



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the Ann Arbor Area

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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

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Come and enjoy a lovely evening with good friends and good food at the

*Annual December Potluck
December 13th
7:00 p.m.*

*The Home of Shirley Axon
2016 Seneca Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104*

Everyone is welcome. Please bring a dish to pass.

★ *Memo from the President* ★

We have had a very busy fall, with candidate forums, consensus studies, and lobbying in Lansing. What a great way to begin the year.

Be sure to read through this newsletter to see what your League has been doing. There are articles on the consensus study we conducted on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, on the five candidate forums broadcast live on CTN, and on the LWVMI Take Action Day in Lansing.

Exciting plans are in the works for early next year. We will be exploring the issues of Privatization of Government Services (see article in this newsletter) and the Role of the Downtown Development Authority in the City of Ann Arbor. We are excited about these two issues because of their particular relevance at the local level. Stay tuned to LWVAAA through our newsletters, our website (www.lwvannarbor.org), and our email notices for further details as they evolve.

Please plan to attend the upcoming League activities that are just around the corner. Our annual December Potluck will be on December 13, and our important program planning meeting will be on January 10 at the City Club. We need everyone's participation to make our League vibrant and relevant. Come and lend your voice to our deliberations.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at 663-20207 or by email at nschewe@comcast.net if you have any questions or concerns about the League.

In League, Nancy Schewe

Your League Needs YOU!

The League welcomes your participation in all of its work. At this time, we are actively seeking volunteers for:

- **Voter Service (Candidate Forums)**
- **Privatization Study**
- **Downtown Development Authority Study**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Youth Voter Registration Project**



Please contact Nancy Schewe at nschewe@comcast.net or 663-2027 to get involved.



Zoe Behnke, Program Director

The exhibit was hosted at Glacier Hills in September. Currently, it can be seen at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor through November 21, 2011.

LWVUS STUDY ON PRIVATIZATION

Scope of the Privatization Study: The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Timeline:

Early Fall 2011: Information provided to Local and State Leagues

November 2011 – May 2012: Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus.

Please contact [Zoe Behnke-bliz468@yahoo.com](mailto:Zoe_Behnke-bliz468@yahoo.com) or 663-1664
 Susan Greenberg sjgrog@umich.edu
 Nancy Schewe nschewe@comcast.net
 Rosemary Austgen raustgen@peoplepc.com

<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</p> <p>For the League's Program Planning Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2012 7:00 p.m. Ann Arbor City Club</p> <p>Your input is vital to our process. Please come.</p>	<p>In Memoriam</p> <p>Ann Martin Joiner 1917-2011</p> <p>Past President League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area</p>
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2011/2012 Officers and Directors

NAME	POSITION
Board Members	
Nancy Schewe	President
Susan Greenberg	Vice President
Cyrene Aksman	Secretary
Judith G. Mich	Treasurer
Betty Bishop	Ed. Fund Treasurer
Zoe Behnke	Program Director
Shirley Axon	Nat. Res. Director
Fran Lyman	Nat. Res. Director
Rosemary Austgen	Member at Large

NAME	POSITION
Nominations	
Margaret Hiss	
Marina Brown	
Fran Lyman	
Off Board Members	
Jeanine DeLay	Voter Service
Nancy Brucken	Mailing
Joan Overmire	Memb. Sec
Trina Borenstein	Newsletter
Susan Wooley	Webmaster

TAKE ACTION FOR CONVENIENT VOTING

On Wednesday, October 12, the League of Women Voters of Michigan held a day devoted to learning about advocating to make voting more convenient and accessible. The event was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church across from the state capitol. Michigan voters - old and young - are overwhelmingly supportive of making voting more convenient through early and no-reason absentee voting.

The major issues surrounding convenient voting were presented in opening remarks by LWVMI President Sue Smith, followed by Representative Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) describing his proposed legislation for no-reason absentee voting.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk and Board member of the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association, then discussed additional bills regarding voting that have been proposed by other members of the legislature. He also discussed the Secretary of State's press briefing, held that morning, that highlighted her priorities regarding elections and voting, including a bill being proposed by Representative Cindy Denby (R-Fowlerville) that allows for no-reason absentee voting tied to a photo ID requirement and only available for pick up in the clerk's office.

Tim O'Brien, LWV US, presented techniques for communicating effectively with legislators. Jean Doss, Gov't Relations Consultant and lobbyist, gave an insider view of the Legislature and discussed the challenges and opportunities of meeting with legislators, and how to impact policymaking. She led the group in practice sessions to help us communicate effectively with our legislators.

After lunch, the group met with legislators from their respective districts. Nancy Schewe and Rosemary Austgen, from the Ann Arbor League, held two scheduled meetings and two impromptu meetings with their legislators. They met with Representative Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Senator Rebekah Warren (D-Washtenaw County) in their offices. Both legislators support making voting easier for voters. Nancy and Rosemary also met with Representatives David Rutledge (D-Ypsilanti) and Cindy Denby (R-Fowlerville) to discuss the same issue. Both also support this issue, and Ms. Denby had a chance to tell us about the bill she has proposed.

In addition to the meetings, the group was seated in the viewer's gallery of the House of Representatives and were introduced and acknowledged by the Speaker of the House for the service the League of Women Voters performs.

All the attendees felt this was a very productive day and look forward to future opportunities to meet directly with their legislators in order to advocate for League positions.

LEAGUE HOLDS FIVE CANDIDATE FORUMS

In early October, The LWV-AAA conducted five exciting candidate forums in conjunction with CTN. All of the forums are were broadcast live on Channel 19 as well as live-streamed on *annarbor.com*.

Candidates for the Board of Education of the Ann Arbor Public Schools and candidates for Wards 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Ann Arbor City Council answered insightful questions put forth by League members Judy Mich and Susan Greenberg. The event was widely covered by reporters from WEMU, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Michigan Daily* and *A2journal.com*.

You can access the forums through a link on our website: lwvannarbor.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, COMMUNITY TELEVISION NETWORK WIN MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD

November 3, 2011, Ann Arbor, Michigan
CTN and LWV have won a Philo award in the category of political awareness for its broadcast of the League of Women Voters' *County Commissioner District 10, 11 Democratic Primary Candidates Forum* at this year's Philo T. Farnsworth Festival of Media Arts Awards. CTN staff members Greg McDonald and Rob Cross worked with the League to produce this program.

Several League programs have brought awards to CTN in recent years, including:
2009 Philo Media Arts Festival, 2nd Place - Ward 5 Primary Candidates Debate,
2007 Philo Media Arts Festival, 1st Place - 5th Ward Primary Candidate Debate
2001 Philo Media Arts Festival, 1st Place - City Council Candidates Forum

The most recent award-winning forum can be viewed online at www.lwvann Arbor.org

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION

This autumn we met to discuss to and receive information on the role of the federal government in education. The meeting was held on September 13 for our members and AAUW. Ulla Roth-Ritter, chairperson, led the discussion. Several of the consensus questions were discussed.

A forum was held at the Ann Arbor District Library-Downtown on October 6, 2011. The speakers and topics were:

Equity and Funding -- Ms. Alesia L. Flye, Deputy Superintendent for Instructional Services-Ann Arbor Public Schools. Unfortunately she canceled due to illness. The other three speakers discussed equity and funding.

Historical Perspective and Children with Special Needs -- Dr. Steve Camron, Associate Professor, Graduate Coordinator, Special Education Department at EMU

Common Core Standards and Assessments -- Ms. Laura Roop, Director of Outreach- Nat'l Writing Project, UofM School of Education. Her background includes school reform.

Early Childhood Education -- Dr. Brigid Beabien, Associate Professor of Teacher Education-Teaches classes in early childhood education, social studies, and urban education at Eastern Michigan University. She was unable to make it.

Early Childhood Education -- Dr. Linda Williams. Eastern Michigan University.

We ended the study with a consensus meeting on October 11, 2011. There were eight members present for this discussion. The results will be sent to LWV-US by November 30, 2011. Unfortunately, we cannot publish the results. Ulla Roth-Ritter led the discussion.

Written by Zoe Behnke, Chair: Ulla Roth-Ritter, Members: Zoe Behnke and Judy Mich

BOARD APPROVES LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENSUS

At our October Board meeting the Board approved updating to 2011 the General Development Plan Consensus of 1982, making it a working document and allowing our LWV to speak out on the local development issues mentioned. The '82 Consensus was in turn an update from 1972.

It is quite amazing how so many statements from 40 years ago address the same issues as today. Just a few highlights of our now Current Criteria for General Development for Ann Arbor:

- Wide participation by Citizens in determining growth policies
- Performance bonds for developers and builders and fees for landscaping and maintenance
- Preserve and create parks and open space.
- Encourage Greenbelt development.
- Create open areas in older city sections.
- Coordinated planning between the cities, townships and county
- Separate local and thru traffic.

Wording still needs to be updated on this six page Development Consensus. Email shirleyaxon@comcast.net if you would like to meet with the Natural Resource Committee on this or to see a copy of the Consensus.

Shirley Axon, NR Co-chair

DUES ARE DUE

It's the fall Bulletin and it's time to talk dues. Our membership year is the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. We must report our paid membership to the LWV-US by mid-December and so I and the form below come to you, asking, "Please Renew Your League Membership." Return the form in the mail or bring it with you to the next meeting.

Member dues are currently \$60 for an individual and \$90 for a household (two or more members at the same address). For each member, we pay over \$50 in per member payments (PMP) to the LWV-MI and LWV-US. Add to that, fixed costs for meeting rooms at the City Club and Turner Center, insurance, postage, and the P.O. Box, and the cost per member exceeds the dues each of us pays. We are sustained by contributions, the Ed Fund, and our savings.

SO. if you can, be generous. Contributions may be made to LWV-AAA. These contributions can be used for any League work and since that may include lobbying for League-supported issues, they are not tax-deductible. A SEPARATE check to LWV-EF goes to our League's account in Washington, and can be used ONLY for education/voter service activities. Donations to the Ed Fund are tax deductible. You make the choice -- or do both.

Scholarship memberships remain available for active members who cannot afford the amount or prefer to pay over the course of the year. Active student members pay \$20.

Please act now. Fill out the form and find your checkbook. Your email address really helps our communications and the fiscal bottom line. If you haven't paid since July 1, 2011, your dues are due. Those of you who've paid early will receive a thank you call from me. No matter what, we can't do without you.

Judy Mich, Treasurer, 668-6491, judithgmich@hotmail.com

Membership Application/Renewal Form

(Cut and Send to LWV-AAA, P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832)

FALL 2011

1. Annual Dues Individual \$60.00/Household (two members at one address) \$90.00) (\$60.00 or \$90.00) \$ _____

2. Optional Contributions

A. Non Tax-Deductible Contribution to Local League (sends members to conventions, covers budget needs) Dues and non-deductible contributions, make one check payable to LWV-AAA \$ _____

OR B. Tax-Deductible to the LWV Education Fund: For Voter Service Activities ONLY make a separate check to LWV-EF \$ _____

Please print clearly, and note any new information.

Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email (never shared or published) _____

P.O.Box 3832
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2011/2012 CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 29: Board Meeting,
7 pm, Turner Senior Resource Center

Tuesday, December 13: December
Potluck, 6 pm, Shirley Axon's home, 2016
Seneca Ave., Ann Arbor

Tuesday, January 10, 2012:
Membership Meeting on Program Planning,
7 pm, AACC, 1850 Washtenaw Ave.

Late February/Early March, 2012:
Privatization Study, Time & Place TBA

Tuesday, February 28, 2012: Board
Meeting, 7 pm, Turner Senior Resource
Center

Tuesday, March 27, 2012: Board
Meeting, 7 pm, Turner Senior Resource
Center

April, 2012: Forum on the Downtown
Development Authority, Time & Place TBA

Tuesday, April 24, 2012: Board Meeting,
7 pm, Turner Senior Resource Center

Tuesday, May 15, 2012: Annual
Membership Meeting, 7 pm, Place TBA

*Please check website for corrections and
additional meetings.*