Wow! Do we have a lot going on!

VOTE 2018 is our focus, with Promote the Vote and voter registration taking center stage.

As you probably know by now, LWVMI, in collaboration with the ACLU and NAACP, is conducting a petition drive for a proposed constitutional amendment to ensure that our voting rights are enshrined in our state constitution, safe from legislative manipulation. You will find more information about Promote the Vote below. Stay tuned for developments and pitch in to help if you can. To circulate the petition, you must first attend a training session; check the League calendar for scheduled dates and places.

Last Monday, the high school voter registration crew, led by the fearless Roddy Wares, registered 158 students at Huron High School. This energetic crew will move on to Community, Pioneer, Skyline, and Ypsilanti high schools in the coming weeks. The sad events in Florida have motivated high school students around the country to make their voices heard. We are so happy that we can help make that happen.
At Wednesday night’s Brews & Views, people put their heads to the task of finding ways to register citizens in marginalized communities, such as formerly incarcerated and homeless citizens. Over good food and beer, lots of great ideas emerged. Look for developments on that front soon.

In the coming months, we will move into registering senior citizens, hosting a booth at the Ann Arbor Art Fair to provide information on Promote the Vote, VOTE411.org, and more.

And the final exciting development is that the Ann Arbor Area League is sponsoring a second new geographical unit: The Brighton/Howell Unit of LWVAAA. They are off and running collecting signatures, planning a high school voter registration program, and creating Promote the Vote t-shirts. We are thrilled to be able nurture this highly motivated group of people and provide what support we can. Welcome Brighton/Howell Unit!

As members, you are leading the way into greater community involvement. Keep up the good work. And keep your eyes on our Facebook page and website at lwvannarbor.org.

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**PROMOTE THE VOTE!!**

At the Feb 15 membership meeting, Sue Smith, state League board member, described **Promote the Vote** – a proposed constitutional amendment to make voting more accessible and convenient, ensure that everyone’s votes are secure and counted, and everyone’s voice is heard.

This ballot initiative would amend Michigan’s Constitution to:

- *Protect the right to vote a secret ballot* (the image above is an original ballot box)
- *Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time*
for their votes to count

- Provide voters with the option to vote straight party
- Automatically register citizens to vote at the Secretary of State’s office unless the citizen declines
- Permit citizens to register to vote by mail or in person until 15 days before an election
- Allow citizens to register to vote in person with proof of residency within two weeks of and on Election Day
- Provide all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason
- Ensure the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the proposal because we believe that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. We support provisions to increase the security, convenience, and accessibility of voting.

March 3 is the kickoff date to start circulating petitions with the goal of gathering over 400,000 signatures by June 20. It's a big job, but working with groups like the ACLU, NAACP, Michigan League for Public Policy and many others, we can do it.

Signature gatherers will be trained and given official petitions by the League. Check our calendar for schedule of training sessions. Direct your questions to Promotethevote@lwvannarbor.org

The Promote the Vote ballot proposal is separate from the Voters Not Politicians redistricting ballot proposal. Both proposals would amend the Michigan Constitution and both would improve the fairness of our elections in Michigan. It’s anticipated there will be five or six ballot proposals on the November 2018 ballot.
OUR NEWEST VOTERS!

The LWV’s campaign to create life-long voters through registering high school students began with a registration and information table at a meeting of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America on Sunday February 22nd in Ann Arbor. It was a perfect kick-off event as it was a meeting for area high school and college students who are already exercising their civic engagement muscles on the issue of gun safety and student safety in schools.

There were approximately eighty people who showed up to learn about Mom’s Demand Action work, at least half students. The meeting was scheduled in response to requests from students and the most inspiring part of the meeting was a portion devoted to breakout sessions followed by reporting back to the full group. Student participants in each group generated ideas for action on gun and student safety and on building coalitions among students county-wide. Much organizing is already underway connecting with national organizing as well as focusing on local issues of concern to youth. What was particularly inspiring was to see up close what most of us have seen in the media of late—smart, passionate, engaged young adults, determined to make a difference and with so much to contribute and most remarkably, the skills to lead.

LWV volunteers registered voters who will be eighteen by the November 6th election and spoke to many who regrettably won’t turn eighteen by then but want so badly to vote already. We can
all take heart in knowing there is a dynamic core of young adults in our community who need no convincing about the importance of voting and civic engagement. Our role is to help them register, learn the ropes of voting and get out of the way!

Kennedy Dixon, March for Our Lives Ann Arbor organizer proudly registering to vote

Poster Contest!

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS!

NEWS … FROM THE 2018 LWV POSTER CONTEST

We are rolling out the contest the week of March 5! Hoorah!

An information packet will be delivered to art teachers and club leaders at all of our county high schools with entry forms, an info sheet, a postable announcement poster and a call to participate.

We’ll be contacting people on a weekly basis to inspire, cajole, educate and remind.

Entries are due April 26, just in case you know any Washtenaw County high school students.

An on-line version of the info packet will be available as well. If you know someone in the schools, clubs, churches, private schools, or anywhere else, contact Nan Elder and she will email the info.
We are planning to have displays of the winning VOTE 2018 poster displayed throughout the county during the month before the November election, just IN THE NICK OF TIME TO GET OUT THE VOTE.

A shout-out to Kelly Parkinson at Allegra Printing who is donating her invaluable advice PLUS some of our printing costs. And to our very hard-working little hive of a committee: Linda Peck, Chris Samida, Kathie Weinman, Jim Schulz and Fran Lyman

**MARCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, March 2, 2018</strong></td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Muslim Community Association of Ann Arbor 2301 Plymouth Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105</td>
<td><strong>Muslim women and voting</strong> Immediately following Maghreb prayer. Presentation to women of the Muslim community on topics such as knowing your rights at the poll, where to find non-biased information on candidates and proposals, how to look up your polling place, and civic engagement within the Muslim community. Volunteers will help with registering to vote. Light refreshments and child care will be provided. This event is for women only; LWVAAA members are invited to attend. For information on visiting the mosque, go to: <a href="http://mca-a2.org/visitors/">http://mca-a2.org/visitors/</a> Co-sponsored by LWVAAA and the Muslim Community Association of Ann Arbor</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, March 6, 2018</strong></td>
<td>4:00 - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Bank of Ann Arbor 801 W. Ellsworth Rd. Ann Arbor</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting</strong> (new date)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, March 10, 2018</strong></td>
<td>1:00 - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Tecumseh Library 215 N. Ottawa Tecumseh, MI</td>
<td><strong>TECUMSEH: Promote the Vote</strong> - training to circulate the petition. Open to League members and non-members. You must attend a training session before you can circulate the</td>
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petition. For details about Promote the Vote, go to LWVMI.org

Monday, March 12, 2018
7:00-8:30 pm
AADL Westgate Branch
2503 Jackson Ave (Westgate Shopping Center)
Ann Arbor
LOCATION
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LWVAAA Great Lakes Committee monthly meetings. This active LWVAAA committee will hold monthly meetings (dates below). Because location is subject to change, be sure to contact terri@lwvanarbor.org the day before to confirm.

Mon March 12
Mon Apr 9
Mon June 11
Mon July 9

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
1st Presbyterian Church, Knox Hall
211 W. Chicago Blvd, Tecumseh, MI 49286

Tecumseh Lunch and Learn, Hungry for Knowledge on Promote The Vote

Speaker Erica Peresman, Attorney and Voting Rights Advocate: Erica has been a business lawyer, community leader and a nonprofit development professional. She is now pulling all that experience together to make a difference for Michigan voters...working to Promote the Vote. Promote the Vote is a proposed constitutional amendment to:

- Make voting more accessible and convenient
- Ensure that everyone's votes are secure and counted
- Ensure that everyone's voice is heard

Cost for Lunch: $6.00 payable at the door. This includes salad, pizza, drink, and dessert. Please contact us at lwvtcumseh@gmail.com to reserve lunch.

If you prefer to bring your own lunch, or come to hear the speaker only, there is no charge.
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 7:15 pm

**Pointless Brewery and Theater**
3014 Packard Rd
Ann Arbor

**Brews & Views. 13th: Mass Incarceration and Racial Injustice**

We will watch the award-winning documentary *13th*, which explores racial injustice and its role in the American incarceration system. Ava DuVernay's thorough approach to the issue of mass incarceration in this film provides deep historical insight, incisive political analysis and a timely call for justice. The film screening will be followed by group discussion.

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Monday, March 19, 2018 6:30 pm

**Tecumseh District Library**
215 N. Ottawa St.
Tecumseh, MI

**Membership Meeting**. The Tecumseh Unit of the League of Women Voters membership meeting. Please join us and become familiar with this non-partisan organization engaged in educating our community on issues that protect our democracy.

Contact us at lwvtcumseh@gmail.com should you have any questions.

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Monday, March 19, 2018 7:00 pm

**AADL Library - Westgate Branch**
2503 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor

**Orientation to the League**. Get a cup of coffee at Sweetwaters and join us to learn about all the League of Women Voters does to promote good government.

Members and non-members are invited.

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Wednesday, March 21, 2018 6:00-7:30 pm

**Howell Carnegie Library**
Meabon Rm
314 W Grand River Ave, Howell, MI

**BRIGHTON-HOWELL: Promote the Vote**

Training to circulate the petition. Open to League members and non-members. You must attend a training session before you can circulate the petition. For details about...
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| Wednesday, March 21, 2018 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm | **Immigrant Prisons Series Film**  
Promote the Vote, go to LWVMI.org  
Washtenaw County Learning Resource Ctr.  
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor  
The US has the largest immigrant prison system in the world, 380,000 - 420,000 persons a year. Join us to learn more about the immigrant prison industry; how immigration and private prisons participate in a $5 billion dollar a year industry.  
Learn from our community groups how we are engaged to help immigrants in our community. |
| Saturday, March 24, 2018 | 10:00 am - noon | **Promote the Vote** - training to circulate the petition.  
Open to League members and non-members. You must attend a training session before you can circulate the petition. For details about Promote the Vote, go to LWVMI.org  
AADL Library - Westgate Branch  
2503 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor |
| Friday, March 23, 2018  | Noon - 2:00 pm | **League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area 4th Friday Lunch & Learn**  
Friday, March 23, 2018  
Topic: The Clerk’s Role in Assuring that Every Vote Counts  
Speaker: Rena Basch  
Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse  
411 Cedars Lane, Dexter, MI 48130  
Rena Basch is the Ann Arbor Charter Township Clerk and elections administrator since 2004. She has a PHD in Materials Science and Engineering, and worked in the automotive industry prior to becoming clerk. She is passionate about voting rights and election integrity. Rena also owns a local food company. |
Lunch buffet at $6 cash or BYO lunch
Reservations required: Use the link to Signup
Genius below. Seating is limited to 30.
**Reservations Required.**

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

LWVAAA **Annual Meeting**, details to be announced later.

**Thursday, June 28, 2018 - Sunday, July 1, 2018**

Chicago, IL **53rd LWVUS National Convention 2018.**

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**Help Wanted!**

Help promote new LWVAAA-WEMU project – Answer phones and take pledges during WEMU pledge drive – join other LWVAAA members for a 2 hour stint. Contact susan@lwvannarbor.org for details.

The **Art Fair** is Coming!!! The LWV is looking for three people to coordinate the staffing of our booth. This year's Art Fair runs from July 19-22, 2018.

Calling all volunteers! Do you like sitting around and talking? Do you like defending Democracy? Then we have the job for you! All you have to do is show up at the **Art Fair** and sit around for a few hours, say hello to passers-by and hand out information about candidates and the pressing issues of the day. If you also manage to sell some T-shirts or bumper stickers, then you’re a Star! Contact Barb Brown to sign up!

**Greeters Needed!!**

Do you like going to interesting events and making new friends? Do you like making people feel comfortable and welcome? Then you have the makings of a great Greeter! All you have to do is
sign up for an event you were going to go to anyway (or even one you weren’t), come a bit early, and wait for people to come. Say hello, introduce yourself, ask if they have any questions, and generally help attendees feel like we want them to be there (which we do). Once they are settled in, go back and repeat. You don’t have to be an expert in League matters or policy (we have a booklet for that), you just have to treat attendees like you would like to be treated, if this was your first LWV event. Not only will you be furthering the cause of Democracy, but you might just make a new best friend!
Contact Barb Brown to sign up!

**Poster Contest!**
Help make our High School poster contest a success. We need a few extra hands for tasks like organizing the reward ceremony, mounting selected entries for exhibition or distributing printed copies of the winning poster to libraries and stores to help Get Out the Vote.
Contact Nan Elder to sign up!
The Gelman Plume in Ann Arbor: an Update

It’s pretty clear that in 1958 when Charles Gelman first developed a process to make micro-porous filters to detect air and water pollution, he had no idea just where that process might lead. Now fully 60 years later, Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas continue to fight the pollution that resulted from that once thriving business. Although Dan Bicknell, then a graduate student at the University of Michigan discovered the Dioxane plume in 1984, a slow-moving investigation and even slower remediation process allowed the plume to grow and spread as the decades went by.

Fast forward to 2018 and city administrators will tell you that things have not gotten much better. Gelman Sciences, which was bought in 1997 by Pall and then in 2015 by Danaher Corporation, continues to pull tainted water from the ground, remove the Dioxane and then return it to Honey Creek, but these efforts are not keeping up with the spread of the plume. The greatest fear is that the plume will continue to spread, eventually reaching Barton Pond and contaminating the city’s water supply.

Heightening these concerns, the state of Michigan has adopted new standards for allowable amounts of Dioxane in the water supply. Now, instead of 85 parts per billion, the new standard is just 7.2 parts per billion. At the present, litigation which would call for a more rapid clean-up process is continuing in the Circuit Court. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency is now playing an oversight role. The EPA has not yet declared it to be a Superfund site, but it remains under consideration. Ryan J. Stanton has been covering the story for MLive and the Ann Arbor News. A more in-depth review of the situation can be found here https://topics.mlive.com/tag/ann-arbor-dioxane. Additional information can also be found at this link provided by the Ann Arbor District Library: https://aadl.org/features/pall_gelman_cleanup.

News on Line 5

On Tuesday, January 18, the Great Lakes Committee of the Ann Arbor chapter of the League of Women Voters hosted a panel discussion on challenges facing the Great Lakes, with an update on the Line 5 oil pipeline. A panel of experts, including Dr. Eric Anderson (NOAA) and Liz Kirkwood (Executive Director, FLOW), presented and discussed the issues. The discussion was recorded and can be seen on YouTube.
Carbon Pricing

If you missed the panel discussion of Carbon Pricing (2/7/2018) it is now available to stream online. This is an excellent overview of possibilities and problems associated with how we can reduce carbon emissions. Click HERE to be connected to the Ann Arbor District Library site.

For panel bio’s and resources for more information, go to RESOURCES

Welcome to the new Brighton/Howell area LWV Unit!

The new LWV Brighton/Howell Area Unit held their first meeting Wednesday, February 21, at the Howell Carnegie District Library. The event offered the community a chance to learn more about the League and find out how to become involved. A “Meet and Greet” was held, followed by a general meeting. Unit Co-Chairs Renee Guido and Ellen Lafferty are happy to report that over 25 people attended including Ann Bolin, the Brighton Township clerk. Bolin said she was “very pleased to see the League active again in the county,” and offered to help with voter registration training and local high school outreach.
It was a “wonderful addition to our evening” said Lafferty.

Using handouts, the Promote the Vote campaign was discussed, then Bolin answered audience questions about registration. She expressed appreciation that those in attendance were being encouraged to consider registering as election inspectors for their local precincts and she also helped to explain the differences between election inspectors and election challengers, enhancing the League’s commitment to voting integrity.

Terri Wilkerson presented the League power point, followed by a Q & A session, and Guido gave an overview of Voters Not Politicians. Since many of the attendees were not aware of this campaign information, they found it informative and very much appreciated learning about the issue.

With the exception of one person, all those in attendance filled out a volunteer form, including a Brighton HS graduate who has offered to go back into her school to register students.

Lafferty and Guido were both interviewed onsite by the local radio station (WHMI).

**WHY I JOINED THE LWV! Grace Pang**

If I think about why I joined the League, it comes down to wanting to DO something. (This theme came up repeatedly at the League's recent membership meeting.) Being informed and advocating for issues as an individual are great, but I think it comes down to: get active, get organized, work actively with others towards some concrete goal.

Since I joined the League in mid-January, I've found a couple of ways to contribute. On the communications front, I'm working with other League members and WEMU staff to get a regular radio segment about the League and its work launched. I also just went through training to collect petition signatures for the Promote the Vote ballot proposal, which is geared toward guaranteeing that Michigan's voting system works for all of us. I'm really glad I joined. It feels good to be doing tangible work.

**HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS TO THE LWV-AAA FACEBOOK PAGE**
Did you know that we have an active Facebook page? Check it out by going to www.lwvannarbor.org website and clicking on the FB icon on the home page. It's neat and growing better every day. BUT, now that there are so many LWV-AAA activities, our editor Julie Baker can't attend them all. She needs some help from members and friends who are at these events and can snap a picture or two. Send your pictures (.jpg or .png) and write up a brief description (date, place, what's happening, who is in picture if possible). Send your submissions to Facebook@lwvannarbor.org It's that easy to share the news about LWV in action.

LWVAAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

OFFICERS
Co-Presidents: Sally Allen and Nancy Schewe
Treasurer: Betty Bishop
Education Fund Treasurer: Barbara Brown
Secretary: Sue Smereck

DIRECTORS
Zoe Behnke, Program
Roxane Chan, Member at Large
Jeanine DeLay, Candidate Forums
Carolyn Madden, Member at Large
Jan Salsberry, Member at Large
Joan Sampieri, Member at Large
Jennifer Schlicht, Member at Large
Susan Wooley, Communications

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Susan Baskett
Paige Nong

Not a member? Wish to join?

Click here to join using Paypal or click here for a mail-in registration form.

NOTE: Dues are not tax deductible - to make a tax deductible donation, check out our website www.lwvannarbor.org

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.