PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sally Allen and Nancy Schewe, Co-Presidents

2018 has dawned and there is much good news on the horizon.

VOTE 2018
First and foremost, the Board of Directors has committed to designating Get Out The Vote (GOTV) as our primary focus for the year. We have already begun our work. Be sure to read "Building Life-Long Voters" below to learn about our developing high school voter registration project.

VOTE 2018: When YOU vote, DEMOCRACY wins.

LWVMI supports the ballot proposal for an independent Redistricting Commission

Hurrah! The LWVMI Board voted to support the Voters Not Politicians (VNP) ballot proposal for an independent redistricting commission. You can read the entire text of LWVMI's announcement by going to this link: [Ballot Proposal Support](http://lwvannarbor.org).
Here are a few things that members need to keep in mind.

- Local leagues can support the proposal verbally, but must not spend money either directly or indirectly because of the limitations of Michigan campaign finance laws.
- For now, League members can work on the VNP campaign as individuals, but not as representatives of the LWV.
- Our redistricting education presentations will be on hold until materials, including the power point are updated.
- Once the actual ballot language is agreed to by the State Board of Canvassers, which could take several months, we will be provided materials to use and can then give presentations in support of the proposal.
- And, importantly, the League plans to continue to work to form a redistricting reform coalition with other organizations representing the diversity in our state. We believe such a coalition is necessary for a successful ballot campaign.

We're delighted with this progress and look forward to working together to implement much-needed redistricting reform here in Michigan.

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LWVMI files federal lawsuit to end gerrymandering in Michigan


The lawsuit asks the federal court to declare the current districts to be unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders and to ensure that the districts are redrawn in a fair fashion. Click here to read the Complaint.

On December 27, 2017, U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood signed an order allowing a three judge panel to hear the case. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge R. Guy Cole, Jr., and two other judges will preside over the case.

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As we look ahead to 2018, we can see that we important work to do. Please pitch in to help. You can begin by going to the Help Wanted section below.

Oh!!! And please click HERE to renew your membership if you have not yet done so. Or renew using PAYPAL. Membership runs January - December. The League needs your support.
**CAALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 9</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Ann Arbor Library (AADL)-Westgate Room B 2503 Jackson Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48103</td>
<td>LWVAAA Great Lakes Committee meeting. Meeting to finalize plans for January 23 public meeting: Line 5 and other challenges impacting the Great Lakes. Interested? You are welcome to join the group. Contact Terri in advance to verify that the meeting location has not changed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 9</td>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>AADL-Westgate Branch Westside Room</td>
<td>Voter Registration Training. Come learn how to correctly register voters and also find out about opportunities to volunteer for our VOTE 2018 outreach projects. Click on SignUpGenius to register Have a question? email <a href="mailto:VoterRegistration@lwvannarbor.org">VoterRegistration@lwvannarbor.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 17</td>
<td>4:30 - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>AADL-Westgate Branch</td>
<td>Member Orientation. Topics: *How to get involved *Structure of the LWV *Voter Service *Education and Advocacy *Programs *New Opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 20</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:00 am</td>
<td>AADL-Downtown 343 South Fifth Ave Ann Arbor Multi-Purpose Room</td>
<td>2nd Voter Registration Training (attend only one). Come learn how to correctly register voters and also find out about opportunities to volunteer for our VOTE 2018 outreach projects. Click on SignUpGenius to register Have a question? email <a href="mailto:VoterRegistration@lwvannarbor.org">VoterRegistration@lwvannarbor.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 21</td>
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<td>2018 Women's March.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 23</td>
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<td>AADL-Downtown</td>
<td>LINE 5 and OTHER CHALLENGES IMPACTING the GREAT LAKES. A panel discussion of the many challenges facing the Great</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Room</td>
<td>Lakes. The speakers will be Dr. Eric Anderson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Liz Kirkwood, environmental attorney and Executive Director of FLOW (For the Love of Water). The event is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library and League of Women Voters-Ann Arbor Area's Great Lakes Committee. The event is free and open to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Pointless Brewery &amp; Theatre</td>
<td><strong>Brews &amp; Views.</strong> <em>Whose Streets</em> a documentary about how the killing of 18-year-old Mike Brown inspired the community of Ferguson, MO to rise up and fight police brutality. This event is open to the public (you must be over 21 to buy/drink alcohol). League members are encouraged to bring friends and invite whomever you think might like to attend. <strong>NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>noon - 2pm</td>
<td>Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse</td>
<td><strong>Lunch &amp; Learn.</strong> <em>&quot;Let's talk about sexual harassment.&quot;</em> Speaker: Diane Soubly, an attorney with over 38 years of experience with labor and employment law and class action litigation. Registration is required. Click on <a href="#">SignUpGenius</a> to sign up.</td>
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<td>411 Cedars Lane Dexter, MI</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>AADL - Downtown</td>
<td><strong>A Carbon &quot;Price is Right&quot;: Harnessing the market to drive down carbon emission.</strong> This panel will explore the challenges and opportunities of market-driven strategies to address the climate crisis. Panelists will be: Dr. Knute Nadelhoffer (moderator), Dr. Barry Rabe and Dr. Sam Stolper of the UMich and Dr. Lisa Del Buono of the Citizens Climate Lobby. Co-sponsored by AADL, UM School for Environment &amp; Sustainability (SEAS), UM Energy Institute, CCL. The event is free and open to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Hathaway's Hideaway</td>
<td><strong>Winter Membership Meeting.</strong> Meet fellow members. Learn about LWVAA plans for 2018. Our emphasis will be on registering, informing,</td>
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<td>310 S.</td>
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Ashley St
Ann Arbor

and motivating voters in a campaign called VOTE 2018 -- When You Vote, Democracy Wins

- Volunteer for voter registration, our poster contest for high school seniors, candidate forums, VOTE 411 and more.

Hear updates on LWVMI support for the redistricting ballot proposal, the new LWV lawsuit to end gerrymandering, and more.

Thursday, June 28-Sunday, July 1.

Chicago, IL


For the complete calendar, click here:
http://lwvannarbor.org/calendar.htm

Looking for Ways to Help?

Immediate Openings for Greeters

Contact: Barb Brown
January 23rd: Line 5 and Other Challenges
7:00-8:30 AADL Downtown Branch

February 7th: Carbon Fee and Dividend Forum
7:00-8:30 AADL Downtown Branch

February 15th: LWV Winter Membership Meeting
7:00-8:30 Hathaway's Hideaway

March 21st: Immigrant Prison Movie
7:00-9:00 Washtenaw Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, AA, 48108

Openings for High School Poster Contest

Contact Nan Elder
1. Self starter who likes solving the mystery of numbers: we want to identify areas in the county with low voter registration and with low voter turnout.
2. Do you have contacts at Pioneer High or Ypsi High. Our VOTE 2018 poster contest will start there. We need seniors and art teachers and admin with total buy in.

3. Create information packets for art teachers and contestants for our poster contest

4. Help recruit an art jury to determine our winners

5. Find sponsors willing to support printing and prizes

6. Organize poster displays around the community

7. Create the presentation of awards to the winners

Scores of Volunteers Needed to Staff LWV Art Fair Booth, July 19th -22nd
Contact Roxane Chan

Building Life-Long Voters

With the New Year comes the League's renewed focus on voter registration and education for the 2018 election. As an organization, we want to create life-long voters and that begins with a young person's first voting experience. League member Roddy Wares is spearheading the LWV's drive to bring voter registration to our area high schools! The goal is to register as many high school students as we can, educate them about how and where to vote, and make sure that they know what to do if they will be away from home at election time.

Between now and April, small groups of volunteers accompanied by a member of our county clerk's office, will be going into high school classrooms to talk with young people about the importance of voting and register them to vote. Any student who will be 18 years old before the November election is eligible to register. Students will be choosing 'voting buddies' to encourage them to follow through, as well as filling out pledge cards
that we will send back to help remind them prior to the election. Remember, Friends don't let friends not vote!

Do you have a story about what voting means to you that you'd like to share with young people? Are you interested in assisting a team with the project? If so, please contact Roddy Wares.

To read more click here.

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**When You Vote, Democracy Wins!**

If you ask Nan Elder, a new member of the League of Women Voters, it's going to be a BIG year for everyone concerned with encouraging and educating voters to make their voices heard. And you can help!

This year's theme is Vote 2018 and our focus will be three fold:

1. Getting folks registered to vote.
2. Educating voters on important issues and races.
3. Helping get voters OUT to make their voices heard on election days.

A lot of great ideas will be put into play this year, among them a special focus on younger voters, especially high school students. (See article above) UM is also engaging in the Big Ten Voting Challenge, a nonpartisan initiative seeking to increase registration and turnout among students across the Big Ten.

Another effort to tap young talent will be a Poster Contest. Working with local art teachers, the LWV will sponsor a juried poster contest for high school students. Besides fame and gratitude, the winner will receive a cash prize. We hope to have the contest completed in April and the winning poster will be used broadly in our efforts during the year.

"What can I do?" you are no doubt asking yourself right about now. Right? Well, here are a few ways you can put your energy, talents and enthusiasm for an educated electorate to work! To volunteer, contact Nan Elder.
Participating in LWV training in voter registration processes.

- Participate in training members of other activist groups to register voters.
- Step up to help register voters over the coming months. We'll be especially attending to areas in our county where voter turnout is historically low.
- Volunteer to help with the Poster Contest!
- Volunteer to help with publicity and marketing efforts.
- Know a local business or organization who might be willing to contribute to printing, funding the Poster Contest Award or other financial support? Help us connect with them!

Whether you have a lot of time or just a little, we can use your help!

The Push to Reform Voting in Michigan

Feeling like it's about time Michigan adopted some common sense reforms to voting? According to the ACLU, "...Michigan has fallen behind other states in ensuring our elections are secure and accessible...."

Currently the Michigan League of Women Voters is supporting two bills to ensure that Michigan voters are able to participate in their civic duty and have all of their voices heard on Election Day.

**SB 177- No Reason Absentee Voting** provides a means for all registered voters to cast a secure ballot before Election Day. This bill would allow registered voters with one of five excuses to cast an absentee ballot in person or by mail. Those without an excuse can cast an absentee ballot in person at a clerk's office... 27 states offer no reason absentee voting and 38 states offer citizens access to a ballot before Election day. [http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2017-SB-0117](http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2017-SB-0117)

**SB 425-429- Online Voter Registration** allows voters the convenience of registering to vote from their home or office. Online voter registration improves the accuracy of registration, saves government resources and is safe and secure. [http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2017-SB-0425](http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2017-SB-0425)
LEAGUE FACTS - Did you know that VOTE411.org reaches A LOT of people??

- VOTE411.org provides information on candidates across the entire spectrum of political offices from President of the United States to your local school board.
- LWVAAA started using it in 2012
- Check out these stats!!!

Number of visits to VOTE411.org in Washtenaw County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Visits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>9,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>13,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>31,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>7330</td>
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Note the difference between odd and even years. This reflects turnout during presidential and midterm elections versus off-year elections.

Ninety-One Percent of Michigan Officials Happy with Election Process

Local leaders' views on elections in Michigan: accuracy, problems, and reform options by Debra Horner and Thomas Ivacko, Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

In November 2017, the University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) released a report that presented the assessments of Michigan city and township officials on issues related to election administration in their jurisdictions, including any problems they've encountered, worker recruitment and training, updating voting equipment, and potential reforms.
The data come from the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), a twice-yearly opinion survey of Michigan's local government officials. The Spring 2017 MPPS surveyed local government leaders from 1,119 cities and townships in Michigan—the units responsible for conducting elections—regarding election administration in their jurisdictions. In the results from the survey, most local government leaders report that they are very confident in their jurisdiction's ability to conduct accurate elections and that they generally support the State of Michigan's initiative to update election equipment statewide by the 2018 election.

The report's key findings are summarized below, and the full report is available on CLOSUP's website: http://closup.umich.edu
PUBLIC PROGRAM: FACTS & FICTION ON CHALLENGES FACING THE GREAT LAKES - LINE 5, HABS INVASIVE SPECIES, DIVERSIONS AND OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE
January 23rd, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown

The Great Lakes Committee of the Ann Arbor chapter of the League of Women Voters will host a panel discussion on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Ann Arbor downtown library. The discussion will focus on challenges facing the Great Lakes, including an update on the Line 5 oil pipeline concerns. The panel of experts will present and discuss issues, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Leading the discussion will be Dr. Eric Anderson, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, and Liz Kirkwood, J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School, who oversees FLOW’s program, staff and administration. Dr. Anderson's research focuses on hydrodynamics in the Great Lakes and connecting channels, including observation of meteorological conditions, water levels, and flows, which are used to predict the physical environment of lakes, rivers, and coastal zones. These predictions are used in several areas such as navigation, search and rescue, water quality, spill transport, and beach forecasting.

Ms. Kirkwood, an environmental lawyer, has developed and/or overseen FLOW’s (For Love of Water) work on key environmental policies and played a pivotal role in our work to decommission the dangerous Line 5 petroleum pipeline at the Straits of Mackinac. She has been a leading force in shaping the Oil & Water Don't Mix Campaign to address the 64-year-old pipeline. With eighteen years of legal experience working on water, sanitation, energy, and environmental governance issues both nationally and internationally, her experience includes working for USAID in Thailand to implement a regional environmental governance, water, and sanitation program in Southeast Asia.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about these important issues!
THERE'S STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

It's not too late to RENEW your belief in democracy and RENEW your commitment to good government!

Your dues help us carry on with these initiatives and also support the work of the Michigan and national Leagues (your dues automatically enroll you in both!) Our growth also means we need to improve our membership database and group communications, so that it is easier to get involved and stay informed.

Click here to print a renewal form, which you can fill out and mail.

OR

Pay online, using a credit card, through PayPal.

We thank you for your support. and look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen American democracy!

Note: If you've renewed or joined the League after July 1, 2017, your membership is valid until December 31, 2018.

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS TO THE LWV-AAA FACEBOOK PAGE

Did you know that we have an active Facebook page? Check it out by going to www.lwvannarbor.org website and clicking on the FB icon on the home page. It's neat and growing better every day. BUT, now that there are so many LWV-AAA activities, our editor Julie Baker can't attend them all. She needs some help from members and friends who are at these events and can snap a picture or two. Send your pictures (.jpg or .png) and write up a brief description (date, place, what's happening, who is in picture if possible). Send your submissions to Facebook@lwvannarbor.org It's that easy to share the news about LWV in action.

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LWVAAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS
Co-Presidents: Sally Allen and Nancy Schewe
Treasurer: Betty Bishop
Education Fund Treasurer: Barbara Brown
Secretary: Sue Smereck
DIRECTORS
Zoe Behnke, Program
Roxane Chan, Member at Large
Jeanine DeLay, Candidate Forums
Carolyn Madden, Member at Large
Jan Salsberry, Member at Large
Joan Sampieri, Member at Large
Jennifer Schlicht, Member at Large
Susan Wooley, Communications

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Susan Baskett
Paige Nong

Not a member?  Wish to join?
Click here to join using Paypal or click here for a mail-in registration form.

NOTE: Dues are not tax deductible - to make a tax deductible donation, check out our website www.lwvannarbor.org

Visit Our Facebook Page

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.