



March 2019

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR MARCH

Sue Smith, President



Opportunities to Get Involved!

Getting cabin fever after all this cold weather? Here are some great opportunities to get involved in meaningful work, meet some great people and have fun.

Legislative Interviews

At the beginning of each new Legislative cycle, local Leagues are encouraged to meet informally with their state senators and representatives. The state League provides a list of questions and some background information on the issues. Local Leagues select a few of their members (one experienced and several new) to meet over coffee with a specific senator or house representative. This is not a lobbying effort. Rather it's an opportunity to establish a relationship with the elected official and to find out how that person feels about issues that are important to us as League members. Our League includes three Michigan Senate Districts and seven Michigan House Districts. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Madden, cgmadden@gmail.com.

League Observer Corps

A number of League members signed up for the League Observer Corps at February's Lunch and Learn meeting. (See article in this Newsletter.) Trained observers attend meetings of a local

government entity either in person or via cable. The League member does not speak but records information on issues of interest to the League. These reports are sent to the Observer Corps Director and may become the basis for local advocacy. Also, knowing more about what is happening in our communities will enable us to ask informed questions during our candidate forums. If you want more information, please contact Joan Sampieri, djoansampieri@gmail.com.

2020 Census

The state League is part of the Michigan Complete Count Committee whose goal is to make sure everyone is counted in the 2020 census. If the Michigan population is under-counted, our representation in the U.S. Congress as well as in the state legislature will be decreased. Also, funds received by our communities and state from the federal government will be reduced. Local Leagues in our state will be working with others in their communities to encourage everyone to participate. (See article in this Newsletter). Stay tuned to learn how you can help.

Save the Date: May 14, 2019

Our League's Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Watch for more details to come.

I hope to see you at a League activity soon!

Sue



From our Brighton/Howell Area Unit

We are excited to see that we have approximately 40 new or returning members to start out our second year as a geographical unit. It's a promising start that we hope will enhance whatever this year brings to our league.

On January 23rd we held a well-received presentation on the environmental threat of PFAS in the Huron River watershed, with Dr. Stephen Brown as our guest presenter. Dr. Brown is a trained analytical chemist, who provided an overview about what PFAS is, where it originates and what can be done to safeguard our water. He answered many questions from our approximately 60 attendees, with assistance from Matt Bolang, Livingston County's Director of Environmental Health. We welcomed 42nd District Legislative Representative Ann Bolin, and Livingston County Commissioner Wes Nakagiri and their interest in safeguarding our county's water system.



Future events for our league include the March 18th public forum, where the Chief Judge of

Livingston County Courts, Honorable Miriam Cavanaugh will be our guest speaker. Judge Cavanaugh will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Livingston County courts and how the court serves the need of the communities. This is a public forum at the Howell Carnegies Library's Meabon Room, starting at 6:30 p.m.

One more event we are proud to host will be on April 18th where Livingston County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley and Election's Coordinator Joe Bridgman will describe the responsibilities of the county clerk's office along with how the passing of Promote the Vote (proposal 3) effects voters in our county. This public event will also take place in the Howell Carnegie Library's Meabon room, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Our presentations can be viewed on our YouTube Channel, linked through our website at lwvbrightonhowellarea.org.

From our Tecumseh Area Unit

We are getting ready to move forward to becoming our own Member-at-Large (Mal) Unit under the guidance of the State League and then going off on our own. This process will take about a year and begin on July 1st. We have our slate of officers: Jan Salsberry, Chair; Carolyn Vertin, Vice-Chair; Louise Salamin, Secretary; and Jeanne Knight. We will be developing a budget, a diversity statement, By-laws and a non-partisan policy. All of these will be voted on at a membership meeting sometime in early June.



Another Event is coming up regarding water issues in Lenawee County. Hopefully this will take place in May at one of the District Libraries. We will keep you posted on this as well as a mini-event coming up in early April. Please submit ideas for local issues, possible venues, and interests to Carolyn (cdvertin@comcast.net) or Jan (salsberryr@comcast.net) We want to get a calendar of events for the entire year out by July 1st.

To fund the upcoming Tecumseh/Lenawee County League we are asking for donations rather than starting off with a fundraiser. The basic budget needs are around \$1000-1400 which includes publications (Your elected officials), event fees, and meetings. Any donations can be made to the League of Women Voters Ann Arbor and designated for the Tecumseh Unit. They will put this in

our own “pot” and transfer it to us when we become a MAL unit. We already have a \$100 donation designated for the new MAL unit thanks to an anonymous donor. A good start.

Remember to consider doing observations on your local boards...chamber of commerce, school boards, county commissioner meetings and other local boards. In view of the upcoming 2020 elections it is important that the League and your community keep informed about the local issues. I am attaching information from the League regarding how to do an Observation and why they are important.



**Interested in what's happening in your area?
Consider attending one of our Lunch and Learn Programs.**

Noon – 2:00 PM

Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse

411 Cedars Lane, Dexter, MI 48130

Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch

Reservations required: Use the link to Signup Genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4DAAAD23A02-meet>

Seating is limited to 30.

March 22nd:

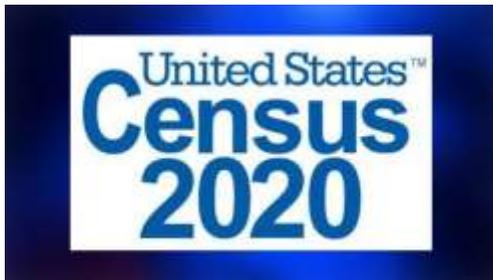
Jerry L. Clayton, a 30-year Public Safety Services professional, is currently serving his third term as the Sheriff of Washtenaw County. Sheriff Clayton leads an organization of approximately 420 staff, serving a population of over 358,000, covering a 720-square mile geographical area. He attended Eastern Michigan University, majoring in Public Safety Administration and has graduated from the EMU School of Staff and Command.

Sheriff Clayton has been a certified criminal justice trainer and instructor for more than twenty-five years. He has provided training, and consulting services to a variety of private and public-sector clients, including the United States Department of Justice, the National Sheriff's Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union. He serves on the boards of numerous local organizations. These include the Washtenaw Area Council for Children, the local Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), the Washtenaw County Mental Health Treatment Court Advisory Board, Washtenaw County Continuum of Care Board (ending homelessness) and the SafeHouse Center.

He has received international recognition for his expertise and work in the Criminal Justice profession. In 2016, he was invited as a representative of U.S. law enforcement Barcelona, Spain. In 2017, at the invitation of the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, Sheriff Clayton was the representative from the United States and a presenter at an international conference

on law enforcement and bias-based policing in Geneva, Switzerland. In February of 2018, Sheriff Clayton participated in a US-UK exchange in London, England, focusing on Building Leadership for Fair and Effective Policing.

In April, League member Margaret Leary will talk about the importance of the 2020 Census; in May, we will host County Treasurer, Catherine McClary; in June, we'll read and discuss *The Woman Behind the New Deal: Frances Perkins* by Kirstin Downey, and in July, our guest will be Barbara Fuller, a member of the Washtenaw County Road Commission.



THE 2020 CENSUS: WHAT IS IT? WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Part 1

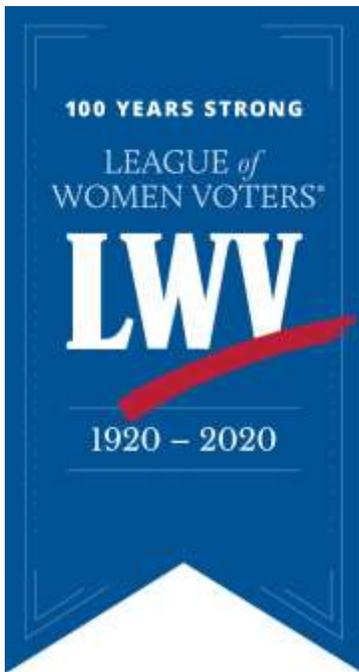
The U.S. Constitution mandates an “actual enumeration”, every ten years, of every person residing in the U.S., whether citizen or non-citizen, and whether living here with legal status or without. This is in Article 1, the section that establishes Congress

The census determines the allocation among the states of the 435 Congressional seats (Michigan is predicted to lose one), the distribution of billions of dollars of government aid, and gathers demographic data used by local governments, academic researchers, businesses, genealogists, and others.

In FY 2015, Michigan received \$14.5 billion just from the 16 largest federal assistance programs. The top four in Michigan were: Medicaid \$6B; SNAP \$2.4B; Medicare Part B \$2.3B; and highway construction \$1B.

LWVMI is participating with other non-profits to ensure public awareness and to help achieve a “complete count”: every person, counted once, in the right place. Stay tuned for more information about what the League will do.

--Margaret Leary



Creating a more perfect democracy

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States 1920

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote
shall not be denied or abridged by the United
States or by any State on account of sex.*

2020: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage
by Nancy Schewe

On January 16th members of our League met with representatives from across the county from libraries, museums, women's organizations, historical societies, genealogical societies, the arts alliance, movie theaters and the visitor's bureau to share ideas about how to celebrate the centennial anniversary of when women won the right to vote. The 2020 calendar will be packed with exhibits, lectures, parades, book discussions, and more, all centered around themes related to women's suffrage.

Join us for the next planning meeting for a centennial celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the founding of the League of Women Voters. Monday, April 15

3:00 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library - Pittsfield Branch
2359 Oak Valley Dr, Ann Arbor*

All individuals and organizations interested in participating are welcome to attend.

For more information, or to join the Planning Committee, contact Nancy Schewe at celebration@lwwannarbor.org

Nancy was interviewed on WEMU (FM 89.1) about Centennial planning. Click [HERE](#) to listen.

* Note, this is a new date and time!



Observer Corps: Keeping an Eye on Democracy!

On February 22, at the monthly "Lunch and Learn" session in Ann Arbor, LWVAA Vice President

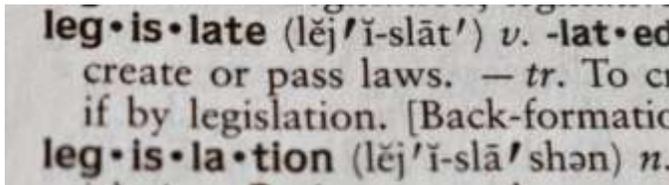
Joan Sampieri presented an overview of the LWV Observer Corps, which functions to monitor and safeguard the public's interests in local government.

The Open Meetings Act, effective January 1, 1977 states that during any gathering of a quorum of a public body where members consider, conduct, or advise on public business, the public must be offered the opportunity to attend and offer input. The LWV Observer Corps exercises this right by attending local public government meetings, including County commission, local municipal meetings, zoning board meetings, library board meetings and others.

According to Sampieri, the primary goals of the Observer Corps are to insure government transparency and accountability through League member attendance, note taking, and reporting, to educate LWV members and the community about issues, to study and take action on issues where appropriate, and to connect elected officials with their constituents. Volunteers who attend meetings will be asked to attend at least one commission or committee meeting per month (in person or by viewing online), and commit to write and submit a report of the meeting within a week of the observation. Information from the reports will be included in the League newsletter and Facebook page, used in news releases or comments to the press, used as a source of guidance for the League in making comments at meetings, or used to educate League members.

No experience is necessary! The only requirements are that you be a League member, understand the function of the committee you're observing, be a good listener, and refrain from working a personal or partisan agenda or speaking on behalf of yourself or the League (unless your comments have been approved).

By April, a committee will be in place to support the goals of the League Observer Corps. Volunteers will be offered two-hour training sessions to provide guidance and preparation for attendance at meetings, and to answer questions. Those interested in serving on the Observer Corps can contact Joan Sampieri at djoansampieri@gmail.com



League supports U.S. House of Representatives Act 1,

“For The People Act”

Why? The many elements of this legislation align with the League's long held positions and advocacy to ensure that our elections are free, fair, and accessible to all eligible Americans.

Why do we need a comprehensive package of democracy reforms?

It should be easier, not harder, to vote. The For the People Act improves access to voting with reforms like Same Day Registration and Automatic Voter Registration. (*Michigan voters recently passed Proposal 3, a constitutional amendment, that will permit citizens to register to vote up to and on Election Day. Previously Michigan citizens were required to register 30 days before the election.*)

More needs to be done to protect voters' voices. The For the People Act requires independent redistricting commissions, ends voter roll purges based on failure to vote, and restores the Voting Rights Act. (*Michigan voters also passed Proposal 2, a constitutional amendment creating an Independent Redistricting Commission. The IRC will draw district voting maps in 2021, following the 2020 Census. Today's maps were drawn and adopted by the Michigan Legislature in 2011.*)

Our government should respond to the will of the people, not the interests of powerful corporations and wealthy donors.

The For the People Act includes strong provisions for improving transparency in campaign finance and strengthening government ethics enforcement.

What other organizations are supporting HR 1?

The League is a member, along with nearly 150 other organizations, in a coalition called the Declaration for American Democracy

What is the status of the bill?

It was introduced January 3, 2019 and referred to 10 committees and subcommittees for hearings. The first hearing was in the Judiciary Committee January 31. As one representative remarked before the hearing, this was the largest crowd he had ever seen for an inaugural Judiciary Committee hearing. Six expert witnesses were questioned.

How is the League supporting this legislation?

LWVUS Lobby Corps visited members of the U.S. House urging them to support HR1, the For the People Act.

League sent a letter to members of the U.S. House of Representatives addressing HR1 as the bill needed to heal our country.

The League and members of the Declaration for American Democracy Coalition sent a joint statement from diverse groups to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of HR1, the For the People Act.

Susan Smith, our Ann Arbor Area League President, met with Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's staff to explain why the League supports the bill and to urge her to support it as well. Leagues across the country met with their congressional representatives.

What can we all do to support this legislation?

Call your legislators and tell them how important this package of reforms is to the future of our democracy. Urge them to vote in favor of HR1. You can find how to contact your representative at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials/>

Running for Public Office

LWVAAA member Rena Basch [shared some of her experiences](#) running for office and explained what to do if you are interested. Rena knows what it is like to run - she is in her third term as Ann Arbor Township Clerk.

If you are curious about what other interviews sound like, check out the archive on the [LWVAAA website](#)





Judy and Tom Mich make a generous gift to the LWVAAA Education Fund

The LWVAAA is very grateful to Judy and Tom Mich for their wonderful and very generous gift from the Speyer Foundation of \$40,000 for our Education Fund.

The Speyer Foundation was established by Judy and Tom Mich in 2000 with the mission at its termination to be used in their memory of 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.

The Speyer Foundation name was chosen by Judy and Tom because that was not tied to any individual or purpose, since their philanthropic objectives were varied.

The Mich's traveled extensively in southern Germany over the years, they recalled a favorite location: a beautiful little town nestled along the Rhine River called Speyer, pronounced “Schpire”. The town had a lovely old red sandstone church, the Speyer Cathedral, built in the early 1,000s A.D. The town and the people were wonderful and the memory left such an impression on them that they decided to name their family foundation the Speyer Foundation. They liked the fact that the foundation would not be tied directly to them or their family, removing the individual recognition, and they liked that the name Speyer was similar to the “spire” in “inspire”.

In sharing this history, Tom and Judy's friends and family appreciate this opportunity to shine a little of the spotlight on Tom and Judy who greatly deserve it, and who will be greatly missed. The LWVAAA will honor Tom and Judy's wishes to “be well, do well and do good”, by using this very generous gift to fulfill the goals and objectives of our Education Fund. Our Education Fund is used for voter education, voter registration and activities which support this part of our mission. We are very grateful to Judy and Tom Mich for this very generous gift to support our mission “To Empower Voters and Defend Democracy”.

LWV-AAA Events on the Calendar

**Monday, March 18,
2019
6:30 p.m.**

**Howell Carnegie
Library - Meabon
Room
314 W. Grand
River Ave
Howell**

Brighton/Howell League Event.

Guest speaker, the Honorable Miriam Cavanaugh, Chief Judge of the Livingston County Courts, will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Livingston County Courts and how the courts serve the needs of our community.

This is a public event, and all are welcome.

**Wednesday, March
20, 2019**

**Pointless Brewery
and Theatre**

March Brews & Views.

7:30 p.m.

3014 Packard Rd
Ann Arbor

In 2018, Michigan voters made history by passing a redistricting reform amendment with 61% of the vote to end gerrymandering.



Come hear from a Voters Not Politicians representative about Michigan's new redistricting process and how you can participate.

Friday, March 22,
2019
Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Cedars of Dexter
Clubhouse
411 Cedars Lane,
Dexter, MI

Ann Arbor Area March Lunch & Learn.

Our guest will be Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton.

Sheriff Clayton, currently serving his third term in office, is a certified criminal justice trainer and instructor for more than twenty-five years. He has provided training and consulting services to a variety of private and public-sector clients, including the United States Department of Justice, the National Sheriff's Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union. He serves on the boards of numerous local organizations and has received international recognition for his expertise and work in the Criminal Justice profession.

Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.

Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Click [HERE](#) to make a reservation.



Tuesday, March 26,
2019
4 pm

Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W. Ellsworth
Ann Arbor

BOARD MEETING.

Thursday, April 11,
2019
6:00 p.m.

Howell Carnegie
Library - Meabon
Room
314 W. Grand
River Ave
Howell

Brighton/Howell Event.

Livingston County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley and Elections Coordinator Joe Bridgman will describe the responsibilities of the County Clerk's office along with the effects of the passing of Promote the Vote (Proposal 3) on the voters in our county. Ms Hundley has been named to the Election Modernization Advisory Committee that will advise the Michigan Secretary of State and the Department of State's Bureau of Elections on the implementation of Proposal 3 and further election reforms. This is a public event and all are welcome.

Monday, April 15,
2019
3:00 pm

Ann Arbor District
Library - Pittsfield
Branch
2359 Oak Valley
Dr, Ann Arbor

Planning for Centennial Celebrations.

NOTE: DATE AND TIME HAVE BEEN
CHANGED.

The next meeting for those interested in working together to plan celebrations for the 100th

anniversary of the 19th amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters.

All individuals and organizations interested in working on the centennial are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, April 23, 2019
4 pm
Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W Ellsworth
Ann Arbor
BOARD MEETING.

Friday, April 26, 2019
Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse
411 Cedars Lane,
Dexter, MI

Ann Arbor Area April Lunch & Learn.

League member Margaret Leary will explain why the 2020 Census is so important. Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.



Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Signup form will be activated later

Friday, May 17, 2019-Sunday, May 19, 2019
Embassy Suites by Hilton
19525 Victor
Parkway, Livonia,
MI, 48152

STATE CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN.

This year's Convention in Livonia will celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and the 100th anniversary of suffrage for Michigan women. The Convention promises to be informative, productive and fun.

Friday, May 24, 2019
Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse
411 Cedars Lane,
Dexter, MI

Ann Arbor Area May Lunch & Learn.

Our guest will be Washtenaw County Treasurer Catherine McClary. Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.



Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Signup form will be activated later.

Friday, June 28, 2019
Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse
411 Cedars Lane,
Dexter, MI

Ann Arbor Area June Lunch & Learn.

We'll read and discuss "*The Woman Behind the New Deal: Frances Perkins*" by Kirstin Downey. Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.



Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Signup form will be activated later.

Friday, July 26, 2019
Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse
411 Cedars Lane,
Dexter, MI

Ann Arbor Area July Lunch & Learn.

Our guest will be Barbara Fuller, a member of the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Sandwich and salad or vegetarian lunch with coffee and soda at \$7 cash or BYO lunch.



Seating is limited to 30 and Reservations are required: Signup form will be activated later.

Not a member? Wish to join?

Message from your LWVAAA Treasurer

When you join the Ann Arbor Area league, you become a member of the Michigan State league and the League of Woman Voters U.S. (the national league.)

Dues are \$70 for an individual or \$100 for a household and are designated as follows:

Individual dues: LWVAAA retains \$15, LWVMI receives \$23 and LWFVUS receives \$32.

Household memberships: LWVAAA retains \$22.50, LWVMI receives 32.50 and we send \$45 to LWFVUS.

You can pay via [PayPal](#) or by printing out the [dues renewal form](#) and mailing it with a check to LWV-AAA, P.O. Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832.

Our local league is the front line of non-partisan support for our mission of

Empowering Voters / Defending Democracy

Your dues support: our website, email newsletter, voter education, advertising and meeting and program expenses.

*NOTE: If you joined or have paid dues since July 1, 2018 you are paid through December 31, 2019.

Thanks – Betty Bishop, Treasurer

LWVAAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS

President: Sue Smith

Vice President: Joan Sampieri

Treasurer: Betty Bishop

Secretary: Sue Smereck

DIRECTORS

Barbara Billings, Program

Sally Allen, Member at Large

Donna Crudder, Voter Service

Barbara Brown, Membership

Carolyn Madden, Advocacy

Susan Wooley, Communications

Jan Salsberry, Representative, Tecumseh Area

Ellen Lafferty, Representative, Brighton/Howell Area

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dee Dishon
Paige Silence

Mission Statement

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.



League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area | P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

[Unsubscribe susanw1940@comcast.net](mailto:susanw1940@comcast.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by league@lwvannarbor.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 
Try it free today