LEAGUE  
 NEWS WITH YOUR  
 FRIENDS!**

The Education Study Group is looking at the issue of schools of choice in Michigan. Committee member Bettie Menchik will provide an overview at a League lunch on February 11 from 11:30 - 1 at the Hall of Fame Café. The study group also plans to organize an evening meeting later in the spring with panelists representing some of the different aspects of the issue. Bettie has written a brief paper on the issue as an introduction for the February discussion. Here are some highlights :  
 Where were Michigan K-12 students enrolled in 2016-17?

- 69%--home public school district
- 12% --another public school district
- 9% --charter schools
- 10%--private schools

The Schools of Choice program came about after the adoption of Proposal A in 1994, changing the way schools were funded in Michigan. Under the state's Schools of Choice program, students have several choices regarding where they get their education. [Read more](#) about the specific choices and see a chart showing the impact on some of the schools in Ingham County.

## **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STUDY GROUP FOCUSES ON DOMESTIC ABUSE**

### **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.**

The League's Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Study Group is continuing to study the relationship between domestic abuse and firearm violence. We are referencing research that indicates a relationship between sensible firearm legislation and reduction of deaths and injuries by firearm violence. We will organize this information into a brief that will be shared with League members.

The group meets at the East Lansing Public Library, 10:30 am - 12 noon on the third Saturday of the month (except in December). The dates for early 2019 are January 19, February 16, and March 16. For more information, contact Melinda Frame,

[mframe80@gmail.com](mailto:mframe80@gmail.com) or Marty Couretas,  
[couretam@comcast.net](mailto:couretam@comcast.net).

## LWVLA BOARD

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**Voter Service**

## ECO WATCH: What are PFAS and Why Do We Care?

*Note: Environmental Study Group member Marion Gorton has written a brief paper about PFAS, noting that they are receiving a lot of attention and they are very complicated. She introduces the issue below but has provided more information for those who want to [learn more](#) about this important topic.*

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) refers to a group of very strong man-made chemicals that have been manufactured since the 1940s. Their strength means that they can form a coating on surfaces that protects surfaces and reduces friction -- properties that have proved useful in many products and manufacturing processes. It also means that they remain in the environment and in our bodies for a very long time. Some of the products containing PFAS include: linings of food packages (pizza boxes and microwave popcorn bags) because they can resist grease; nonstick coatings on pans (Teflon, for example); water and stain resistant products (Scotchgard™); polishes, waxes, paints, and cleaning products.

## BOOK GROUP TO DISCUSS CHERNOV'S *HAMILTON*



The League book group will come together on Tuesday, January 8 to discuss the highly acclaimed biography, *Hamilton*, by Ron Chernow. All book group sessions are at 10 am in the meeting room at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. On Tuesday, February 12, the group will discuss *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* by Rebecca Traister. Everyone is welcome. Contact Donna Mullins ([mullindj@outlook.com](mailto:mullindj@outlook.com)) for more

Marilyn Wilson

information.

### **LEAGUE HAS TWO SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISERS**



Thanks to all of you who shopped at Schuler's during the week-long Schuler's Book Days event. As a result, the League earned \$695. We also appreciate the efforts of Debby Starnes who organized and promoted this event.

In addition, we recently learned that HopCat restaurant in East Lansing has donated \$495 to our League. The HopCat restaurants throughout the Midwest, made a priority of promoting voting and voter education. They asked the League to help with that effort and then offered to donate \$1.00 for every draw of a particular draft beer in November. Thanks to Dorothy Engleman and Diane Levy for registering voters at HopCat and promoting the pub night event