



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of the Ann Arbor Area  
P.O. Box 3832 · Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832  
[www.lwvann Arbor.org](http://www.lwvann Arbor.org)

## Annual Report 2017-2018

*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.*

Distributed at the Annual Meeting  
May 15, 2018  
Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI

**League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area**

***2017-2018 Officers and Directors***

**LWV-AAA Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee**

Officers:

Co-President	Sally Allen
Co-President	Nancy Schewe
Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Education Fund	Barbara Brown
Secretary	Sue Smereck

Directors:

Program	Zoe Behnke
Outreach	Roxanne Chan
Candidate Forums	Jeanine DeLay
Advocacy	Carolyn Madden
Program	Joan Sampieri
Voter Service	Jennifer Schlicht
Communications	Susan Wooley
Representative	Jan Salsberry, Tecumseh Area

Nominating Committee:

Susan Baskett  
Paige Nong  
Susan Wooley – Board Appointed

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# *Annual Meeting Agenda*

*May 15, 2018*

Call to Order

Consent Agenda:

Adoption of Standing Rules and Agenda

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Approval of the Minutes of May 16, 2017

Treasurer's Report

Report from the Presidents

Sally Allen/ Nancy Schewe

Approval of Proposed Budget 2018-2019

Betty Bishop

Nominating Committee's Report

Susan Wooley

Election: Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Directions to the Board

Adjournment

## Standing Rules

1. Voting members must be registered by 7:15 p.m.
2. Members may speak to a motion for up to two minutes
3. No member shall speak to a motion for a second time until all members who wish to speak have been heard.

A majority of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for election of officers and directors, adoption of the recommended budget, and changes to the bylaws.

***League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area  
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting***

May 16, 2017

Call to order at 7:05 P.M. by President Nancy Schewe

Program: Doug Koop, Executive Director  
Legacy Land Conservancy  
Permanent Land Conservation in a Changing Landscape

Agenda

Members adopted the Standing Rules and Agenda

President Schewe appointed Sue Smith as Parliamentarian.

Approval of Minutes: The membership approved the Minutes of the Annual Meeting on May 24, 2016 as submitted without corrections.

President's Report: Nancy Schewe, is located in the 2016-2017 Annual Report. Highlights include:

1. Membership has grown nearly 500%
2. Reviewed the structure and purposes of the League of Women Voters at the local, state and national levels
3. League members registered voters at locations across the county
4. Betty Bishop and Nancy Schewe directed local participation in the Public Advocacy Voter Protection (PAPV) Project with training of 24 volunteers to watch five polling places
5. Vote411.org: the online voter's guide had 31,407 visits to the website
6. Organized or co-hosted 17 candidate for a, 2 issues for a, and 1 event.
7. Created our own YouTube channel.
8. League of Women Voters of Michigan Voter Guide: Sue Smereck coordinated the delivery of 6000 voter guides
9. Your Elected Officials brochure: following the election 5000 YEOs were delivered to sites around the county
10. Mentorship of a new League chapter in Tecumseh
11. Training and development of a team of 60 presenters for the LWVMI presentation "Should Politicians Choose Their Voters?"
12. Public events:

September	Participatory Budgeting
January	Taxes: Is the State Legislature playing fair with local government
February	Redistricting: What's Happening in Michigan?
April	National Popular Voter Compact Explained
May	Permanent Land Conservation in a Changing Landscape

Treasurer's Report: Betty Bishop, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and Budget. Betty Bishop moved the acceptance of the budget; the membership approved.

National LWV bylaws change. At the 2016 National LWVUS Convention the bylaws pertaining to Types of Membership were amended. Voting membership is now open to citizens as well as non-citizens and persons of 16 years of age or older.

Slate of Nominees for LWV-AAA Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee as presented by the 2016-2017 nominating Committee (Zoe Behnke, Mona Walz, and Sue Smith).  
Officers:

Co-President: Sally Allen  
Copresident: Nancy Schewe  
Treasurer: Betty Bishop  
Education Fund Treasurer: Barbara Brown  
Secretary: Sue Smereck

Directors

Zoe Behnke, Program  
Roxanne Chan, Member at Large  
Jeanine DeLay, Candidate Forums  
Carolyn Madden, Member at Large  
Jan Salsberry, Member at Large  
Susan Wooley, Communications

Nominating Committee:

Susan Basket  
Paige Nong

Sue Smereck moved that the slate be approved unanimously. The membership approved.

In Memoriam: Judith Greasley Mich was recognized for her many years of Service to the League of Women Voters Ann Arbor.

Honorary Life Members: The LWV-AAA recognized three Honorary Life Members for their 50 years of dedication and membership to this chapter.

Shirley Axon  
Mary Hathaway  
Bernice (Sunny) Morse

Adjournment: 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Pfoutz Smereck

## ***Presidents' Report***

We are incredibly proud of our accomplishments this year—registering over 700 high school students to vote, starting a bi-weekly radio program on WEMU, sponsoring a county-wide high school poster contest and so much more. There is no denying that the reason we were able to accomplish so much is the result of the nation-wide surge in civic engagement and recent school shootings that have motivated young people to make their voices heard. But all of this energy could have passed us by if LWV hadn't been in a state of preparedness to engage it and turn it to good use.

### **A Year of Building**

This year was a year of developing and guiding the many activities that were initiated by our energetic members. We continue to do the same kinds of activities we have always done—candidate forums, **VOTE411.org**, voter registration—but we were able to do so much more because we have so many people with great ideas and the talent to carry them out.

The challenge was to welcome new ideas and try different ways of doing things, while continuing to follow League principles and meet its mission. But the biggest challenge that the presidents faced was building an organizational structure to provide the support that all of the events and initiatives required. Many of the board members were new and we all had to work hard to bring order to an array of activities taking place under our banner. This challenge remains, but it is a delightful challenge.

As further testament to the appeal of LWV ideals, we welcomed a second startup League into the fold: the Brighton/Howell Geographical Unit. Geographical Units are start-up Leagues that become independent Leagues at the end of two years. We are thrilled that we now have two units: the Tecumseh Unit and the Brighton/Howell Unit. That is what we call building the League.

### **New Programs**

Here are some of the new programs that have emerged this year. Please be sure to read through the entire report for the details on these and other activities.

- A new geographical unit in the Brighton/Howell Area
- A radio program on WEMU—*In the Public Interest*
- A high school voter registration Project
- A high school poster contest
- An outreach program to register voters in marginalized communities
- Plans to march in the Ann Arbor Fourth of July Parade
- Promote the Vote: a petition drive for a ballot proposal to amend the Michigan Constitution to improve our voting system so that it works for everybody

### **Our continuing programs include:**

- Lunch & Learn
- Brews & Views
- Great Lakes Committee
- Voter Service Activities: Voter registration, [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), candidate forums, Get Out the Vote events, voter registration training
- Our newsletter

- Public forums this year:
  - Campaign Finance—The Role of Money in Michigan Politics
  - Line 5 and Other Challenges Impacting the Great Lakes
  - A Carbon "Price is Right": Harnessing the market to drive down carbon emission
  - Immigrant Prisons Series film

### **Advocacy**

We began our year with the focus on redistricting education and to date, our trained team has made over 60 presentations of an often-revised power point to over 1400 people. Once the petition gathering was complete, LWVMI came out in support of the ballot proposal initiated by Voters Not Politicians that calls for an independent commission to establish district lines.

In January the LWVMI joined with ACLU of Michigan, NAACP Detroit and other nonprofits and individuals to propose a constitutional amendment known as *Promote the Vote* to make voting more accessible and convenient, ensure that everyone's votes are secure and counted and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. A petition drive was launched in February with over 70 of our of our members currently collecting petition signatures.

### **Moving Forward**

The League moves ahead with a strong, engaged membership involved in important challenging work. With the approaching 2018 midterm elections, our board has made getting out the vote a priority. In addition, LWVUS and LWVMI continue to ask our local league to take action in response to the recent threats to our long established policy positions. We all need to continue to support the work of the League in whatever ways we are able—through our memberships, our time, our talent, our donations. Each and every volunteer hour supports our efforts to make a difference.

Thank you for being a member of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area.

Submitted by,  
Sally Allen and Nancy Schewe, Co-Presidents

### **Stepping Aside**

After serving as president or co-president of LWVAAA for seven years, I am stepping aside to make room for a new leadership team to take the helm. I do this assured in the knowledge that the League is in excellent shape. Our membership is strong. Our finances and organizational structure are solid. Our programs are responding to the needs in our community for voter education, voter registration, voter protection. And we are keeping an eye on the actions of our elected officials to make sure the result of their work is good governmental policy.

I have been proud of our accomplishments and humbled by the responsibility of safeguarding the reputation of the League of Women Voters, which was built on the diligent work of our predecessors. It is now time to step aside. I will continue to be involved with the League, but in a supporting role, not a leading role.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our mission.

Nancy Schewe

## *Treasurer's Report*

March 31, 2018

### **Fiscal year to date**

LWV-AAA fiscal year runs July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

This report uses rounded amounts from portions of two fiscal years, covering the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

### **COMERICA BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Balance March 31, 2017	\$ 21,543
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#### Income (major sources)

Dues	\$16,965
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Contributions	\$ 1,221
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Sales	\$ 1,897
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Drawn from Ed Fund	\$ 3,709
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#### Expenditures (major areas)

Administrative Costs	\$ 1,832
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Operating Costs (includes printing and t-shirts)	\$ 10,410
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State Convention	\$ 820
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PMP (Per Member Payment to LWVUS)	\$ 4,608
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PMP (Per Member Payment to LWVMI)	\$ 3,465
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Educational Activities/Voter Service	\$ 3,154
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Current Balance (March 31, 2018)	\$24,405
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### **OTHER ACCOUNTS**

Savings Account (including 2 CDs) now part of Savings/Memorial Fund

Savings/Memorial Fund	\$101,454
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Education Fund (through LWVUS)	\$ 878
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More specific details on year-to-date income and expenditures may be found in the proposed budget. The proposed budget for 2018-19 shows a comparison of actual income and expenditures with the current 2017-18 operating budget. Since the LWVAAA has a significant cash reserve (mostly due to large membership growth in 2017) some of that money can be used to help with expenses such as printing and advertising as needed. In the 2018-19 fiscal year attention will be given to the best ways to invest and use the Memorial Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Betty Bishop, Treasurer

***Education Fund Annual Report 2017-2018***

During the current LWV year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, the Education Fund was used to assist with funding for voter education about redistricting, YEOs and postcards for Voter 411 and Voter Registration information. This came to a total of \$3,708.59. Between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, contributions to the Education Fund totaled \$1,510.00. The Ed Fund balance as of April 1, 2018 was \$878.58.

Submitted by Barb Brown  
 Education Fund Treasurer

***Membership Report***

	May 2016	May 2017	May 2018
Individual Members	67	321	201
Household Members	12	79	40
Honorary Members	5	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>249</b>

Submitted by Rosemary Austgen

## ***Tecumseh Unit Report***

The Tecumseh Unit was formed a year ago, May of 2017, under the mentorship of the League of Women Voters/Ann Arbor. A core group of women met with the members of the Ann Arbor Board and the State Membership Chairman to discuss the feasibility of forming a geographical unit in Lenawee County with Tecumseh being the central locus for the group. The Unit met for the first time on June 15<sup>th</sup> with several women. At that meeting it was explained what a geographical unit was, the background and purpose of the League, and to formulate plans for promoting the League in Tecumseh and to set up programs for the remainder of the year.

Three main areas of focus were identified for the upcoming year and committees identified for these areas:

1. **EDUCATION:** As a result, events were scheduled for discussion including: Gerrymandering, Conservation, local County Clerk, Immigration, Promote the Vote and the County Commissioner. The venues were varied as was the time. Four were Lunch and Learn Events and the rest were held in the evening. All of these events were well attended.
2. **VOTER REGISTRATION and VOTER INFORMATION:** A Voter guide was developed with Tecumseh and Lenawee County Officials included with the State officials. This will be redone after the 2018 elections. To date all the high schools in Lenawee County have been contacted regarding a voter registration presentation. Several have responded and one team has already presented and registered seniors in one high school (five classes plus a registration table). There has been good response from both the students and teachers involved and more presentations are happening in May. Several of the League members from Tecumseh have been very active in obtaining signatures for the Promote the Vote petition,
3. **CANDIDATE FORUMS:** Members are currently attending workshops on Candidate forums to learn how to conduct a forum. Plans are to have a Candidate Forum for the City Council Elections this coming November.

In addition, several members attended the State Convention in East Lansing this past fall and several workshops on Voter Registration and Promote the Vote throughout the year. Other Ann Arbor events such as Brews and Views and Lunch and Learn presentations were also attended by the Tecumseh membership. Members have also been attending City Council meetings and becoming active in various events in Lenawee County that impact the political footprint.

The Tecumseh Unit currently has 22 very active members and hopes to grow in numbers and impact in the upcoming year. We are grateful to the Ann Arbor League for their continued encouragement and support and especially to our mentors; Zoe Behnke and Paula Manley.

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted by Jan Salsberry

## ***Brighton-Howell Unit Report***

What started as an informational luncheon at a Brighton restaurant in early December of 2017, with a group of 10 interested women meeting with Nancy Schewe and Christina Schlitt, turned into a geographical unit with 23 identified members from the area by mid-April of 2018. This initial meeting turned loose this dedicated group of women who met soon afterward to set their annual goals for 2018; register voters, redistricting forums, increase voter turnout and expand our membership in order to accomplish these goals. Since that December meeting, we've been identifying our point-persons who would lead the group to accomplish these difficult goals. With expanding membership, our communications team has created our webpage, Facebook page, Twitter account and has organized our email account with new and pending members sorted into the areas they've expressed interested in volunteering. The Facebook page has been invaluable in boosting our public forums. Our redistricting team has held two public forums with positive turn-out, accompanied by active audience participation. We hope to hold one more forum ahead of the November election in order to inform more of our local voters on the ballot initiative. The voter registration training was held in March, with four local high schools signed up for a youth registration days in late April and May. We will be sending league members along with one non-league member to assist the local clerks in prepping youth for their civic responsibility. The hope is to draw these nonmembers to joining the league once they've taken an active role in the league's mission. Finally, although it was not on our to-do list, was to align ourselves with Voter's Voice in Livingston County, to hold candidate forums for local elections. With the training offered by the Ann Arbor League, plus the Voter's Voice experience in hosting these events, we expect to combine forces with informing voters before they head to the polls in August and November. Nancy Schewe and Denise Hartshough have been valuable resources for our League, by providing information, direction and their vast experience with the LWV. We are grateful for their assistance in guiding us towards the day when we hope to be an independent League.

Submitted by Ellen Lafferty,  
Chair LWV of Ann Arbor, Brighton/Howell Unit

## ***Redistricting Education Project***

LWVAAA-trained speakers, on the need to change the way Redistricting is done in Michigan, made about 60 presentations to a total of about 1,412 people. We provided not only a speaker, but handouts, a powerpoint slide show, a projector and a screen; speakers used their own, or the venue's, computer. Some of the venues were district libraries, churches, and senior centers such as Glacier Hills and University Commons; others were private homes, schools, and even a couple of bars.

Submitted by Margaret Leary

## ***Communications Team (2017-18)***

These league volunteers manage the LWVAAA website, email, Facebook, publicity development and placement, video recording, and assist the newsletter editors. We keep members and supporters informed about League activities, help project leaders, find volunteers to join in, and tell the larger community about the League and what we do. A major development this year was the startup of a partnership with WEMU (89.1 FMOO) for bi-weekly 10 minute interviews about the League and especially the non-partisan election information we provide. The interviews are broadcast during the afternoon program “All Things Considered” with host Lisa Berry then available as a podcast. You can hear the first interview at <http://wemu.ort/post/public-interest-conversation-league-women-voters-ann-arbor-area>

Team members this year were:

Email: Myrna Hadwick, Chris Samida

Facebook: Julie Baker, Alina Dunlap

Graphic design: Holly Fischer, Ann Hendrick

Newsletter: Linda Jeffries, Susan Woodard, Barbara Beaton

Publicity: Mary Seelhorst, Lois Kramer, ErickaTerry

Video: Jessie Miller, Ron Miller, and Brian Greminger

Website Susan Wooley

WEMU Project: Grace Pang, Julia Caroff, Cheryl Depner

Submitted by Susan Wooley

## ***Great Lakes Committee***

The LWVAAA sponsored 4 events this past year related to education, especially about the treat that Line 5 poses to 740 miles of Michigan coastline by the daily transport of 22.5 million gallons of oil through the Straits of Mackinac. Here is a summary of our activities to date and planned:

- On June 21, 2017 we sponsored a presentation featuring a Republican and a Democratic Congressman, Dr. Dave Schwab, from the Graham Sustainability Institute showed why the Straits of Mackinac is the “worst place in the Great Lakes an oil spill could happen”, and Sean McBrearty from Oil and Water don’t Mix. The room of 100 at the downtown library was pretty full.
- On January 18, 2018 we had another presentation about Line 5 and other challenges to the Great Lakes with Dr. Eric Anderson from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and Liz Kirkwood from FLOW (For the Love of Water). Again the downtown library was pretty full. This event was co-sponsored with the AADL which gave us more publicity and more of the library’s support, like with videoing the event. Normally, NOAA does not allow videotaping of presentations. However because of the longstanding reputation of the LWV for being non-partisan, and exception was made which is of significant note.

- In our April 2018 committee meeting, we agreed to see about regular newsletter contributions for LWV-AAA. On April 26, 2018 Terri Wilkerson submitted a 3 paragraph article about Line 5 to Linda Jeffries for inclusion in the next LWV-AAA newsletter.
- On April 23, 2018 the day Line 5 turned 65, LWV-AAA and the geographic unit of the Brighton/ Howell Area co-sponsored a Line 5 “Retirement Party” at Terri Wilkerson’s Home in Pinckney. Oil & Water Don’t Mix coordinated 32 such parties across the country. There were 26 people who attended from Livingston and Washtenaw counties.
- July 2018 – Chair, Terri Wilkerson will be sponsored by LWV-BHA to attend the Water Advocacy Workshop being held by LWV-Lake Michigan, as well as the national convention. Terri is eager to connect with other LWV’s around issues impacting the Great Lakes.
- Fall 2018 – we are hoping to sponsor a community read of Death and life of the Great Lakes by Dan Eagan sometime this fall, as our next event.

In addition to Line 5, the Great Lakes Committee is studying invasive species, water diversions (like Nestle’s bottling), algal blooms, aging infrastructures for water and sewers, aquaculture (like proposed fish farms), and policy issues like the 3 bills proposed by Yousef Rabhi.

On a separate but related note, Terri continues to update her RetireLine5.org which is a single issue educational website which posted both LWV-AAA presentations, as well as a Facebook page called Retire Line 5 with timely updates.

Submitted by Terri Wilkerson

### ***Advocacy Annual Report: 2017-2018***

The LWV-AAA cosponsored a training for Promote the Vote with UUAA Indivisible with over 100 people in attendance.

The LWV-AAA cosponsored a film on Immigration Prisons produced by Brave New Films, a nonprofit media organization with the Dispute Resolution Center, Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Washtenaw Sanctuary Congregations, and the Social Justice Council of UUAA. The film was followed by a lively discussion lead by Melanie Harner, one of the founders of WICIR on the status of immigration prisons in the nation and in Michigan; and the status of the current community involvement in immigration issues and support in Washtenaw County.

At our March monthly meeting, the LWV-AAA Board participated in an undated study of Section 1.B of the LWVMI Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position. The LWV-AAA agreed to concur with the revised wording: "A person should be allowed to apply for or secure and renew a driver's license or obtain an identification card regardless of immigration status." There was much discussion concerning the vulnerability and security of the immigrant populations who might use this alternative driver's license and suggestions that this policy should be offered for other populations with similar challenges to accessing their citizenship papers, e.g. prisoners reentering or elderly population with little access to their birth certificates. We submitted our concurrence to the LWVMI Board.

Submitted by Carolyn Madden

## *Voter Service*

### Voter Registration for Underserved Populations

Voter registration efforts are being built through relationships with local organizations. We have developed an extensive list of potential partners that may want to offer voter registration and education to their communities. We have worked very closely with Nation Outside on advocacy, awareness and registration strategies. We are also scheduled to run two voter education and registration sessions with the Circles program run by Friends in Deed. Safehouse, Peace Neighborhood, Michigan Works, local libraries, Food Gatherers, Delonis Center, Groundcover, Ypsilanti Farmer's Market and Avalon

Housing are all primary focus points for our efforts. We are also planning to put together educational materials relevant to underserved communities and connect with AATA buses to increase awareness of voting rights over the summer of 2018.

Submitted by Paige Nong

### Outreach to Muslim Community

As part of a Public Advocacy/Voter Protection grant from LWVMI, LWVAAA embarked on a special program to build a partnership with a group with which we had not previously worked. We decided to reach out to the women in the Muslim community to hold an informational meeting on voting. The women of the Mosque hosted the meeting in the Sisters' Room at the Mosque in Ann Arbor in between Friday evening prayers. Two Muslim organizations— Empowering Engaged Muslim Americans (emgage) and the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)—joined the League in talking about voting: what is on the ballot, voting rights, and the signs of voter suppression. The evening was one of true fellowship and partnership and we now have friends to work with in the Muslim community.

Submitted by Nancy Schewe

### LWVAAA High School Voter Registration Project 2018

This is our first year registering high school students to vote and it has been very successful. We have visited most of the public high schools in Washtenaw County and a few private schools. At the end of May we will have registered over 800 students in 12 schools. The county clerks have come with us to each of the schools and verified each registration. This will allow the students to vote absentee if they are away from their homes in the fall.

At each school, we gave a short presentation that included information about the percentage of young people who vote, why voting is important, how to vote absentee and where to get information about the elections. We then registered students to vote with the help of the clerks.

The high school teachers and administrators have been welcoming, the students have been enthusiastic. We have plans to repeat the project every year in each school. We are most grateful to Dearborn LWV for sharing all that they have learned from the 5 years that they have been registering high school students.

In addition, high school students have invited LWVAAA to register students at 5 different demonstrations/marches that they have organized. The young people there have also been welcoming and grateful for our help.

We have established a partnership with WCC and will provide volunteers to help register students there in September 2018.

Submitted by Roddy Wares

### Get out the Voter 2018 Poster Contest

Young people around the country are highly motivated this year to participate in citizen activities. Our goal was to educate students on their power to persuade others, and to use the students' creativity and passion to create powerful and persuasive posters to get out the vote all over the county. Our committee started in early January developing a packet of information including an announcement, flyer, brochure, rules poster and entry form to support the *Vote 2018* theme. These packets were hand delivered to all the schools in the county, including many private schools and community centers.

Follow-up was provided to try to build interest and intensity leading up to the due date of April 26. A total of 104 posters were picked up on that date from 8 high schools – Chelsea, Dexter, Pioneer, Ypsilanti, Community, Huron, Saline and WAVE. A panel of five judges will receive digitized copies of each poster and a scoring rubric. Prizes range from \$50-\$500 and will be awarded on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 AM at the Pittsfield Branch Library .

We intend to use the posters in an all-out Get Out the Vote effort including exhibits of the posters at area libraries, registration events, the Art Fair and business lobbies. The winning poster will be reprinted and distributed throughout the county and also be in over 100 AATA buses in October and November!

We have a fabulous team working on this project – Kathie Weinmann, Linda Peck, Jim Schulz, Chris Samida and Fran Lyman. We are grateful for our invaluable partners - Kelly Parkinson from Allegra Printing in Saline, Kristin Howard of the UPS Store of Ypsilanti, Mary Stasiak from AATA and our many sponsors.

Submitted by Nan Elder

## VOTE411.org

Our online voter guide, VOTE411.org, contained information on every single race and proposal across the entire county and up through the national races: village, city, township, library district, school district, county, state and nation. We had a record number of visits to the site as well, with 31,407 voters looking to the League for balanced, nonpartisan information to help them make informed choices at the polls.

## Your Elected Officials Brochure

Following the 2016 election, we revised, printed and delivered 5000 YEOs to district libraries and senior residences across the county

Submitted by Nancy Schewe

## Candidate Forums

The Board would like to thank Janine DeLay for the outstanding job she has done in coordinating the candidate and issue forums for the last eight years. During those eight years, she has expanded the program beyond Ann Arbor officials to include Washtenaw County Officials, the Washtenaw Community College Board, the Ann Arbor District Library Board, and the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board. She has also organized forums in Chelsea and Ypsilanti for City Council and State Representatives. Her most daring venture was planning a forum at Connor O'Neill's and getting five candidates running for United States House of representatives to attend. In the last two years she has reached out to high school debate teams to present the the pros and cons of the AA City Council Term Change Proposal, the Ypsilanti Water Street Millage Proposal, and the Washtenaw County Mental Health Millage Proposal. These debates were then available for the public.

We gratefully welcome Donna Crudder who is assuming this position. She is busy preparing for the forums addressing candidates and issues for the 2018 primary and general elections.

## ***Programs***

### Lunch and Learn

LWV-AAA began offering informational fourth Friday lunches each month but August and December at the Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse last year. Over sandwiches and salads, fruit and cookies, we've tackled a wide variety of issues.

In the beginning, we met in a room that would accommodate about 18 people but quickly outgrew it; now we can seat up to 30! We've learned from excellent speakers on topics that included *Solving Climate Change: A Plant That is Simple, Effective and Feasible*; *Raise the Age: Prohibit the Prosecution of Youth as Adults*; *The Great Lakes: Great Times and Great Challenges*; *The State of*

*Education in Washtenaw County; Protecting Each and Every Vote: Voter Access in the Age of the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity, and Sexual Harassment. Last September, we held a group book review of The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America that opened our eyes and led to a lengthy discussion of race in our country.*

In January we took up the history of women's suffrage in the United States, and along the way, learned a lot about other groups in our country who struggled to achieve enfranchisement. April brought a Bingo game where we guessed the earliest and latest countries to allow women's suffrage and took a tour of citizenship and voting around the world. Did you know that only 22 countries offer birthright citizenship? Do you know why the United States is one of those countries?

We'd love to have you join us for in-depth discussions over an inexpensive lunch. You'll find information in the monthly newsletter, on the League's calendar, and in special emails. In May we'll host Larry Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County Clerk, who will talk about all manner of voting issues. In June, we'll hold another book discussion; this time it will be *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, and in June, we'll hear from an author about weaving women's history into works of historical fiction.

Submitted by Joan Sampieri and Dee Dishon

## Brews & Views

Brews & Views began in June 2017 as a monthly evening education series with the goal of engaging in a wide variety of topics relevant to our community, democracy and current events. We have hosted sessions every month with the exception of December 2017 with attendance ranging from 15-45 attendees. Over time we have been increasingly successful at connecting with the broader community and hope to continue this work by building lasting relationships with the organizations we have featured over the last year.

### 1. Topics

- a. Voter registration for community partners- families in poverty
- b. Voter registration for community partners- the formerly incarcerated
- c. Mass incarceration and race
- d. The role of white people in ending white supremacy
- e. Criminal justice reform in Michigan
- f. Inclusive collaboration and intergenerational activism
- g. Immigration policy and its impact in Washtenaw County
- h. Civic engagement and its future in Ann Arbor
- i. Affordable housing in Ann Arbor
- j. Gerrymandering and redistricting

### 2. Attendance

- a. Has varied, primarily based on weather. Lowest attendance was about 15 people for sessions a, c and h above when the weather was bad. Sessions b and d were the highest attended with about 45 attendees each. Remaining sessions had about 30 attendees each.

### 3. Future

- a. Promote the Vote evening in May
- b. Gerrymandering ballot proposal update, next steps in June
- c. Muslim voter engagement in July (tentative)

Submitted by Paige Nong

## League Studies

LWV-AAA participated in the LWV-MI Government Finance Study, the purpose of which was to update its current position on taxation and budgeting in Michigan. LWV-MI provided us with a power point on government financing in Michigan, consensus questions, and background information for each of the questions. We were also given a response form on which to report our results.

Our League co-sponsored a public forum with the Ann Arbor District Library on January 26, 2017 titled: *Taxes: Is the State Legislature Playing Fair with Local Governments?* Sue Smith, LWV-MI VP, presented the power point, which was followed by a panel of financial officers from different levels of local government.

Washtenaw County: Gregory Dill, County Administrator

City of Ann Arbor: Tom Crawford, Chief Financial Officer

Pittsfield Township: Mandy Grewal, Township Supervisor

The panelists described how the Michigan Legislature's revenue sharing policies and budgets have affected their city, county, or township and how they were meeting those challenges.

On Saturday, February 4th, League members spent two hours discussing the consensus questions and deciding whether to respond Yes, No, or No Consensus to each. We also had the option of sending in comments on each question.

Delegates at the 2017 LWV-MI Biennial Convention will vote on the recommended update to our position on Government Finance.

Submitted by Nancy Schewe



## *Slate of Nominees*

2018-19 Slate of Candidates for:

LWV-AAA Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Officers:

President	Sue Smith
Vice President	Joan Sampieri
Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Secretary	Sue Smereck

Directors:

Advocacy	Carolyn Madden
Voter Service	Donna Crudder
Membership	Barbara Brown
Communications	Susan Wooley
Program	Barbara Billings
Member at Large	Sally Allen

Representative	Jan Salsberry, Tecumseh Area
Representative	Ellen Lafferty, Brighton/Howell Area

Nominating Committee:

Dee Dishon  
Gwynne Fisher

Submitted by 2017-18 Nominating Committee

Susan Basket  
Paige Nong  
Susan Wooley (Board Appointed)

## **LWVAAA THANKS ITS MANY DONORS**

Our League has been able to accomplish our goals and support our services and programs with the help of many community sponsors that give monetary and in-kind gifts. Following is a list of individuals, businesses and organizations that have generously supported us this past year:

### **Meeting and Event Space:**

Bank of Ann Arbor  
Mary and Will Hathaway – Hathaway’s Hideaway  
Dick and Norma Sarns – NuStep, Inc.  
Ann Arbor District Library  
Howell Carnegie Public Library  
Tecumseh District Library  
Brighton Public Library  
Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center  
Cedars of Dexter  
HOMES Brewery  
Alley Bar  
NewPort West Condominiums  
Pointless Brewery & Theater  
CTN Studios

### **Goods and Services:**

The Garden Mill  
Pizza House  
Zingermans Bakehouse  
Allegra Printing  
Kolossos  
UPS of Ypsilanti  
AATA

### **Donations to High School Poster Contest Award:**

Lois Maharg and Eric Burton  
Mona Walz  
Alley Bar  
Knight’s Market  
Bank of Ann Arbor  
Sesi Motors  
Varsity Ford

### **Your Elected Officials (YEO)**

Bank of Ann Arbor

**LWVAAA Members Honors**

**LONG SERVING BOARD MEMBERS**

Nancy Schewe

Zoe Behnke

Jeanine DeLay