



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Newsletter for the  
Ann Arbor Area

**MAKING**  
**DEMOCRACY WORK.**  
<http://lwvann Arbor.org/>

**May 2017**

## Message from the President

We are really excited about all of the new ideas and fresh energy brought in by our new members. Below are several new projects that are now underway.

- The Outreach to Seniors group is planning to do voter registration at four senior residences before the July 10th deadline to vote in the August Primary. They also plan to do redistricting presentations at two senior centers. If you would like to help, contact [Cathy Whitaker](#).
- The Issues & Ale Group (temporary name) is finalizing plans to host a series of speakers and discussions at a local brew pub on the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. The location has not yet been determined. For more information, contact [Paige Nong](#).
- The Redistricting Education Project has trained 75 League members to present our PowerPoint, *Should Politician Choose Their Voters*, to community groups throughout Washtenaw County. If you would like to arrange for a presenter to bring the program to your group, contact [Redistricting@lwvann Arbor.org](mailto:Redistricting@lwvann Arbor.org)
- The Great Lakes Team is in the midst of planning a public program on Enbridge Line 5. For more information, contact [The Great Lakes Team](#).



Seven LWVAAA members will attend the Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, May 19th - 21st, to exchange ideas with Leagues across our state.

Don't miss our Annual Meeting on Tuesday May 16th (see information below). Douglas Koop of the Land Legacy Conservancy will be the guest speaker. We will also conduct

the important business of electing a new board and approving next year's budget. Please join us.

And finally, many thanks to Dharma Akmon and Sarah Koza for pulling together this edition of our newsletter focusing on the environment featuring League contributors Dan Rubenstein, Elina Salminen, and Jeanine DeLay. Read through the articles and the information. I think you will find it all interesting.

In League,  
Nancy

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## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Place
Tue, May 2	ELECTION DAY. Schools Proposals	All Day	Your Local Polling Location
	For information, go to <a href="http://VOTE411.org">VOTE411.org</a>		
Tue, May 9	Introductory Meeting Tecumseh Unit	6:30-7:30 pm	Tecumseh District Library 215 North Ottawa St. Tecumseh, MI 49286
Tue, May 16	Annual Membership Meeting Guest Speaker: Doug Koop Legacy Land Conservancy	7:00-8:30 pm	Kerrytown Concert House 415 N. Fifth Avenue Ann Arbor 48104
Fri, May 19- Sun May 21	<i>State League Convention*</i> : <i>Building a Strong Democracy.</i>		Kellogg Center East Lansing, MI
	Additional Information Below		
Fri, May 28	Lunch & Learn: Solving Climate Change Ginny Rogers Citizen's Climate Lobby	Noon-2:00 pm	Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse 411 Cedars Lane Dexter, MI 48130

Wed, June 7    Issues & Ales

8:00  
pm

TBD

*\*Indicates LWV-members only event*

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#### 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](http://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](mailto:Facebook@lwvannarbor.org) It's that easy to share the news about LWV in action.





**LWV**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ann Arbor Area

**LWVAAA Annual Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 16th, 2017  
Kerrytown Concert House  
415 North Fourth Ave  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Program

7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Douglas Koop  
Executive Director, Legacy Land Conservancy

Refreshments

Recognition of Honorary Lifetime Members

8:00 p.m.

Business meeting

**Members: Please watch for a special email notice  
containing the Annual Meeting materials.**

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## 4th Friday Lunch & Learn Series

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FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017

SOLVING CLIMATE CHANGE: A Plan that is  
Simple, Effective and Feasible

Speaker: Ginny Rogers  
Group Leader for the Ann Arbor chapter of  
Citizens' Climate Lobby, a national, non-partisan,  
grassroots organization working to enact federal  
legislation to put a price on carbon.

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Noon – 2:00 PM

**Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse**

411 Cedars Lane, Dexter, MI 48130

Lunch buffet at \$6 cash or BYO lunch

***Reservations required***

Contact: [Lunch&Learn@lwvannarbor.org](mailto:Lunch&Learn@lwvannarbor.org)

Sponsored by:



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE ANN ARBOR AREA**

[LWVAnnArbor.org](http://LWVAnnArbor.org)

**LUNCH AND LEARN RESERVATIONS  
SIGN UP [HERE](#)**

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## **Groundwater Contamination and the Gelman Plume**

Daniel Rubenstein

One of Washtenaw County's biggest environmental and public health problems over the past four decades has been the "[Gelman Plume](#)," a dispersion of the carcinogen 1,4-dioxane throughout groundwater across eastern Scio Township and western Ann Arbor. The plume is projected to reach the Huron River in five to ten years downstream of Barton Pond, sparing the source of Ann Arbor's drinking water. But some west-side residents who are dependent on well water have already seen their wells contaminated and closed, and vapor intrusion through basements may pose health risks. Moreover, it is possible the plume could enter the Huron further upstream, while Gelman is discharging treated water into Honey Creek, a Huron tributary upstream of Barton Pond.

Discovered in 1984, the plume is regulated by a consent judgment issued by the Washtenaw County Circuit Court in 1992. By 1995, Michigan relaxed the acceptable dioxane drinking water contamination level from 3 ppb (parts per billion) to 85 ppb and removed requirements that polluters fully fund complete remediation (clean-up). According to Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which oversees the consent judgment, polluters can only be forced to clean up to the 85 ppb standard, and alternatives to remediation, like prohibition on use of contaminated wells ("prohibition zones"), must be permitted. The court expanded the plume's prohibition zone in 2011, and, in it, levels up to 2,799 ppb are permitted on the theory that its water will sufficiently dilute when it reaches the Huron River.

In the wake of the Flint water crisis and EPA findings that long-term exposure at 3.5 ppb poses a 1:100,000 cancer risk, Gov. Snyder recently issued an emergency rule lowering the drinking water limit to 7.2 ppb and the vapor intrusion level to 29 ppb. Water Gelman discharges into Honey Creek is treated to 8 ppb.

The past six months have seen state- and federal-level legal action. Scio Township, the city of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and the Huron Valley Watershed Council joined the state as plaintiffs to modify the consent judgment in Washtenaw County Circuit Court. They are urging the Michigan Attorney General to act as soon as new standards are finalized, based on EPA findings, and Gelman to bear all costs. Simultaneously, state representatives proposed H.B. 4123, which would force polluters to perform full clean-ups while bearing all costs.

On the federal level, Scio and Ann Arbor townships and the Sierra Club of Huron Valley petitioned the U.S. EPA for Superfund clean-up status. If designated a federal Superfund site, Gelman would have to perform a full clean-up and restoration at its own cost.

The [Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane](#) (CARD) is the best avenue for public involvement. They meet the first Tuesday of the month. The next meetings are May 2 from 1-3 p.m. (quarterly meeting with the DEQ) and June 6 from 6-8 p.m. (both at the Washtenaw County Western Service Center, 705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor). CARD also maintains up-to-date information on city, county, and other meetings where the

Gelman Plume is on the agenda. Owners of homes directly over the plume should have already been contacted by the DEQ for water testing; if you are concerned about your water, [learn more here](#), or contact Washtenaw County Public Health.

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## **Communities and Climate Change: An Interview with Maria Lemos**

Elina Salminen

The League of Women Voters supports policies that protect the environment at the national, state, and local level. In Michigan, protecting the Great Lakes Basin is of special concern to many. Many of us are familiar with acute disasters such as the Ann Arbor dioxane plume or the Flint water crisis, but fewer of us know that climate change will impact the Great Lakes as well. To better understand the current issues and to find out what we can do to protect our precious resources, I spoke with Dr. Maria Carmen Lemos, a professor at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment and Co-director of the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments, a collaboration between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University that aims to support communities managing risks from climate change in the region.

### **How does your research relate to the Great Lakes and issues impacting Michigan?**

I focus on studying the impact of climate change on the Great Lakes Basin and how people and organizations adapt to them. More specifically, I focus on climate adaptation in communities such as cities, agricultural communities, and Tribes. My organization also works on better representing the Great Lakes in climate models, for example, to study impacts in the region such as changes in lake levels.

### **Are we already seeing the impacts of climate change in Michigan?**

We are not projected to be as hard-hit as, for example, California, but we will also increasingly have to deal with storms, flooding, and higher temperatures. Specialty crops, such as cherries, are already suffering from early blooms followed by a freeze, for example.

### **Who is making decisions about the environment? Does it happen at the federal, the state, or local level?**

At the federal level there are fewer clear mandates regarding climate change than there are, for example, for securing clean water. Just as the impacts of climate change are different for different communities, so communities have different resources to fight it. Ann Arbor has an Environmental Coordinator, which not all cities do, and having this oversight is very helpful. It is not just about money, but also about knowledge.

### **What can we do to help fight climate change?**

What is good for the environment is often good for us in other ways, too. If you can, eat local food. Save electricity, take public transportation, support green areas in cities. Support green ordinances and spread awareness. For example, the [Detroit Climate Action Collaborative](#) is developing a climate action plan - tell your friends about it! Poverty often makes communities vulnerable to climate change, so volunteer and support poor communities.

**What about the tough choices? What would you say to someone who is reluctant to cut back on consumption, or spend more money on greener alternatives for an issue that often seems abstract and distant?**

Think about your kids. It's hard to make decisions about things that don't directly affect you, but that doesn't stop us from planning for our children's education or future health, for example. Make similar long-term choices about fighting climate change. Climate change is the great redistributor: it redistributes wealth, health, resources, and it will impact all of humanity. We have to believe that it's possible for us to do something about it, and then do it.



## **On Running in Antarctica**

Jeanine DeLay

About my long running quest to do seven marathons on seven continents. I finished the Antarctica marathon on March 10th. The weather was perfect--29 degrees and a light 10 mile per hour wind. This is in a place that can become very, very windy--very, very quickly. And where a blizzard can whip itself into shape on any given mile. That said, it was a very calm day on a hilly course with uneven stone sections--not unlike the cobbles in a Belgian bicycling classic--except these stones were loose. The stones and the hills were the most difficult parts of the race.

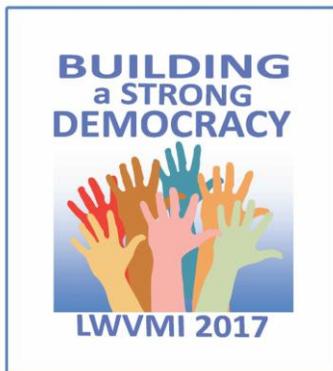
[Read more about Jeanine's running in Antarctica adventure....](#)

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## Why I joined the League: Mary Garton

I am one of the many people who joined the League after the November election, although I didn't find it right away. I'd been looking for ways to make a difference and attended an informative meeting about gerrymandering in East Lansing. This disenfranchisement of voters is a very important problem that needs a solution. The League of Women Voters was represented at that meeting, so I came home and filled out an application. This was probably two months ago. I'm still feeling my way, but I've offered to help the group of members that is keeping abreast of Great Lakes issues. Prior to this election, I had not been particularly politically active, finding my real passion in teaching kids and participating in community activities. I am now trying to broaden my horizons and be active in a wider community.



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## ***"Building A Strong Democracy"***

**STATE CONVENTION OF  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MICHIGAN**

**East Lansing, MI  
MAY 19 - 21, 2017**

The thirty-second biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Michigan

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**"Redistricting in Michigan: Where Are We Now?"** Sue Smith, LWVMI Vice President of Programming

**"America's Scariest Underwater Pipeline: Enbridge Line 5 in the Straights of Mackinac,"** David Holtz, Sierra Club Chair

**"The State Budget: A Matter of Priorities".** Courtney Bourgojn, Sierra Club State Budget Education Organizer

**Featured Speaker:** Zoe Clark, Program Director for Michigan Radio, Co-host of *It's Just Politics*

### **WORKSHOPS INCLUDE**

**Voter Registration.** New and traditional venues to register voters

**Natural Resources Update.** Pipelines, air quality, and fracking- what's the latest?  
**Moderator Training.** Best practices and potential landmines of moderating League forums  
**From Program to Advocacy.** Utilizing our positions to effectively advocate at the local and state levels.

[Program & Registration Information](#)

[Convention Overview](#)

***LWV of the Ann Arbor Area can sponsor up to nine delegates to the convention, covering the cost of registration and hotel expenses.***

***Let us know if you would like to attend the convention as a [delegate](#).***

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## MEMBERSHIP

You can join or renew using [PayPal](#) or print a [Membership Form](#), fill it out and mail with a check payable to: *League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area*.

NOTE: Dues are not tax deductible - to make a tax deductible donation, check out our website [www.lwvann Arbor.org](http://www.lwvann Arbor.org).

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## The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

### LWVAAA Board of Directors

Nancy Schewe, President  
Jeanine DeLay, Vice President  
Betty Bishop, Interim Treasurer  
Zoe Behnke, Director  
Shirley Axon, Director

To leave a message for the board, go to:

[lwv.ann.arbor.area@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.ann.arbor.area@gmail.com)

### LWVAAA Team Members

Susan Smith, Nominating Committee  
Mona Walz, Nominating Committee  
Susan Wooley, Webmaster  
Mary Seelhorst, Publicity  
Julie Baker, Facebook/Twitter  
Dharma Akmon, Newsletter  
Sarah Koza, Newsletter  
Nancy Brucken, VOTE411.org  
Rosemary Austgen, LWV roster  
Gillian Gainsley, Ypsilanti Connection

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Not a member? Wish to join?

Click here to join [using Paypal](#) or click here for a [mail-in registration form](#).

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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.



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League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area, P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

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