



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER **MAY & JUNE 2017**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The program committee is planning several events for the summer months; watch your email and the next Capitol Voter for more details.

July 6- Candidate Forum for Lansing mayoral candidates, 6:30 p.m. Downtown Branch of the Capital Area District Libraries.

July 11-League Book Group, 10 a.m. at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing

July 12-- Michigan's Sunken Hazard 10:30 a.m.-noon at East Lansing Public Library

August 8-- League Book Group, 10 a.m. at Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing

August 10-League Picnic at DeWitt Riverside Park (more details later)

CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**
NEW MEMBERS
**JACKSON UNIT
UPDATE**
**2017-18 LWVLA
BOARD**
**MESSAGE FROM THE
CO-PRESIDENTS**
**JULY 12
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAM**
**LEAGUE CO-
SPONSORS FORUMS**
BOOK GROUP NEWS
**LWVMI
CONVENTION
HIGHLIGHTS**
**LWVLA MEMBERS
WIN AWARDS**
**ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 24**
**NEW BOARD
POSITION CREATED**
**VOTER
REGISTRATION
OPPORTUNITIES**

**VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**



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

*Message from the Co-
Presidents*

NEW INITIATIVES



After Convention and Annual Meeting, the board recently had the opportunity for a more reflective conversation about the year ahead. The operative word seems to be NEW:

- Welcoming and integrating new members. The new board position for "New Member Liaison" is an example of that effort.
 - New and more varied program times and venues.
 - Programming scheduled during the summer months.
 - Starting a new email newsletter focused on taking action.
 - Finding new opportunities for local action and involvement.
 - Developing a new web site (Help Needed!)
- As we try new initiatives, we really need your input to help us better understand what members are wanting from the League. Check this issue of the Voter for information about several events this summer and watch for more on upcoming programs: a legislative workshop in mid-August, a luncheon with a local legislator, etc.

Beth Moore & Camilla Davis

PREVENTING A CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL IN THE GREAT LAKES



Every day 23 million gallons of oil travel in twin 64-year-old, decaying pipelines (AKA Line 5) through the Straits of Mackinac. It's been called the worst possible place for a Great Lakes oil spill. Join other League members on **Wednesday, July 12** for

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**



**LWVLA now has
236 members.**

These people have
joined since the last
Capitol Voter:

Bath: Tracey Ryan

East Lansing: Anna
Scott, Hariette Siani

Haslett: Don and
Elizabeth Kaufman,
Jean Fierke, Linsey
White

Jackson: Frances
Bryant, Deborah Nagy
(Pittsfield)

Laingsburg: Janet
Riley

Lansing: Gail Parker,
Carol Repko Scyoc,
Dorothy Engelman

Okemos: Catherine
(Kate) Lein, Diane
Levy, Arwen Wendy
Hamilton

Williamston: Madison
Chase (student
member)

**JACKSON UNIT
WORKS TO BECOME
INDEPENDENT
LEAGUE**

coffee and donuts and to hear a presentation on "Michigan's Sunken Hazard: Oil Pipelines in the Great Lakes." The program is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to noon at the East Lansing Public Library Community Room. David Holtz, chair of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Executive Committee and coordinator of the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign will present background information, show the underwater video on Line 5 and provide current status information about strategies for action. Don't miss this important program. Come and bring a friend.

LEAGUE CO-SPONSORS CANDIDATE FORUMS



LWVLA and the Lansing Chapter of Represent. Us are co-sponsoring two public forums for candidates for Lansing city government. The forum for candidates who are running for two at-large positions on the Lansing City Council was held on June 29 and the forum for candidates for the position of Mayor is scheduled for **July 6**. The forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Downtown Branch of the Capital Area District Libraries on Capitol Avenue.

Marilyn Wilson, Voter Service Director, has organized the forums. Thanks to Jenny Alvarez and Ann Marston for moderating the forums and to the many volunteers from both organizations who will serve as screeners and greeters. The primary election is August 8 and the general election is November 7th.

BOOK GROUP TO SELECT FUTURE TITLES & DISCUSS *THE AMERICAN SPIRIT*



The League book group will be meeting on **Tuesday, July 11** at 10 a.m. at the Grand Traverse Pie Company. The major focus will be to select books for the months



Members of the Jackson Unit met recently to discuss the schedule for working toward becoming an independent League. Several sub-committees are working on the specific parts of the process: membership, finances, the importance of the League in the community. These groups will report their progress to the membership on September 13. The goal is to complete all the steps in the process and present the application to the LWVMI and LWVUS boards by the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The group voted that they would become League of Women Voters Jackson Area. Beth Moore, Co-President LWVLA attended this meeting and spoke about the process toward independent status

ahead. There will also be a brief discussion of the book, *The American Spirit*, by David McCullough. This discussion was originally scheduled for June but had been cancelled. Everyone is welcome to attend.

LWVMI CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Nine LWVLA members joined delegates from 21 other Leagues at the biannual LWVMI convention, May

19-21, at the MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Delegates attended workshops on topics such as voter service and fund-raising, heard remarks from Zoie Clark, Michigan Radio, and Gilda Jacobs, Michigan League for Public Policy. The convention delegates elected officers for the next two years, including President Judy Karandjeff (LWVLA member), serving a second two-year term. The delegates also approved budgets for fiscal years 2017-2019

Delegates voted to conduct a new study of the current agricultural position on migrant/seasonal workers, focused specifically on whether or not these migrants should be allowed to obtain a drivers' license or Michigan ID regardless of immigration status. Watch the Capitol Voter for additional information on this study. [Read more about the convention on the LWVMI web site.](#)

(Above: LWVLA members pose in the Suffragette Photo Corner sponsored by LWVLA and designed by Debby Starnes.)



LWVLA MEMBERS WIN BELLE RINGER AWARDS

Four LWVLA members received Belle Ringer Awards at the 2017 LWVMI Convention for their contributions to



and the need for the League in Jackson County.

2017-18 LWVLA BOARD

Co-Presidents

Camilla Davis
Beth Moore

VP Program

Ann Marston

Secretary/ Membership

Deanna Hanieski

Treasurer

John Hanieski

Directors

At- Large

Sherlyn Hogenson

Education

Jenny Alvarez

Environment

Ellen Link

Finance/Fund Raising

Debby Starnes

Jackson Unit

Mary Lee Clark

Membership/Web Master

Judy Culham

New Member

issues critical to League success. Recognized in the four categories were:

Advocacy - Patience Drake Rosenbaum **Voter**

Service - Sherlyn Hogenson

Member Recruitment & Engagement -

Deanna Hanieski

Fundraising - Debby Starnes

The award honors local League volunteer efforts and it was named in honor of Belle Brotherton, first president of LWVMI

ACLU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES 76TH LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING



Commenting that she awakened every morning wondering what new constitutional challenges faced the nation, Kary Moss, Executive Director, ACLU of Michigan spoke about directing the organization's resources and legal teams to address those challenges. Her title was "The U.S. Constitution in the Current Political Climate." Copies of the Constitution were given to the 68 members and guests attending the May 24th event.

During the business portion of the meeting, members adopted the budget for fiscal year 2017-18, elected new officers and directors, and approved retaining current bylaws and positions. Judy Karandjeff, Patience Drake Rosenbaum (VOTE411) and Mary Scoblic (Children and Youth) were thanked for their service to the League.

[Click here](#) to review the Annual Report.

BOARD CREATES NEW MEMBER LIAISON POSITION

Barbara Bidigare (on the right with Debby Starnes), Williamston, is the first New Member Liaison for the



Liaison

Barbara Bidigare

**Parliamentarian/
Government**

Cele Friestater

Publicity

Carol Swinehart



Lansing Area League. She was elected to this new position at the annual meeting. More than 100 people have joined the League in the past year and the board felt that it was important to have someone who will help new members learn about the League and help the board better understand the interests of those members. Because it is a new position, it will take some time to define it most effectively. Barb joined the League in February, 2017. She worked as an analyst for the State of Michigan for 21 years. She is presently enrolled in the MPA program at Western Michigan University. As part of her course work, she developed a fund-raising plan for LWV-LA. If you have suggestions for Barb in her new liaison role, send her an email at babidigare@aol.com.

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.**

VOTER REGISTRATION OPPORTUNITIES

Brian Jackson, Deputy City Clerk in Lansing, has asked for League volunteers to help with voter registration at various activities over the next three months. The events include:

- July 12 - Allen Street Farmers Market, 2 to 7 pm
- July 12 - Concert in Park at Turner Dodge House, 6 to 9 pm
- July 19 - West Side Summer Picnic at St. Joseph Park - 4 to 7 pm
- September 10 - AARP Grandparents Day, Museum Dr. - 12:30 to 4 pm.

Contact Brian at brian.jackson@lansingmi.gov or at (517) 483-4135 for a full list and to indicate your interest.