

Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

Visit us at www.lwvann Arbor.org

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



The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

October 2013

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BOARD CHANGES

It is with deepest gratitude that we recognize Fran Lyman for her many years of service on the League Board. Fran has left the Board but is still busy as ever in many community service organizations around

Memo from the President

As I write this message, the U. S. Government remains in a partial shutdown. Hopefully by the time you read it, the shutdown will be over and government services will be up and running. But who knows? Government at the national level is pathetically dysfunctional and many state governments are not performing much better.

League members expect more.

This is why I believe that our work is more important than ever. Our work to hold unbiased candidate forums so voters can make informed decisions at the polls is vital. Our work to empower voters to exercise their right to vote and to have their vote count is essential. Our work to advocate for positive change on issues that impact us all is critical. The League's efforts in the areas of health care, education, immigration, and of course, voting rights continue as we press legislators to do the right thing.

As LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara said in her latest posting, "While our Congressional leaders remain at an impasse, hurling heated rhetoric at one another, League members continue moving forward making democracy work from community to community and from state to state."

The League remains one of the most respected and effective grassroots organizations in the country. Let's continue our work so that it may remain so.



Fall Forum Focus

town. Thank you, Fran, for your contributions of time, effort, and creativity.

Beth Bergin has stepped in to fill Fran's position on the Board. Beth attended Michigan State and earned bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Family Community Services, and a master's degree in Child Development. She was a Legislative Aide for two members of the House of Representatives from 2007 to 2011 and then worked as a Policy Associate for Michigan's Children, a statewide policy/advocacy organization. She now works for the Michigan Sandbox Party as an Early Childhood Advocacy Coordinator. Beth lives in Superior Twp with her husband, Jake, the Choir teacher at Ypsilanti Community High School; their son, Miles, will turn one in November. Beth served on the board of the Lansing League from 2007 to 2012 covering Children and Youth issues and joined the Ann Arbor League in June.

We look forward to Beth's participation and fresh perspective. Welcome Beth...and Miles.

In another change in leadership, Joan Overmire, who was our membership secretary for years and years, has decided to step aside. Thank you, Joan, for doing such an excellent job of keeping all of our ducks in a row. You will be missed. Rosemary Austgen has taken over Joan's responsibilities.



In anticipation of the November 5 elections the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area hosted

four ward forums in the studios of Community Television Network. Forums were broadcast live and are being replayed until Election Day.

Under the leadership of Voter Service Chair Jeanine DeLay the League welcomed candidates for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th wards of the Ann Arbor City Council; there was no contest in the 4th ward. Working with the CTN staff, Zoe Behnke acted as the League spokesperson, Judith Mich was the moderator, Barbara Clarke and Jeanine DeLay did the timing and Susan Greenberg was our greeter and Jill of all jobs.

Everybody showed up and provided two informative evenings; four tapings. We even had a significant studio audience including supporters, interested citizens and representatives from the media. We can be very proud of our forums and received nice feedback from candidates.

Check your viewer guide for Channel 19. Then consider whether you'd like to be a part of our question gatherers or willing workers for July 2014 as we prepare for a much bigger primary and general election next fall. Our website provides contact information.

Judy Mich, Voter Service Committee



Election Administration Reform

Election Administration Reform Project

Our League was one of five Leagues in Michigan to participate in an election administration project funded by the Joyce Foundation through LWV of Michigan. League members Cyrene Aksam, Mona Walz, and Nancy Schewe met with five local election clerks to determine ways in which the League might be able to help make elections run more smoothly.

Those meetings identified four options for us:

1. Help with recruiting of poll workers through League networks.
2. Offer line assistance at polls to offer sample ballots, make sure people are at correct polls, provide maps of all the polling places, and direct voters to VOTE411.org or the Secretary of State website for more information.
3. Inform the public about information available on VOTE411.org and the Secretary of State website. Such information includes information on voter registration, absentee ballots, and polling locations.
4. Inform the public about the availability of absentee ballots and application deadlines.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 5th
ELECTION DAY
VOTE!

Tuesday, November 12th
Membership Meeting
Dine Around with the League
A brief membership meeting followed by dinner in downtown Ann Arbor
Bring a Friend!
6:00 p.m. Meeting
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Hathaway's Hideaway
310 S. Ashley
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, November 19th
Board Meeting
4:00 p.m.
Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W. Ellsworth Rd.
Ann Arbor

Tuesday, December 10th
December Potluck
6:00 p.m.
Shirley Axon's
2016 Seneca Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

January
Lynn Rivers Lecture 3
7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library
343 South Fifth
Ann Arbor 48104

Saturday, January 18th
Membership Meeting
Program Planning
Education Study Consensus
10:00 a.m. until noon
Turner Senior Res. Ctr.
2401 Plymouth Road
Ann Arbor 48105

Tuesday, January 28th
Board Meeting

[Read more](#)



Agriculture Study Update

The scope of the study is on the lww.org website along with reading material. Unfortunately, the questions will not be available until November at the earliest. I would like to re-start the committee and interview a person from the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau. The committee will need to come up with questions based on the scope. Bridge Magazine had an article on crop subsidies in Michigan; website thecenterformichigan.net

If you are interested, please e-mail me at bliz468@yahoo.com or mbanks313@sbcglobal.net

Thanks,
Zoe Behnke



Education Study Update



The local leagues in Michigan will be holding meetings to discuss the Education Position. Our league has decided to discuss the update at our January Program Planning meeting. I would like to have 2 or 3 people to present a portion of the update. We do not have the questions but we have resources to read. If you would like to be on the committee please contact me (bliz468@yahoo.com) or Mary Banks (mbanks313@sbcglobal.net)

Sources:
Michigan Department of Education www.michigan.gov/mde

4:00 p.m.
Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W. Ellsworth Rd.
Ann Arbor

**Board Meetings are held
the 4th Tuesday
of the month**



VOTER CALENDAR

November 2nd

By 2:00 p.m.
**Deadline for
Application for
Absent Voter Ballot
by mail**

November 4th

Up to 4:00 p.m.
**Absent Voter Ballots
may vote in person
at clerk's office**

November 5th

Up to 4:00 p.m.
Emergency absentee
voting

November 5th

**GENERAL ELECTION
GO TO VOTE411.ORG
FOR INFORMATION**

Candidates on ballot
Ann Arbor City Council,
Wards 1-5
Chelsea Mayor & City
Council
Milan Mayor & City Council
Milan Library Board Director
Saline City Council
Dexter Commission Charter

General information-Click on State Board of Education for statements on many topics.

Education Trust-Midwest www.edtrust.org/midwest
Reports on Charter Schools, Common Core Standards and many other issues in Michigan

National Education Policy Center (Univ. of Colorado)
<http://nepc.colorado.edu>
Many topics including 'Virtual Schools in the US' and 'School Choice'

Citizens Research Council Reports www.cremich.org
Reports and notes covering many aspects of Education in Michigan including Finance

National Institute for Early Education Research: Yearly reports by states www.nieer.org

Bridge Magazine from the Center for Michigan
thecenterformichigan.net

The LWV-MI education positions are available at lwvmi.org

As soon as I get the questions, we can divide the questions by topic to discuss.

Zoe Behnke



Dues are Due



It's the fall Newsletter and it's time to talk dues. Our LWV-AAA membership year is the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. We must report our paid membership to the LWV-US by mid-

December and so I and the renewal form you can click on below come to you asking "Please Renew Your League Membership". Fill out the form completely and return in the mail or bring it and a check with you to the next meeting.

Member dues are currently \$70 for an individual and \$100 for a household, two or more members at the same address. For each member the Ann Arbor League pays well over \$50 per member payments (PMP) to the LWV-MI and LWV-US. Add to that basis fixed costs for meeting rooms, supplies, insurance, postage, and P.O. Box. The cost per member about equals the dues each of us pays. We are sustained by contributions, our own Ed. Fund, and our savings. (And

Members

Proposals on the ballot

Ann Arbor Schools Proposal:
Sinking Fund Mill. Renewal
Milan Restoration Proposal
Saline Township: Renewal
of Road Maint. Millage
Saline Area Schools:
Operating Millage
Renewal Proposal
South Lyon Schools:
Operating Millage
Renewal Proposal

a big thank you to the late Virginia VandenBroek for her generous bequest-more on that later!!).

[Read more.](#)



DUES RENEWAL FORM

Please print the form and submit with your dues payment.

[Click here for form.](#)



New Member - Cate McClure

This month we would like to highlight one of our members who joined in the last year, Cate McClure. Cate serves as Deputy Legal Counsel to the Michigan State Senate, and covers the Judiciary, Local Government and Elections, and Government Reforms Committees, among others, for the Senate Democratic Caucus. She also teaches Election Law at Cooley Law School's Ann Arbor campus, where she lives with her husband and three sons. Cate earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and is admitted to practice law in California, Illinois and Michigan. She



worked in private practice in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Ann Arbor and was an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University Of Michigan Ross School Of Business before going into public service.

Cate is a recipient of an Excellence in Media Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for her "On Point" column, which ran in The Detroit Legal News and its affiliated newspapers for several years and she is Chair of the Legislative Process subcommittee of the American Bar Association State and Local Government Section. She has served as legal counsel for numerous political campaigns and on numerous local nonprofit boards.

Cate writes and speaks extensively on topics related to election law, legislative process, and ethics in government, and joined the Ann Arbor League of Women Voters because of all of the fantastic initiatives and activity that the League carries out in these policy areas. She looks forward to getting more involved with the league on both the local and statewide levels and we are very happy to have her.



Quick Links

[League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area](#)
[The League of Women Voters of Michigan](#)
[VOTE411](#)

 **VOTE411.ORG**
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

