



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the Ann Arbor Area

Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832
(734) 665-5808

Visit us at www.lwvannarbor.org

LWV is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy

APRIL 2011

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★ **Sez the Prez** ★

Alternative Voting Systems Consensus

On a cold March evening, League members gathered to hear **Mona Walz** and **Susan Greenberg** present information on three different kinds of voting systems: plurality, approval, and instant run-off voting. A lively consensus discussion followed, led by **Nancy Schewe**. The results of our League's consensus have been sent to the state League where they will be reviewed along with the consensus results from other Leagues across Michigan.

Based on those results, the State Study committee will write a proposed revision to our State position on Election Law. That proposed revision will be considered by the State board. Once they approve it, the revised position can be used to lobby the state legislature.

Annual Meeting Celebration, May 24, 2011

I hope you will join us for our Annual Meeting Celebration at the Ann Arbor City Club on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. **Shirley Axon's** dance group, "**Dancers for Life**" will perform and help us conclude our year long 90th Birthday celebration in dance and song. Come hear the Suffragists' Song and see the "Lady of Liberty". A short business meeting will also be conducted. (See the Annual Meeting article in this Newsletter for more details.)

State Convention

This year's State Convention will be in Traverse City, May 20-22. Our League will be sending at least two delegates: **President Sue Smith** and **Vice President Nancy Schewe**. Some of our new board members may also be able to attend.

Use of email

We have had a good response to our request for email addresses. 75% of our League members are receiving the Newsletter by email. If you can receive our Newsletter via email and have not yet given us your email address, please send it to **Joan Overmire** at thomasovermire@sbcglobal.net. Of course, if you do not have computer access, we will mail it to you. We want to keep in touch.

Goodbye Sue and Welcome Nancy

It will soon be election time and the slate of officers and directors who have been nominated by the Nominating Committee will be voted upon at the May 24 Annual Meeting. (See the slate in another article in this Newsletter.)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be President of the Ann Arbor Area League this past year. It has been an honor to serve you.

Nancy Schewe has been nominated to be our next President. Nancy first joined our League because of her interest in our National Study on Immigration. Since then, she has been on our board as Government Director and Vice President for Membership. Nancy has also moderated a number of our Candidate Forums, chaired our 90th Birthday Celebration at Hathaway's Hideaway, and is currently working on plans for a Redistricting Forum in June.

I am confident that Nancy will do a terrific job, and I look forward to her leadership.

-- Sue Smith susanprakkensmith@comcast.net



Zoe Behnke, Program Director

Jeanine and I would like to thank the League of Women Voters Ann Arbor Area for sponsoring Liberty Awakes during January and February. Although these were the coldest and snowiest two months, we nonetheless had 500 people tour the exhibit, including 100 at the opening celebration.

There are upcoming opportunities to see the exhibit - it will be traveling to other destinations: March 1 - May 1 at University Living (South Main Street), and the second week of May through the second week of August at the Ypsilanti District Library (Michigan Avenue downtown branch).

I will be speaking about the exhibit at the Ypsilanti District Library (downtown branch) on dates yet to be announced.

The exhibit generated great publicity for us! Our League was covered by annarbor.com, Groundcover, a2journal.com (2 articles), the Lucy Anne Lance radio program, and CTN.

A huge Thank You to Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum on Main Street for hosting this exhibit, and to Pauline and the staff who provided assistance. We appreciate their willingness to extend the visiting days and exhibit hours.

If you know anyone living in a retirement community, or know of other places or groups that would be interested in exhibiting Liberty Awakes, please e-mail me.

Also, we would like to thank A2ethics.org and AAUW for co-sponsoring Liberty Awakes. Thanks especially to everyone who donated exhibit items or made a financial contribution to help defray the costs of the exhibit.

Please come to the Annual Meeting (article in this newsletter) to celebrate Woman Suffrage with festivities planned by Shirley Axon.

Myrtle Cox passed away in California on December 21, 2010. She and her husband lived in Ann Arbor from 1970-2001. She was a past president of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area, president of the Board of AATA, and active in AAUW. Myrtle is survived by her husband, David, and two sons, Paul and Evan. She and her husband moved to California to be near their sons.

I went to an informational meeting in 1980 about the League of Women Voters. I actually joined twice, but the second time (1983), she was on the board and Helen West was president. Myrtle was a very gracious, kind person. I am sure many of you have fond memories of working with her or serving with her on our board -- Zoe Behnke

The 2010 Census data is now in the hands of state and local officials, and they are beginning the process of redrawing boundaries for legislative and county commission districts, as well as city council wards. The way the new lines are drawn is vitally important. It can determine who gets elected and what laws are passed. That is why the League of Women Voters is working to ensure that the process is open and transparent.

Proposed Redistricting Reforms

The League of Women Voters of Michigan calls for an open redistricting process that provides meaningful opportunities for public involvement. The League supports the following measures in the State Legislature's 2011 redistricting process and recommends that similar policies be adopted at the local levels.

- Provide the public with data on a web site, with tools that allow the public to view and comment on redistricting maps proposed.
- Require four public hearings – three outside Lansing – to allow citizen input. To ensure transparency, the hearings should be broadcast live on the state redistricting web site, and transcripts, testimony and comments should be posted on the site.
- Mandate that any proposed map be posted on the web site 30 days prior to adoption, and include data on every district created showing voter age, population, and racial makeup. Also included should be a statement giving the public reasons why the district was drawn as it was, and how it serves the public interest.

What can you do?

You can attend public meetings of the County Apportionment Commission. All meetings are public and the dates, times, and locations of the meetings are posted on the county website: www.ewashtenaw.org

You can also attend your LWV-AAA's public forum on redistricting. We hope to have representatives from the offices of the Washtenaw County Clerk and the Ann Arbor City Clerk to describe their processes and present the plans they have drawn. In addition, we plan to invite two Representatives from the State House to explain the process at the state level.

***Redistricting in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County,
and the State of Michigan
June 16th at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Downtown AADL***

COMING THIS FALL

The Education Study: Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

Are you interested in public education? Are you an educator, a concerned parent or grandparent, or simply an interested citizen? LWV is gearing up for a study beginning in September on the federal role in issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment in pre-K through grade 12 public education.

If you are interested in serving on our local League's study committee, please contact Nancy Schewe at nschewe@comcast.net We need your involvement and input.

You're invited to our Celebration!

Come join the Celebration at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at the Ann Arbor City Club. **Shirley Axon's** dance group, "**Dancers for Life**" will help us to close out our 90th Birthday year of celebration which began last October at Hathaway's Hideaway, continued this winter with our fabulous "Liberty Awakes" Exhibit at the Washtenaw County Historical Museum, and concludes at our May Annual Meeting in dance and song.

Fran Lyman will lead us in singing the Suffragists' Song to the tune of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". We have the words to the song used by the Suffragists in our own community 100 years ago. What we lack in musical talent will surely be made up for with our enthusiasm! I'm told that "Lady Liberty" has promised to make an appearance. Bring a camera, and you can have your picture taken with her. Of course, we'll have a cake with the appropriate decorations.

During the business meeting, we will elect a slate of Officers and Board of Directors, adopt Budgets for 2011-12, and consider adopting a change to our Bylaws. See other articles in this Newsletter for more details.

Copies of the updated "Your Elected Officials" will be hot off the press and will be available.

A good time will be had by all, but it won't be as much fun if you don't come.

Hope to see you there! -- Sue Smith, President

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE LWV-AAA BYLAWS

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area recommends the following change to the Bylaws:

Change “Honorary life Members” to “Life members”

Current Language

Article III Membership

Section 1. Types of Membership. The membership of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

- a. Voting Members. Citizens of at least 18 years of age enrolled for the current year in the LWV-AAA. **Honorary** life members who have been enrolled in the LWV-US for 50 years or more shall be voting members of the LWV-AAA.
- b. Associate Members shall be all other members.

Rationale:

Delegates to the 2010 National Convention voted to change the LWVUS Bylaws, Voting members: from “Honorary Life” members to “Life members”. Our bylaws have to be consistent with LWVUS bylaws.

Karwyn Rigan, a member of our League for over 50 years, died on March 17 as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Many of us knew **Karwyn** and appreciated her gentle and generous spirit. A memorial service will be held for her on **Sunday, April 10, 1:30 pm, at the First Methodist Church in Ann Arbor.**

Long time friend and fellow League member, **Virginia Vandebroek**, wrote this about Karwyn:

"I knew Karwyn Rigan through the League of Women Voters. She was always bright and busy and cheerful and had worked hard for a long time for us. She had a huge file of our publications and concerns. She was a singer and had traveled with her husband and a group abroad to give performances. I took her to the Ann Arbor Symphony, which we both loved. And we went to the Gray Panthers together. She was fabulously generous and kept a huge house and garden. Most moving of all to me was that she raised her two little nieces when their young mother died. We've all lost a true friend."

**SLATE PRESENTED BY 2010-2011 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: FRAN LYMAN,
MARGARET HISS, JOAN OVERMIRE AND SHIRLEY AXON**

League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area

Slate of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee for 2011-12

President	Nancy Schewe	Secretary	Cyrene Aksland
Vice President:	Susan Greenberg	Treasurer:	Judith Mich
Program Director:	Zoe Behnke	Ed Fund Treasurer:	Betty Bishop
Natural Resources Co-directors:		Shirley Axon and Fran Lyman	
Member at Large Director:		Rosemary Austgen	
2011-2012 Nominating Committee: Margaret Hiss, Marina Brown			

Offboard

Membership Secretary:	Joan Overmire	Mailing:	Nancy Brucken
Newsletter:	Trina Borenstein	Webmaster:	Susan Wooley

League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area

CURRENT Officers and Directors

Officers and Directors

President	Sue Smith	Secretary	Trina Borenstein
VP-Membership	Nancy Schewe	Treasurer	Judith Mich
Program Director	Zoe Behnke	Ed Fund Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Natural Resources	Shirley Axon		

Offboard

Mailing	Nancy Brucken	Newsletter	Trina Borenstein
Membership Sec'y	Joan Overmire	Webmaster	Susan Wooley

PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-2012

INCOME	CURRENT 2010-2011	YTD 2010- 2011	PROPOSED 2011-2012	EXPENDITURES	CURRENT 2010-2011	YTD 2010- 2011	PROPOSED 2011-2012
A. Dues (\$60 Indiv./\$80 Hshld)	4,560	5,095	5,000	C. Con's/Workshops			
B. Contributions				1. State Con./Council	700	0	0
1. Member	1,400	1,294	1,300	2. National Convention	0	0	1,000
2. Non-Member				3. Workshops	100	0	0
3. Your Elected Officials				CONVENTION	800	0	1,000
C. Transfer from Ed. Fund Account	1,500	2,285	1,190	SUBTOTAL			
D. Other Sources				D. League Fin. Support			
E. Interest & Dividends	50	19	50	1. Lake Erie Basin Group	30	30	30
F. Trans. from Savings	1,790	0	0	2. Lake Mich. Group	30	0	30
				3. State Support PMP	2,000	1,828	1,700
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	9,300	8,693	7,540	4. National Support PMP	2,400	2,909	2,430
				LEAGUE SUPPORT SUBTOTAL	4,460	4,767	4,190
A. Operating Costs				E. Postcards, Bulletins, etc.	410	360	300
1. Web Maint. & Domain Name	175	200	200	COMMUNICATIONS SUBTOTAL	410	360	300
2. General Supplies			100	F. Educational Activities			
3. Postage Misc.			100	1. Publications, primarily YEO	500	0	500
4. Telephone	530	350	0	a. Local Activities			
5. Insurance thru LWVMI	85	85	60	b. Print and Dist.			
6. P. O. Box Rental	40	40	40	2. Program Committees			
7. Other	553	550	0	a. National	500		100
OPERATING SUBTOTAL	1,380	681	500	b. State	100		100
B. Board/Admin. Expenses				c. Local (Exhibit 2011)	100	1,040	
1. Gen. Board Tools	200	179	100	3. Voter Service			
2. Finance Drive				a. Candidate Forums	200	27	
3. Membership			100	b. Misc.			
4. Meetings – Bd., City Club, etc.	600	292	550	EDUCATION SUBTOTAL	1,400	1,067	700
5. Public Relations			50	G. Position Support			
6. Nominating Committee				1. Position Publications	50	50	50
7. Student Chapter				2. Action Activities	50	50	50
ADMINISTRATION SUBTOTAL	800	471	800	POSITION SUBTOTAL	50	50	50
				H. Other			
				I. Transferred to Savings	0	0	0
				GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	9,300	7,396	7,540

ED FUND BUDGET 2011-2012

Income (anticipated contributions to EF) \$1190

Expenses (anticipated withdrawals from EF) \$1190

LWV - Ann Arbor Area Email List Policy

1. The purpose of the email list at lwv.ann.arbor.area@gmail.com is to provide a timely and easily accessed means to communicate official League business or issues clearly related to the League mission. Other use is permitted at the discretion of the League President or Secretary.
2. The contact list for this email address will consist of local members, State and National League officers and staff, plus local League presidents. The Email List will be maintained by the Webmaster. All changes should go through either the Membership Secretary or the League President.
3. In order to keep member email addresses private, messages will be sent "TO: LWVAnnArbor@yahoo.com", with all other recipients to be included in the "BCC:" option.
4. The League President and Secretary have the authority and responsibility to send out messages. This authority may be delegated in special circumstances. All others wishing to communicate with the membership should direct their information to either the President or the Secretary for sending.
5. Messages sent to this email address will be managed and deleted as needed by the President, the Secretary, or the Webmaster.
6. The subject line for all messages will start with "LWV AAA" followed by a brief and specific summary of the message contents. Examples of appropriate subject headings are: LWV AAA Newsletter, LWV AAA Annual Meeting Reminder, LWV AAA Luncheon Reservations Due.
7. Replies to messages should be sent to the sender only, unless they are considered of interest to the entire group. Members on the Email List should be reminded of this frequently.
8. These guidelines will be published in the LWV Ann Arbor Area Newsletter as needed.

APRIL - OCTOBER 2011 CALENDAR

**May 20-22: State Convention in
Traverse City**

**May 24: Annual Meeting
Celebration, 7:00-9:00 pm, Ann
Arbor City Club**

**June 16: Community Forum on
Redistricting, 7:00-8:30 pm,
Downtown Ann Arbor District
Library**

**August and October: City Council
Candidate Forums**

**October 11: General Meeting on
Role of Federal Government in
Public Education**

***Please check website for
corrections and additional
meetings***