



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Ann Arbor Area
P.O. Box 3832 · Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832
www.lwvannarbor.org

Annual Report 2018-2019

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 14, 2019
Touchstone Common House, Ann Arbor, MI

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

2018-2019 Officers and Directors

Board Members

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

Directors

Program	Barbara Billings
Communications	Susan Wooley
Membership	Barbara Brown
Voter Services	Donna Crudder
Advocacy	Carolyn Madden
Tecumseh Unit	Jan Salsberry
Brighton/Howell Unit	Ellen Lafferty
Development	Diana Neering

2018-19 Nominating Committee

Susan Wooly (Board Appointed)
Paige Silence
Dee Dishon (Chairperson)

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League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area Annual Meeting
May 14, 2019
Agenda

Call to Order	Sue Smith
Appointment of Parliamentarian	
Approval of Agenda and Standing Rules	
Approved Annual Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2018	
Treasurer's Report	Betty Bishop
President's Report	Sue Smith
Proposed Budget, 2019-2020	Joan Sampieri
Proposed Amendments to Bylaws	Susan Wooley
Report of Nominating Committee	Dee Dishon
Election of 2019-2020 Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee	Sue Smith
Adjournment	

Standing Rules

1. Voting members must be registered by 7:15 pm.
2. Members may speak to a motion for up to two minutes.
3. No member shall speak more than once to a motion 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, directors and members of the nominating committee, adoption of the budget, and amendments to the bylaws.

League of Women Voters Of the Ann Arbor Area

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Kerrytown Concert House

May 15, 2018

Call to Order by Nancy Schewe, co-president, at 7:10 P.M

Program: Neutral Zone presented a poetry slam with Mary Raynor introducing the student poets who were moving and very talented.

Kyndall Flowers

Samiksha Sneha

Serena Varner

Julius Holstein

Welcome by:

Nancy Schewe

Introduction of LWVAAA Board members:

Co-presidents:

Sally Allen and Nancy Schewe

Treasurer:

Betty Bishop

Education Fund:

Barbara Brown

Secretary:

Susan Smereck

Directors:

Program

Zoe Behnke

Outreach

Roxanne Chang

Advocacy

Carolyn Madden

Program

Joan Sampieri

Voter Service

Jennifer Schlict

Communications

Susan Wooley

Representative

Jan Salsberry, Tecumseh Area Unit

Ellen Lafferty, Brighton/ Howell

Unit

Nominating Committee:

Susan Baskett

Paige Nong

Susan Wooley (Board appointed)

Consent Agenda was approved unanimously by members.

Adoption of the Standing Rules and Agenda

Appointment of a Parliamentarian:

Sue Smith

Approval of the Minutes of May 16, 2017 as submitted

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

Acceptance of the committee/ group reports as submitted.

Presidents' Report

Sue Smith

“Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy” is the League’s mission. This past year, our local League certainly put that into practice.

Our members:

- Registered voters in high schools and senior living centers, at libraries, parades, and community events.
- Educated voters on candidates and ballot proposals through candidate forums, the League’s on-line voter guide: vote411, and town halls.
- Encouraged citizens to vote by distributing winning posters from the League’s high school student GOTV poster contest.
- Gathered petition signatures for and supported a successful voting rights ballot proposal campaign that amended the state Constitution.
- Supported a ballot proposal creating an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- Co-sponsored a fund raiser for the state League’s redistricting lawsuit.

We continued to welcome League members in our two geographic units: Tecumseh (Lenawee County) and Brighton/Howell (Livingston County). League members in these units have also registered voters and educated voters through candidate forums, vote411 and town halls in their communities. They too, collected signatures for proposal three, the voting rights amendment to the state Constitution.

Going forward, we are preparing for the 2020 Census and the 2021 redrawing of voting district maps. The League will be educating the public on the 2020 Census and the importance of their participating. As a result of the passage of proposal two last fall a new Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) will draw the lines following the 2020 Census. We will be educating citizens about the IRC and how to apply to be on the commission.

A volunteer Observer Corps consisting of trained League members will observe selected governmental meetings and report their observations to the League. This effort will enable us to be more aware of opportunities for local advocacy as well as provide League members with information on how various units of our government work and what issues they are addressing.

Of course, we are also getting ready to register and educate voters in preparation for the 2020 Election. Voter service will continue to be an important part of our work as it has been since the League was founded almost 100 years ago.

We look forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Along with many other organizations in Washtenaw County, the League is hard at work developing a variety of ways to recognize this important milestone. Since the League was founded following the passage of the 19th Amendment, we will also be celebrating our 100th birthday.

Submitted by Susan Smith, President

Treasurer's Report

Betty Bishop

March 31, 2019

Fiscal year to date

LWV-AAA fiscal year runs July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

This report uses rounded amounts from portions of two fiscal years, covering the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

COMERICA BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance March 31, 2018 \$ 24,405

Income (major sources)

Dues	\$21,222
Gifts	\$ 3,137
Sales	\$ 2,419
Drawn from Ed Fund	\$ 1,943

Expenditures (major areas)

Administrative Costs	\$ 1,419
Operating Costs (includes printing and t-shirts)	\$ 6,439
National Convention (2018)	\$ 5,252
State Convention (2019)	\$ 2,090
PMP (Per Member Payment to LWVUS)	\$ 5,484
PMP (Per Member Payment to LWVMI)	\$ 4,205
Educational Activities/Voter Service	\$ 4,001
Support to LWVMI (lawsuit)	\$ 5,000

Current Balance (March 31, 2019) \$ 25,667

Savings/Memorial Fund \$ 95,984

Education Fund (through LWVUS) \$ 40,726

More specific details on year-to-date income and expenditures may be found in the proposed budget. The proposed budget for 2019-20 shows a comparison of actual income and expenditures with the current 2018-19 operating budget. Since the LWVAAA has a significant cash reserve (mostly due to large membership growth) some of that money can be used to help with expenses such as printing and advertising as needed. In the 2019-20 fiscal year attention will be given to the best ways to invest and use the Memorial Fund.

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area
BUDGET 2019-2020

	Year To Date	Budget	BUDGET
	7/1/2018-	2018-	
	3/31/2019	19	2019-20
INCOME			
Dues 70 indiv./100 hshld/10 stu	19,030	14,000	18,000
Gifts	2,692	600	2,500
Grants	1,550	400	400
Your Elected Officials YEO	0	400	200
Sales	1,515	1,000	1,000
Interest	19	20	20
Drawn from Ed Fund	1,943	775	3,800
Transfer from Reserves	5,000	9,965	4,895
TOTAL INCOME	31,749	27,160	30,815
EXPENSES			
Administrative Costs			
Annual Report	0	100	100
Constant Contact	588	700	700
Domain Name	20	20	20
Insurance thru LWV-MI	100	250	250
Copyright Fees	474	0	0
P. O. Box	70	75	70
PayPal Charges	266	250	250
Technology	0	0	300
Web Host thru LWV-CA	250	400	400
SUBTOTAL	1,768	1,795	2,090
Operating Costs			
Art Fair Expenses	37	200	200
Board Tools & Supplies	279	200	300
Meeting Expenses	125	1,700	1,800
Videography	170	1,000	500

Postage	243	100	300
Printing	2,345	5,000	3,000
T-Shirt/Other Purchases	1,170	1,000	1,000
SUBTOTAL	4,369	9,200	7,100
Conventions/Workshops			
National Convention 2020	1,817	0	3,000
State Convention 2019	2,090	2,000	
Workshops		500	500
SUBTOTAL	3,907	2,500	3,500
LWV Support			
LWV US (PerMembPmt)	5,584	6,304	8,000
LWV MI (PMP)	4,205	4,531	5,700
Lake Michigan LWV	25	30	25
Brighton-Howell Unit	250	500	500
Tecumseh Unit	347	500	500
Donation to LWVMI -- donation	5,000	0	0
SUBTOTAL	15,411	11,865	14,725
Educational Activities/Ed Fund support			
Candidate Forums	0	100	100
Centennial celebrations	0	0	2,500
Program Committees	1,424	400	0
Vote 411	75	100	100
Voter advertising	1,096	500	500
Your Elected Officials YEO	0	600	200
SUBTOTAL	2,595	1,700	3,400
Miscellaneous		100	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	28,050	27,160	30,815

Betty Bishop
Treasurer

Education Fund Annual Report 2018-2019

During the current LWV year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, the Education Fund was used to assist with funding for voter education, the high school poster contest, and voter registration activities. This came to a total of \$1,943. Between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, contributions to the Education Fund totaled \$41,791. The Ed Fund balance as of April 1, 2019 was \$40,726.

In early 2019 the Education Fund account received a wonderful and very generous gift of \$40,000 from the Speyer Foundation, set up by Judy and Tom Mich. The Speyer Foundation was established by Judy and Tom Mich in 2000 with the mission at its termination to be used in their memory and in fulfillment of the Speyer Foundation's motto: "be well, do well, do good". Judy was the Treasurer of LWVAAA for more than 20 years. She passed away in February 2017 and was preceded in death by her husband, Tom. LWVAAA is very grateful for this very generous gift which will be used for voter education, voter registration, public education, and similar activities which support our mission "To Empower Voters and Defend Democracy".

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Bishop

Membership Report

As of 2018-year end, we had 381 members. It dropped to 276 at the beginning of 2019, but membership has now risen to 319.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Austgen

Tecumseh Unit Report

The Tecumseh Unit is now into its second full year and has become the Tecumseh/Lenawee County Unit with members from Adrian, Onsted, Addison, Manitou Beach as well as Tecumseh. We currently have 27 involved members. During this past year members were very active in registering seniors in nine of our eleven high schools (over 150 students) as well as table registration at county events. A successful Candidate Forum was held in Tecumseh for the School Board Election which was a highly contentious race. Almost two hundred residents attended the Forum and the response to how the Forum was run was extremely positive.

In addition, the Unit spearheaded several events throughout the County to present the proposals coming up on the November Ballot. Lunch and Learn events were held on: Campaign Finances; What's on Your Ballot; and Voter Rights and issues with registration procedures. All of the Lenawee County Officials who were up for election in 2019 were placed in the Vote11.org Data Base, a Herculean Task!

After the 2019 Election, the members decided to focus in on local issues and officials. A new Your Elected Officials guide has been printed with updates from the 2019 Election with the knowledge that all of Lenawee County Elected Officials will be up for re-election in 2020. Consequently, our focus in our current event presentations have been as follows:

- Newly elected Probate Court Judge Catherine Sala spoke on the Court System in Lenawee County
- David Stimpson, the County Commissioner for Tecumseh and the Head Commissioner for Lenawee County talked about the roles and duties of a County Commissioner and the needs of the County from his view.
- Roxann Holloway, County Clerk is speaking in April on the new voter registration changes resulting from the Passage of Proposal 3; and all things “voter registration”.
- May 25th we are hosting an event at Hidden Lakes Gardens on the Lenawee County Ecosystem with two speakers covering both water and land issues. Attendees to the event can get into the Gardens free to hear the speakers and to tour the Gardens.

Members will be attending the State Convention on May 17th with a special interest in the workshops on Saturday. In addition, members still continue to observe Council and Board meetings throughout the County.

The Tecumseh/Lenawee County Unit is also looking ahead at becoming a MAL Unit and to that end we have elected officials and are working on By-Laws, Budget, and other policies. Ann Arbor League still continues to be an encouraging and supportive mentor, thanks to Nancy Schewe and Paula Manley.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Salsberry,

Brighton-Howell Unit Report

It’s been a successful year for the Brighton/Howell unit in Livingston County.

During the 2018 year, the LWV-AAA, Brighton/Howell Area is proud to have co-hosted two candidate forums, reached over 8,500 residents using VOTE411, registered to vote over 400 high school seniors, and hosted eight public forums intent on educating voters on issues from protecting our water system to meeting their elected officials.

Our social media has helped us keep readers up-to-date on LWV updates at the State and National level, while keeping the 40 registered members in our county informed on what’s next for the Brighton/Howell Area.

So far in 2019, we’ve hosted Livingston County Chief Judge, the Honorable Miriam A. Cavanaugh covering the county court system, chemical analyst Dr. Steven Brown who covered a thorough presentation on the threat of PFAS in the Huron River watershed, County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley, elections coordinator Joe Bridgman and deputy clerk Kristi Cox, who covered the roles and responsibilities of the Livingston County clerk’s office along with updates to election laws as a result of the passing of Proposal 3 in November.

While also registering high school students throughout April and May, we are planning our Spring Membership Meeting to line up our volunteers in preparation for 2020. We look forward to seeing our fellow members at the LWV-MI Annual Convention in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Lafferty

Advocacy

This year the AAA League of Women Voters responded to the State League's call for State Planning. After studying the national and state public policy positions, four members of the local league recommended to the local Board to continue supporting our current positions. Report was forwarded to the State Board. We also recommended that the following year we provide forums and events to promote some of the positions related to health care, gun safety and justice reform.

At the start of every new legislative session, the Advocacy Committee and the State Board ask the local League to interview State Representative and State Senators to help establish relationships that are crucial to the League's advocacy efforts. We have set up interviews with representatives from Livingston, Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties with constituents of the respective legislators and members of our AAA League. Reports will be sent to the Advocacy Committee and State Board.

This month, Lisa Berry focused on the advocacy work of the League in her bi-weekly 10 minute interview about the League. The interview will be available as a podcast at <http://wemu.ort/post/public-interest-conversation-league-women-voters-ann-arbor-area>

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Madden

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 (2018-19)

These hard-working League volunteers manage the LWVAAA newsletter, website, email, Facebook, publicity development and placement, and video recording. We keep members and supporters informed about League activities and tell the larger community about the League and what we do. Our partnership with WEMU (89.1FM) for bi-weekly 10-minute interviews continues with great success. The interviews are broadcast during the afternoon program “All Things Considered” with host Lisa Barry and later available as a podcast. The league website lwvannarbor.org has an archive of interviews.

Team members this year were:

Email Database: Myrna Hadwick

Facebook: Alina Dunlap, Pat Smolarski

Newsletter: Linda Jeffries, Susan Woodard, Barbara Beaton

Publicity: Mary Seelhorst, Lois Kramer

Signup Genius: Jeff Bieszki, Anne Jackson

Video: Jesse Miller, Ron Miller, Brian Greminger

Website: Susan Wooley

WEMU Project: Grace Pang, Julia Caroff, Cheryl Depner

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wooley

Voter Service

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The LWVAAA sponsored forums in both the primary (13) and the general election (18). Both state and local candidates were included, and third party candidates were included as well. Although we were not sure what the criteria the League uses to include candidates except to say we invited candidates who appeared on the ballot.

We are also somewhat limited in that we televise live all forums and debates on Community Television Network (CTN) and have geographical boundaries imposed by the station. As you can see, we were able to do 31 forums so we did not suffer too greatly! These included races for Ann Arbor mayor, council people, school boards; State Reps, State Senators; Washtenaw County Commissioners, District Court #14A judges, US House of Reps and Ypsilanti Mayor, Council people as well as their School board race.

Twenty-seven forums were televised live and then run intermittently on CTN up to the election. All of them were recorded so that they were available on U-tube through the Ann Arbor Area League as well as CTN. All of them were available on our website. The press (MLIVE) did cover several of the forums pertaining to Ann Arbor City council primaries. We also covered the two ballot proposals in debate format with local high school student participation, televised by CTN.

We have spent a great deal of time tabulating materials from our first year on board and creating more organization. We are also using many of the new activities the League is sponsoring for our own end purposes. We are involved in the Observer Corp so that we can have key people attending important city/county meetings to learn their issues in anticipation of creating the questions for the forums. We are participating in Chelsea with the high school students to explore the possibility of a ‘little league’ forming to include younger people in the forums, both with questions, participation in future debates and creating a cadre of new members to carry on the ambitious forum goals! We also are looking at State Policy Issues to see if they would warrant closer study (groups) to continue to inform us of what is going on legislatively. We have energy and dedication AND WE HAVE A PLAN!

At the end of 2018 and the tremendous effort by members/volunteers of the League to make the forums the success they were, we entered 2019 with a mixture of both relief (a breather!) and beginning plans for (primarily) 2020!

Voter Registration for Underserved Populations

Voter registration efforts were being built through relationships with local organizations. We developed an extensive list of potential partners who could offer voter registration and education to their communities. We have worked very closely with Nation Outside on advocacy, awareness and registration strategies. We also ran 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 also 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

High School Poster Contest: STUDENT ART INSPIRES

High school students across Washtenaw County were invited to participate in a juried competition with their original art poster themed “Vote 2018”. One hundred and seven students from 8 high schools submitted posters to our 5-person jury of volunteer artists, art teachers and professionals. They selected 10 winners.

The award ceremony was held in June, taped and broadcast by CTN. Winners were awarded \$500 first prize, \$250 second, \$100 third and 7 \$50 honorable mentions, with an audience of their teachers and families and friends, League members, contest sponsors and jurors.

All of the posters were exhibited at county public libraries starting late in the summer and until election day — Chelsea, Salem-South Lyon, Saline, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor libraries participated. AAATA also donated space on their 100+ buses for the winning poster in October and early November.

It took a Village: over 1,000 copies of the top 3 posters were printed and distributed during the 2-3 weeks prior to the election in targeted, low voter-turnout precincts around the

county. Volunteers from LWV, friends and their families, students from the two major universities and WCCC, Jewish Cultural Society. We counted a minimum of 72 volunteers — we don't know the number of students participating at the universities and WCCC.

Fundraising brought in \$1800, which does not include the donated services.

Committee: Kathie Weinman, Jim Schulz, Linda Peck, Chris Samida, Fran Lyman, Nan Elder. Joining us to accomplish the library exhibits and distribution were Nancy Karp, Paige Silence, Barbara Brown and Barbara Billings.

Donations:

Alley Bar, Bank of Ann Arbor, Knights, Sesi Motors, Varsity Ford, Posters Plus, Plum Market, UPS Carpenter Road, Whitman Graphics, Allegra Printing, Judith Banker, musician; Ann Harlow, musician and realtor; AAATA. Many others contributed their skills and time. Truly a Village effort. Huge thanks to all for making this contest such a happy success!

Thank you to all who participated!

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Elder

LWVAAA High School Voter Registration Project 2018-2019

The LWVAAA 2018 High School Voter Registration project was a huge success. We visited 14 high schools in Washtenaw County, including almost all of the public high schools. We registered 1170 high school students: 1086 in the schools and 84 at demonstrations organized by students.

So far, in 2019, we have visited all but one of the public high schools and our numbers are 10% higher than last year. Teacher and students have been enthusiastic and appreciative.

Students want their voices Heard!

Washtenaw Community College asked us to help register their students in the last three weeks before the 2018 voter registration deadline. Forty-nine volunteers filled 96 two-hour volunteer slots. We registered 399 people.

Both efforts were so successful that WCC and the schools invited us back in 2019 and we are on track to make them annual events. Because the presidential primaries are in March next year, we plan to visit high schools next fall.

Roddy Wares

Voter Information

Volunteers worked to assist in provision of voter information by providing candidate information for VOTE411.org and Voter Guides. In 2018, 6600 Voter Guides were distributed around the Ann Arbor area as well as many VOTE 411.org bookmarks to direct people to the League of Women Voters Website.

VOTE411.org Report

LWVAAA was joined by both the Brighton/Howell Geographic Unit and the Tecumseh Geographic Unit in publishing online voter guides in 2018, which provided information to voters across Washtenaw, Livingston, and Lenawee Counties. The guides contained information on every race and ballot proposal on the ballot in all three counties.

A growing number of candidates are completing the VOTE411 questionnaire each election.

Beginning in 2019, the Brighton/Howell and Tecumseh units will each have a separate VOTE411.org account.

2018 VOTE411 Usage January 1 - November 6 (# of users)

Lenawee County	Livingston County	Washtenaw County	TOTAL
1897	8505	69928	80330

Submitted by Nancy Schewe

Programs

Lunch and Learn Programs

LWV-AAA began offering informational fourth Friday lunches each month but August and December at the Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse in the spring of 2017; it was Nancy Schewe's brainchild. Over sandwiches and salads, fruit and cookies, we've tackled a wide variety of issues and had some really interesting discussions.

We've learned from excellent speakers on topics that included a look at voting issues with Larry Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County Clerk. We hosted Washtenaw County Sheriff, Jerry Clayton, who helped us understand the role of the sheriff, talked about mental health and incarceration, and spoke on his office's interaction with ICE. Barbara Ryan Fuller, one of three commissioners on the Washtenaw County Roads Commission gave us insight into the commission's work as it affects our county.

We had a preview of a new undertaking by the League: the Observer Corps which will train League members to monitor the workings of all levels of our county and local governments. The Corps will help us determine issues, and look at appropriate questions for our forums. Michigan has received one of the lowest ratings for transparency of all states – the League's work is intended to shed more light on government operations as we defend our democracy.

Last June, we held a group book review of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* and discussed how enfranchisement in 1920 didn't mean every woman would have the right to vote.

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 be reading and discussing *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR'S Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience* by Kirstin Downey. In June,

Catherine McClary, the Washtenaw County Treasurer will offer insight into her role in our county. In July, we'll host League member, Margaret Leary, who will take us through the importance of the 2020 Census and talk with us about the League's involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sampieri and Dee Dishon

Formation of a LWVAAA Observer Corps

As *Defenders of Democracy*, observers are local (and sometimes national) League members who attend the meetings of their area's governments: city and township boards of trustees or council meetings, county commission meetings, library board and park board or zoning and planning meetings, and perhaps the water/sewer authority board or the roads commission. They take notes, listen to the discussions, especially as they relate to League positions, and watch that Sunshine Laws are being followed. Observers are asked to fill out a report on how the meeting was run, what the issues were, and if there are matters that the League should address. They don't comment during these meetings unless the sponsoring League has authorized comments on a specific issue.

In its training booklet for observers, the League of Women Voters of the US talks about the reasons for forming an Observer Corps:

Observer programs benefit the observers, the organization...and the community... by looking at how an observer program can benefit the larger community, the program's range and scope of influence can be better understood...:

- *Creating a civically engaged and empowered cadre of watchdogs;*
- *Connecting individuals (observers and others with whom their observations are shared) with government;*
- *Promoting open, transparent and accountable government;*
- *Connecting elected/appointed officials with their constituents;*
- *Educating the public about issues impacting their communities and their lives; and*
- *Identifying areas where action or improvement is needed."*

We invite you to join us in our newest endeavor to serve the League's mission to encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Our first training session will be held in June (date to be determined), listed on the calendar, and posted as a Signup Genius.

Submitted by Joan Sampieri

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 few exceptions. Attendance has usually ranged 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige Nong

Development Annual Report

Development is a new effort for the League of Women Voter AAA which can give us the resources to be more effective and agile in addressing our mission of: Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.

We will educate our Board and members about Development and Fundraising and how everyone can be part of the LWVAAA receiving gifts and support for our goals.

Fundraising and Development work together. We need both to be successful. Importantly, fundraising is essential as we seek to meet annual goals and budget pressure. Development is important to reaching our more aspirational and impactful goals and securing the future stability of the organization.

The planning is underway which includes: setting goals; reviewing our solicitation and communication plans; developing a calendar for Development; and recruiting committee members.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Neering

Slate of Nominees

2019-20 Slate of Candidates for:

LWV-AAA Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Officers:

President: Joan Sampieri

Vice President: Donna Crudder

Treasurer: Betty Bishop

Secretary: Sue Smereck

Directors:

Roxane Chan, Program

Geoff Smereck, Voter Service.

Carolyn Madden, Advocacy

Diana Neering, Development

Susan Wooly, Communications

Barb Brown, Membership

Jan Salsberry, Tecumseh Unit

Ellen Lafferty, Brighton/ Howell Unit

Nominating Committee:

Dee Dishon (Chair)

Paige Silence

Submitted by 2017-18 Nominating Committee

Dee Dishon (Chair)

Paige Silence

Susan Wooley, Board Appointed

LWV-AAA

2019-2020 Slate of Officers and Directors

Submitted by Nominating Committee:

Dee Dishon, Chair; Paige Silence; Susan Wooley, Board Liaison

President – Joan Sampieri

I've been a Michigan resident since 2012, joined the LWVAAA in 2016, and was appointed to the board in 2017. With League member Dee Dishon, I have run the Lunch and Learn Series since the spring of 2017 and have presented to the group on topics such as the history of voting rights in the U.S. and the world, and the background of the Equal Rights Amendment. Recently, I convened the committee that will teach and oversee the workings of the Ann Arbor League's Observer Corps.

I own a business that works with not-for-profits and have taught college-level classes in board development, grant writing, nonprofit finance, and fundraising. I've served on nonprofit boards since 1976 and am currently the Treasurer for a North American Quaker organization, Friends General Conference.

I am the mother of four grown children and share a home in Bridgewater Township with my youngest daughter, Jennifer Fairfield, who is also a League member. I am an avid genealogist, and a voracious reader.

Vice President – Donna Crudder

Donna Hanley Crudder came of 'age' in the 60's and 70's, attending schools in Chicago and Detroit, culminating in a BA from the University of Michigan. She raised 2 strapping boys, volunteering for every event, club and non-profit she could get her arms around. She began her real work life in her late 30's and worked on education (EMU and WCC), the non-profit world, business (Ford Motor Company), and government. She was lucky to have travelled extensively throughout the world (Japan, Europe, India, etc.) in her business life, all in the name of Organizational Development.

The League, Retirement and the 2016 Election all converged to give her a new lease on life as she faced retirement. And the rest is history!

Secretary – Sue Smereck

I was a member of the LWV as a young woman in Toledo, Ohio in the 1970's; yet I lost touch due to marriage, family and work. I joined LWVAAA in 2015. I have learned so much by assisting with many activities including program logistics, arranging delivery of the printed Voter Guides in 2016 and 2018, moderating and timing at the Candidate Forums (often with my husband Geoff), collecting signatures for Proposal 3 for the 2018 election, delivering some of the high school Get Out the Vote winning posters to local businesses and voter registration. Since 2017 I have served on the Board as Secretary. I have thoroughly enjoyed working so many people committed to our democracy in a non-partisan way.

Treasurer – Betty Bishop

Betty Bishop has been a member of the LWVAAA since 1991 and Treasurer since 2017. She is a retired clinical psychologist and enjoys traveling, gardening, and bird watching. Her mother was active in the local League from about 1952 until 1979.

Director of Program – Roxane Chan

Roxane first joined the League when she worked at the Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Hospital. The nurses there were very active in the league and worked tirelessly to ensure that the vulnerable population the County Hospital served were registered and understood how to vote. Roxane has been active in nursing in Michigan for the past 20 years, she has owned her own wellness business in Saline, obtained a PhD from the University of Michigan and has worked as an Associate Professor at Michigan State University teaching health promotion in the community. She is looking forward to returning to her work with the league to ensure voter access and representation for all.

Director of Voter Service – Geoff Smereck

I've been honored to have been a member of the League since 2015. I co-moderated several LWV televised forums, in 2016 and in 2018, with my wife and LWV member Susan Smereck. I've assisted with the Voters Guides, served as support in several community programs, and participated in several voter registration events in the community. Also, perhaps relevant: I was co-founder and president of a nursing company in 3 states for 12 years, having more than 250 women employees. I learned much -- especially how to listen -- and feel that I can work well with this wonderful group of heroes for our Democracy.

Director of Advocacy – Carolyn Madden

A League member for over 20 years, Carolyn previously served on the LWVAAA Board as VP of Membership, then served on the State Advocacy Committee for three years. She is pleased to be nominated for a third term as Director of Advocacy on the LWVAAA Board. She is a retired faculty member of the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan.

Director of Membership – Barb Brown

A member since 2017, I'm passionate about getting all our new members as excited about the League as I have become. In 2018, I helped with recruiting our new members into the various election-year projects. This year, we are developing a Member Engagement and Diversity Committee to make the Ann Arbor League even more efficient during the election year of 2020. I lived in Boston for 30 years, during which I had my own high-end Cabinet and Furniture-making business. After moving here, I did woodworking as a sideline while I worked elsewhere, but now that I am semi-retired, I am planning to expand my woodworking again, into areas I didn't have time for when I was running my business.

Director of Development – Diana Neering

In December 2017, Diana retired after a 30-year career in fund development. She taught high school history and American government for 8 years; co-founded Haynes Moran; was a major gift officer at University of Michigan for 20 years; spent 3 years at Henry Ford Village helping create and direct their Foundation and 8 years as Director of Development at Shelter Association Washtenaw County.

She is married, has two daughters and two granddaughters. Reading is an obsession and she gardens, practices Tai Chi and loves to watch birds.

Director of Communications – Susan Wooley

A League member since retiring 13 years ago, Susan’s career included biological research, family leave, then CPA, bank loan officer, and finally office manager for the Huron River Watershed Council. She has participated in moving LWVAAA into the modern age of websites and Facebook pages, but freely admits that she’s no expert. She enjoys learning new things which is easy to do if you live in Ann Arbor and participate in League activities. Her husband Jon is also a member of LWVAAA.

Director of the Tecumseh Unit – Jan Salsberry

First joined the League of Women Voters as a graduate student. Retired school counselor/administrator and was a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for the State of Michigan. As a founding member of the Tecumseh Unit, I’ve helped with the High School Registration, helped set up our “events”, and write a monthly newsletter. My hobbies are reading, quilting, choir and piano, knitting and gardening...plus maintaining a home built in 1899 and maintaining a relationship with husband of 56 years and two children

Director of the Brighton-Howell Unit – Ellen Lafferty

Chairperson of the re-activated (January 2018) LWV of Brighton/Howell Area/Livingston County. I am a retired special education teacher, formerly a para-educator, and have worked my entire career in Brighton Area Schools. During that time, I was actively involved in the Brighton Education Association, culminating in a four-year term as the BEA President.

2020 Nominating Committee –

Dee Dishon

I joined LWV in the spring of 2017 after deciding where to put my time and energy to improve voting conditions after the 2016 elections. My first event was Lunch & Learn, where I learned about gerrymandering in Michigan. I was so impressed by the quality of the presentation and the women at my table at lunch, that I decided then and there to join this dynamic group of people. I am currently cochair of Lunch & Learn, chair of the Nominating Committee, and a member of the Membership Committee. I am a retired teacher, educational consultant, and contented resident of Touchstone cohousing.

Paige Silence

I have been a member of the League for two years. During that time, I have been involved with the candidate forums, the poster project, Proposal 3, and voter registration. I am a member of the 2019 Nominating Committee. In 2017 my husband and I moved to Ann Arbor from Birmingham, MI.

We are enjoying and exploring our new community.

Board Recommended Amendments to LWV-AAA Bylaws

Background

Changing length of term of office from one year to two years; providing for staggered terms

League work occurs in two-year cycles: an election year and a non-election year. Given the amount of activity and knowledge required during an election year, officers and board members need time to learn their jobs in order to be effective in carrying out the League's mission.

- The current one-year term does not provide an opportunity for that learning.
- The stability provided by two-year terms would increase the effectiveness of our local League board.
- Other local Leagues in Michigan have found two-year terms to be advantageous.
- Officers and board Members would be more effective if some of the board members and officers carried over to the next year instead of having a complete turnover each year.
- The Nominating Committee would be looking for fewer qualified officer and board candidates in any one year.

Article IV, Officers

Section One: Enumeration and Election of Officers.

Delete the following from the current bylaws:

“The officers of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area shall consist of a President, Vice President (s), a Secretary and a Treasurer. The officers shall be elected for one year by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office immediately at the close of the annual meeting. “

Substitute the following language:

“The officers of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting and shall take office immediately at the close of the meeting.

Election shall be for a two-year term, with the President and Secretary elected in alternate years from the Vice President and Treasurer.

Nominations for President and Secretary for 2020-2021 shall be for a one-year term. Nominations for Vice President and Treasurer for 2020-2021 shall be for a two-year term. Subsequent nominations for President and Secretary shall be for two-year terms.”

Article V, Board of Directors

Section One:

Delete the following from the current bylaws:

“The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League, at least three elected directors, and not more than five appointed directors. Elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting and serve for a one-year term. Appointed directors serve one-year terms.”

Substitute the following language:

“The board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area shall consist of the officers of the League, together with at least three elected directors, and not more than five appointed directors. The elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting and shall take office immediately at the close of the meeting.

Elected directors shall serve for two-year terms. Appointed directors shall serve a one-year term. The electoral slate for 2020-2021 shall have half the directors nominated for a two-year term and half nominated for a one-year term. If the slate does not divide equally, the extra nominee shall be for a two-year term. Subsequent nominations for elected directors shall be for two-year terms.

A new League unit, formed under the mentorship of LWVAAA, may have one elected director who will serve for a two-year term and who will not be counted as one of the required three elected directors for LWVAAA.”

BY LAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ANN ARBOR AREA

Revised and adopted May 2017

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

ARTICLE I: Name

Sec. 1. Name. The name of this organization is the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

ARTICLE II: Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected government issues.

Sec. 2. Policy. The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. 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. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members- at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members shall be all other members.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area shall consist of a President, Vice President (s), a Secretary and a Treasurer. The officers shall be elected for one year by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office immediately at the close of the annual meeting.

Sec. 2. The President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the board of directors. The president may, in the event of the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. The president shall be the official spokesperson for the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area.

Sec. 3. The Vice-President(s). The vice-president(s) shall in the event of the absence, disability, resignation, or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office until the next annual meeting. In the event that none of the vice-presidents is able to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The vice-president(s) shall perform such other duties as the president and board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the annual meeting and meetings of the board of directors. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, deposit them in a bank designated by the board of directors and disburse funds in a timely manner. The treasurer shall present statements to the board at its regular meetings and an annual report at the annual meeting. The financial books shall be reviewed at least biennially.

ARTICLE V Board of Directors

Sec. 1. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League, at least three elected directors, and not more than five appointed directors. Elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting and serve for a one year term. Appointed directors serve one-year terms.

Sec. 2. Qualifications. Persons elected or appointed to serve as an officer or director of this organization shall be a voting member of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area.

Sec. 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the board of directors, other than the office of president, may be filled by appointment until the next annual meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. A vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled as provided in Article IV, Sec. 3.

Sec. 4. Powers and Duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instruction of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting, or as adopted by extraordinary procedure as provided in Article IX, Sec. 4. The board shall issue an annual report of the activities of the organization.

Sec. 5. Meetings. There shall be at least seven regular meetings of the board of directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board.

Sec. 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 7. Expedited Decisions. When timely decisions are required, email, conference calls, phone polling, text messaging or other technological methods shall be acceptable meeting alternatives. Decisions shall be recorded in the minutes of the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

ARTICLE VI Financial Administration

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area shall begin July 1 and extend through June 30 of the following calendar year.

Sec. 2. Dues

- a. Annual dues, as determined at the annual meeting, shall be due from all members except those who have attained life membership.
- b. The board may establish student dues.
- c. Scholarship dues may be available to an active member at the discretion of the board.

Sec. 3. Budget Committee. A budget committee of at least five members shall be appointed by the board of directors at least three months prior to the annual meeting. The treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the budget committee, but ineligible to serve as chair. At least two members of the budget committee shall not be members of the board of directors.

Sec. 4. Budget. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII Meetings

Sec. 1. General Membership Meetings. There shall be at least five meetings of the general membership each year which may include co-sponsored events, townhall meetings, etc.

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the general membership shall be held on or before May 31, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors for the purpose of:

- a. adopting a local program;
- b. electing officers, directors, and members of the nominating committee;
- c. adopting an adequate budget;
- d. transacting such other business as may properly come before the membership.

Sec. 3. Quorum. Voting members present at a general membership or annual meeting shall constitute a quorum, if the membership has been duly notified of the proposed agenda. A majority of those voting members present shall be required to enact such business as may come before the membership.

ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1. Nominating committee. The nominating committee shall consist of at least three members. Two members, none of whom are members of the board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. After the annual meeting, the board shall appoint one of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

Sec. 2. Report of the nominating committee and nominations from the floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, elected directors, and members of the nominating committee shall be sent to all members two weeks before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by a voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. Elections. The elections shall be held by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX Principles and Program

Sec. 1. Authorization. The principles, adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

Sec. 2. Program. The program of the League of Women Voters shall consist of:

- a. Action to implement the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States.
- b. Study of governmental issues chosen by the membership and action to implement positions on those issues.

Sec. 3. Action by the Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- a. The board of directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members at least two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting.
- c. A majority vote of those present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for the adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented at the annual meeting by the board of directors.
- d. Any recommendation for the program submitted by a voting member to the board of directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting, but not approved by the board, may be adopted at the annual meeting by a three-fifths vote of members present and voting, provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote of members present and voting.

Sec. 4. Extraordinary Procedure. In the case of altered, extraordinary conditions arising between annual meetings, changes in the program may be made, provided that extraordinary procedures, authorized in Article V, Sec. 4, are used only when the issue is of such serious and urgent nature that members believe it must be dealt with before the next regular program adoption time.

- a. Information concerning the proposed change in program shall be sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which time the change is to be discussed and any amendments to the proposed change added.
- b. Final action on the proposed change shall be taken at a succeeding general meeting to be held not sooner than one month after the discussion meeting. At least two weeks prior to the final action meeting, the nature and reason for the proposed change, and a summary of the arguments for and against the proposal shall be provided to the membership. For the final vote, the proposed change shall be in substantially the same form as outlined in the notice to the membership.
- c. A three-fifths vote of all voting members present and voting shall be required for adoption of any change.

Sec. 5. Member Action. Although only the president is authorized to speak on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area, members shall act in the name of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area if authorized to do so by the president or the board of directors.

Sec. 6. Local League Action. The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position taken by the League of Women Voters of Michigan and/or by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 7. Program Record. A program record shall be maintained, which includes all the issues that the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area has worked on in the past.

ARTICLE X National Convention, State Convention, and Council

Sec. 1. National Convention. The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to the convention in

the number allotted the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 2. State Convention. The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Michigan in the odd-numbered years.

Sec. 3. State Council. In the event that the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Michigan determines that there should be a state council, the board of directors of LWVAAA, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that council in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

ARTICLE XI Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII Amendments

Sec. 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided that the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment