



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the Ann Arbor Area

Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832, (734) 665-5808

Visit us at www.lwvann Arbor.org

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

★President's Corner★

Happy 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters in the US, Michigan, and Ann Arbor Area. The Ann Arbor Area League is looking forward to the 100th year since the Ann Arbor Equal Suffrage Association was formed.

This is my last column as President of the Ann Arbor Area League. I have enjoyed being your President. I would like to thank the Board and you (the members) for your support. We held two forums this year, and completed a study, plus voter service activities.

Remember that the school and library elections will be held in November. Their respective boards voted to hold the elections in the November General Election. The League will be holding candidate forums/debates as needed.

The Program Planning Meeting was held on January 23, at Paesano's. We had spirited discussions on the positions. The Program Planning is for our National League Positions. After our meeting, a League (not in Michigan) proposed changing the name to the League of Wise Voters, but following a flurry of emails from other Leagues across the nation it was dropped. The men that responded, which included one who is President of his League, did not want the name changed. The National Convention will be held in Atlanta, GA, from June 11-15th.

In March, we held an information and consensus meeting. The League thought we would be able to only start the consensus questions, but we managed to finish all the questions that night. The April meeting will not be on the Prison Study. A topic has not been chosen.

On March 20th, we will be holding an Ideation Retreat. What do we want our League to accomplish in the next few years, ways to grow membership, membership involvement, internet usage, etc. Please come and voice your opinion. We all have an

idea of what we would like the League to be in the next few years. Details in the calendar.

Jeanine and I are working on the Woman Suffrage Exhibit. We have included an article in this Newsletter. Please listen to the podcasts that Jeanine has recorded. Virginia VandenBroek and Mary Lou Unterburger were the first to be recorded. Also, we have Virginia Caruso, who wrote her dissertation on the Woman's Suffrage Movement in Michigan. I was recorded on March 12th for the local viewpoint.

Remember to send in your census for the 2010 count from Michigan. Our state needs the money from the federal government to fund its programs. Also, the Census count determines the number of Representatives that we can send to Congress. Please use your Michigan address and not your winter address.

We are one month away from our Annual Meeting. We have decided to hold a brunch on May 15th at Zion Lutheran Church for the Annual Meeting. Please bring a dish to pass. The Board felt that it should try a new date and venue for this meeting. We can hold the Annual Meeting and socialize at the same time. See the article on where to send your Annual Report, and the due date.

I would like to thank the Budget Committee and the Nomination Committee for volunteering for their respective committees. They did a wonderful job.

On behalf of the League, I would like to thank Trina Borenstein for publishing our Newsletter for this month.

★Zoe Behnke, President, LWV-AAA
bliz468@aol.com or 734-663-1664

Annual Reports -- It's the time of year again for Annual Reports. Please email your Annual Reports to Zoe Behnke by April 5th. If you have any questions, please email bliz468@yahoo.com.

IT'S TIME, IT'S NEEDED -- Your LWV-AAA Board has supported the Budget Committee decision to raise dues to \$60 for individual membership and \$90 for a household. This will be voted on, along with approval of the budget, at the Annual Meeting in May. We hope to have your understanding and support. To help get that support, I have included a bit of our local dues history, an explanation of our PMP and other fixed costs, and a quick membership comparison.

In 1994, Ann Arbor Area League dues were \$35/50. 1998 Saw a rise to \$40/60, \$50/75 in 2002, and a jump to our current \$55/80 in 2008. We have been able to manage this because of the regular generosity of our members and the backup support of a strong savings account. Obviously we are operating well fiscally and our savings have not diminished significantly. Why then increase dues and perhaps risk losing members, which are our greatest need?

Mandated Per Member Payments (PMP) from the National and State Leagues are projected to total over \$57 per member. Compare that to our \$55 per member dues payment. Then consider and combine with LWV-AAA fixed costs including: P. O. Box fee, bulk mail fee, postage, group liability insurance, monthly phone, board operations, meeting and event costs, convention and workshop support, Newsletter and reminder card printing and mailing, and the maintenance of our fully-functioning

website, and you have an additional per member cost of over \$30 per year. Hurrah for us! We're not in debt or in negative numbers, BUT we cannot continue forever. And prudent people that we are, we know that costs will go up!

So, it seems the right time again to ask and to act. We cannot expect our contributors to cover our costs. Savings are for support and designated projects, not payment of operating costs. If we don't make this small increase now in 2010, we might have to go for a not-unrealistic \$30 increase in the not-too-distant future. We expect this will start a gradual dues increase over the next several years, which will hardly be felt by most members.

For any of you daunted by the \$5 upswing, please request a time payment plan or turn to the Board for the scholarship assistance always available to any active member. Most of all, we need you -- active in the League. But we can no longer rely on contributions as voluntary dues.

Lastly, many of us belong to our sister club, the AAUW, which charges \$85 per year with automatic increases coming with each cost increase to them. Moving to \$60 dues still makes the League a marvelous bargain.

Please bring any questions or suggestions to me by email or phone. See you and your vote at the May Annual Meeting.

❧ Natural Resources News ❧
by Shirley Axon, NR Chair

Report on the Library Lot Community Meeting, Feb. 24

In spite of a snowstorm, about 50 brave LWV members and interested citizens came to the City Club for the League's meeting on the future of the City's lot next to the Downtown Library. Of the 5 proposals, 3 were represented: one hotel, one hotel/conference center and one Commons, or city park.

After the first period in which each of the 3 proposal representatives had 5 minutes to introduce themselves and describe their proposals.

the meeting opened for questions and comments from the audience. Sue Smith, the moderator (and our President Elect), led the question period with her own: "How much will your proposal cost the City?"

There followed an hour of questions, comments and discussions. The proposal reps had helpful pictures and literature on tables, as did one proposal without a representative. Discussions went on after the formal meeting ended.

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area				Budget 2010 -2011				Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011				
INCOME				CURRENT	YTD	PROPOSED	EXPENDITURES (cont'd)					
CURRENT	YTD	PROPOSED	CURRENT	YTD	PROPOSED	CURRENT	YTD	PROPOSED	CURRENT	YTD	PROPOSED	
A. Dues (\$60 Ind./\$90 Hshld.)	5225	4300	4560						C. Conventions/Workshops			
B. Contributions									1. State Conv./Council (even)	0	40	700
1. Member	1500	1431	1400						2. National Convention (odd)	2400		0
2. Non-Member									3. Workshops	100	168	100
3. Your Elected Officials									4. Other			
4. Drawn from Ed. Fund	1600	1200	1500						SUBTOTAL	2500	208	800
C. Local Publications									D. LWV Financial Support			
D. Other Sources		57							1. Lake Erie Basin Group	30	30	30
E. Interest and Dividends	110	56	50						2. Lake Michigan Group	30		30
F. Transferred from Savings	2680	1000	1790						3. State Support PMP	2000	2100	2000
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	11115	7066	9300						4. National Support PMP	2800	2378	2400
EXPENDITURES									SUBTOTAL	4860	4508	4460
A. Operating Costs									E. Communications			
1. Web Mainten. & Domain Nm	160	12	175						1. Bulletin prep/print	700	297	330
2. General Supplies	100								2. Postcards & other	0	80	80
3. Telephone	540	350	530						SUBTOTAL	700	377	410
4. Insurance thru LWV-MI	115	85	85						F. Educational Activities			
5. P. O. Box Rental	40	40	40						1. YEO prep/print/dist	600	120	500
6. Postage/Bulk Mail Permit	300	220	550						2. Program Committees			
SUBTOTAL	1255	707	1380						a. Local	100		500
B. Board / Admin. Comm.									b. State			100
1. Board Tools & Expenses	200	273	200						c. National			100
2. Finance									3. Voter Service			
3. Membership	400								1. Candidate Forums	200	60	200
4. Meetings-Board & General	200	530	600						2. Miscellaneous	0	0	0
5. Student Chapter									SUBTOTAL	700	180	1400
6. Nominating									G. Position Support	100		
7. Other									H. Other Expenses	0	50	50
SUBTOTAL	800	803	800						I. Transfer to Savings	0	0	0
									GRANT TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11115	6833	9300

Ideation "Retreat", the Future of LWV-AAA
March 20, 2010, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, Turner Resource Center, Facilitator: Bruce Gibb
 Let's talk League ... our Ann Arbor Area League:
 What are our strengths? What is the League's mission? Why did you join? What issues are important to you? What kind of programs do you want? What about Voter Service? Should we concentrate and do more on the local level? We know a few good questions, **now** we need your questions and answers. Just a few ideas. Bring your thoughts and let's brainstorm.

LWV-AAA IN THE NEWS

The Ann Arbor League hosted a community meeting February 24 featuring presentations of five proposals for the fate of 319 S. Fifth Ave., where an underground parking structure is being constructed. See how the Ann Arbor Journal covered that story:

http://www.heritage.com/articles/2010/03/06/ann_arbor_journal/news/doc4b8e9186a0397369693070.txt

DUES and STUFF -- Thank you for renewing your 2010 membership in the League of Women Voters. Every member holds a three-tier membership in the League: Local, Ann Arbor Area, State of Michigan, and National LWV-US. Our membership roster highlighted in this issue combines those who have joined at various levels, but we are all members together learning and acting at each level of government.

In League - Together!

If your name is missing or you would like to join, please contact your Treasurer, Judy Mich, at 734-668-6491 or judithgmich@hotmail.com.

Martha Agnew	Patricia Eaton	Joanne Leonard	Mary Alice Shulman
John Allen	Rebecca Eisenberg	Patricia Lesko	Susan Smith
Sally Allen	Inta Ertel	Carol Leyshock	Priscilla Spencer
Mary Amoe	Paul Ertel	Frances Lyman	Mary Stadel
Rosemary Austgen	Jeanne Fluegge	Margaret Lynch	Ann Staiger
Shirley Axon	Jerry Fluegge	Carolyn Madden	Gloria Stapp
Virginia Bachman	Sophia French	Yvonne Mavroleon	Michael Steer
Jill Barker	Diane Gallivan	Edith Maynard	Ellen Teller
Lawrence Bartell	Melvyn Gluckman	Virginia McCaig	Bette Thompson
Zoe Behnke	Susan Greenberg	Lineve McKie	Melissa Thun
Dorothy Bell	William Hansen	Judith Mich	Katharine Uhle
Elizabeth Bishop	Mary Hathway	Olga Moir	Mary Lou Unterburger
Trina Borenstein	Jane Hayes	Bernice Morse	Suzanne VanAppledorn
Elizabeth Brater	Margaret Hiss	Susan Morse	Virginia Vandebroek
Michael Bretz	Roland Hiss	Ann Munro	Andrea Vanhouweling
Jane Bridges	Dorothy Hudson	Glenn Nelson	Rose Varga
Marina Brown	David Husted	Gwen Nystuen	Kim Waldo
Nancy Brucken	Marjorie Jacobson	Margaret Olving	Mona Walz
Trudy Bulkley	Bonnie Jansen	Elsie Orb	Rebekah Warren
Suzie Buning	Sue Jeffers	Joan Overmire	Phyllis Werbel
Alice Burks	Judy Judd	H. Parsons	Virginia Wernet
Mary Burney	Susan Julius	Mary Pedley	W. Scott Westerman
Oliver Cameron	Madolyn Kaminski	Patricia Pooley	Mary White
Jean Campbell	Martha Kershaw	Gardner Quarton	Robert Whitman
Mary Camron	Jean Ledwith King	Dorothy Rehak	Angela Williams
Barbara Carr	Dana Kissner	Karwyn Rigan	Beth Williams
Margaret Carter	Lisa Klopfer	Barbara Robinson	Russell Woinowsk
Barb Cherem	Jean Kluge	Elizabeth Rogers	Charlotte Wolfe
Barbara Clarke	Mariana Kopacz	U. Roth	Alison Woodcock
Jean Crump	Elizabeth Kornblum	June Rusten	Susan Wooley
Ellie Davidson	Martha Krieg	Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson	Jacquelyn Wright
Jeanine DeLay	Roswitha Lagauer	Norma Sarns	
Mildred Deninger	Corrine Larson	Nancy Schewe	
Diane Drayson	Jeanne Learman	Rosemarie Schneider	

FAST FORWARD FUTURE -- That powerful pink postcard you received a while ago is a foretaste of things to come. Bright, timely reminders interspersed with up-to-the-minute electronic articles about League activities. LWV-AAA has, however, pledged not to leave any member behind. If you need a hard copy, that's what you will get! Moving to e-newsletters not only saves lots of money and several trees, it also allows news to flow quickly when its impact is greatest, versus saving it all, for a quarterly bulletin. If you like reading LWV-AAA now, you'll love it in the future. And we hope you like the postcards as a potent reminder. This League is your League, so please let us know what communication works for you. Please show us that we're reaching you by coming out for the Prison Study programs and more importantly to Re-Vision the League in March.

Voting and Elections Training and Action Day will be held on Wednesday, April 21st from 9:45 am to 4:00 pm. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing, MI. Highlights of the event include advocacy training conducted by Tim O'Brien from the LWV- US and a 90th Anniversary luncheon, at which a resolution sponsored by Representative Joan Bauer will be presented to LWV-MI and several Visionary Voter Awards will be given. And there will be birthday cake for everyone! Tim has trained League leaders across the nation and will give us tips on how to approach and engage our legislators. The morning will also include a briefing on the status of issues such as early and no excuse absentee voting in the Legislature and how to talk about our positions.

Help us reach our goal of 90 participants for our 90th. After lunch, we will put on our advocacy hats (or buttons) and head for legislators' offices, to let them know what they can do to make voting more convenient and accessible. The success of that part of the day depends upon League member participation in scheduling meetings with legislators or staff and reporting back on what they learned.

LWV 90th
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN
VOTER POWER

SAVE THE DATE
Voting and Elections
Training & Action Day

Wednesday, April 21, 2010
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Lansing, MI
9:45 am – 4:00 pm

Morning:
* Policy issues briefing
* Advocacy training

Afternoon:
* Awards luncheon
* Legislative visits

For info, contact voterpower@lwymi.org or 517-484-5383

Supported in part by The Joyce Foundation and The League of Women Voters US Education Fund. Michigan Voter Power Campaign is a project of The League of Women Voters of Michigan.

Go to <http://fs16.formsite.com/lwymi/form-4-10-Conf/index.html> to register.

40th Earth Day -- April 22!

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEBSITE -- Please access the National Website to keep up with the information that the League is working on. The President's weekly report (Mary Wilson) highlights where the League's energy is being used. I hope you read what she wrote about the recent Supreme Court ruling on Campaign Finance. The League is working with other organizations to see how it can affect the recent ruling on corporations and contributions to campaigns. www.lwv.org

CALLING ALL COOKS!

The Washington DC League is preparing a recipe book in conjunction with the 90th birthday of the National League and our Chapter. The book will be edited by Goody Braun, whose byline, Goody Solomon, has appeared on food and nutrition articles in the local and national press for many years. "Old Ways Made New" and "Modernizing the Old Fashioned" are working titles for the volume, which will contain members' and friends' favorite recipes (often made with heavy doses of fat, sugar and salt) converted into modern, healthier, still delicious versions. All categories - appetizers, snacks, soups, salads, entrees, vegetables, desserts, etc. - will be included.

Here's a chance to share your culinary skills and interests with others while benefiting the LWV. Please send your recipes to Goody (her email and snail mail addresses are below). She will update them and return revisions to you for review. If you already have updated and old versions, please send both to her. Brand new 21st century recipes also would be welcome. Ask your friends for contributions, too.

Please note: these should be individual recipes. If a favorite comes from a cookbook, be sure to give an accurate reference. Also please indicate whether you want your name on the recipe - and include any anecdotal information you may wish, such as family history related to the recipe.

Email is preferred: goody.solomon@verizon.net. Or send by regular mail to Goody Braun, 1712 Taylor St. NW, Washington, DC 20011.

One more point: please send your recipes by end of March, if at all possible. Or at least let Goody know by then whether you intend to send something.

League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area
Officers & Directors 2009-2010

Officers

President	Zoe Behnke
Vice President-Membership	Sue Smith
Secretary	Trina Borenstein
Treasurer	Judith Mich
Education Fund Treasurer	Betty Bishop

Directors

Social Policy-Education	
Social Policy-Health Care	
Social Policy-Prison Study	
Government	Nancy Schewe
Natural Resources	Shirley Axon
Voter Service	
Program Coordination	Fran Lyman
Newsletter	Trina Borenstein
Publicity	

League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area
Slate for 2010-2011

Officers and Directors

President	Sue Smith
Vice President-Membership	Nancy Schewe
Secretary	Trina Borenstein
Treasurer	Judith Mich
Education Fund Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Program Director	Zoe Behnke
Natural Resources	Shirley Axon

Offboard

Mailing	Nancy Brucken
Membership Secretary	Joan Overmire
Newsletter	Trina Borenstein
Webmaster	Susan Wooley

Nominating Committee (2010-2011)
Margaret Hiss, Joan Overmire, Fran Lyman

Presented by 2009-2010 Nominating Committee
Margaret Hiss, Nancy Schwe, Susam Smith

"Take 10"

**Help the Ann Arbor Area Get What it Needs
for the Next 10 Years**

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses will receive a 2010 Census form by mail or hand delivery. The 2010 Census will document the changes in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000, and tell us how we've evolved as a country. Because census data affect how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census also will frame the future of our country and our community for the next 10 years.

During Census 2000, the mail participation rate was 72 percent as of the April 2000 cut-off. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation. For these and many other reasons, we must work to encourage everyone's participation in the census.

Here's what you should know about the 2010 Census:

It's easy. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. The individual in whose name the housing unit is rented or owned should complete the form on behalf of every person living there, both relatives and nonrelatives.

It's important. Census data are used to reapportion seats in Congress and ensure proper district representation in state and local governments. Information from the census helps determine locations for child-care and senior centers, new roads, hospitals, schools and community centers.

It's safe. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Finally, the most efficient way to respond to the 2010 Census is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the postage-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take the count in person.

UPDATE ON THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT

Jeanine DeLay and Zoe Behnke, Co-Curators

Winning the Women's Vote in Washtenaw, Washtenaw Historical Museum

We have been working on the Woman Suffrage Exhibit for January and February, 2011. We met with Susan Nemedic, Pauline Walters, and staff at Washtenaw Historical Museum to finalize the plans.

Jeanine has been recording podcasts regarding women's voting experiences (Virginia VandenBroek and Mary Lou Unterburger). Jeanine and I met with Virginia Caruso in February to discuss Virginia's dissertation on the Woman Suffrage Movement in Michigan, and her interview is online. We would like to tape three more podcasts. Nancy Brucken has linked these podcasts to our League website. Thanks to Nancy, the podcasts are on the website

www.annarborleague.org, just follow the directions to hear the broadcasts.

Please remember to ask people if they have woman suffrage material from Washtenaw County. The material can be for or against suffrage. The exhibit will be January and February, 2011 at the Washtenaw Historical Museum on Main Street in Ann Arbor. If you or your friend have suffrage material, please have them e-mail us a description of the item: lwvannarbor.org

Thank you.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Our Program Planning meeting was held on January 23 at Paesano's. We had approximately 12 League members there. We had a lively discussion. Program Planning has been changed, and now we can propose one new study, one concurrence, or make no recommendation. We do not suggest dropping or retaining an issue, nor adopt an existing Position. That is done at the National Convention. I will fill out the form online and our two delegates will take the information and vote on it at the National Convention.

Calendar
March - May 2010

March 20: Saturday, 9:00 am - 12 pm
"Ideation Retreat"
The Future of LWV-AAA
Bruce Gibb, Facilitator
Turner Resource Center
2401 Plymouth Rd.
Refreshments Provided

April 13: Tuesday, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Topic to be announced
Ann Arbor City Club
1850 Washtenaw Ave

April 22: **40th Earth Day**

May 15: Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Annual Meeting - Potluck Brunch
Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty St.

June 11 - 15: **National Convention**
Atlanta, Georgia

Please check website for corrections and additional meetings schedule.

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