



**MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK.**
<http://lwvann Arbor.org/>

May 2018

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR MARCH

Sally Allen and Nancy Schewe, Co-Presidents

COOPERATION, CREATIVITY, AND HARD WORK BRING RESULTS!

When we reflect on the past year, we are amazed at how many new League members have raised their hands, jumped aboard and showed so much initiative and enthusiasm in helping us register voters, present public forums, gather signatures, educate voters, visit high schools, produce newsletters, take on leadership roles, send out eblasts and participate in **WEMU** interviews. And that is just a sampling of the many activities our League has been involved in with **VOTER RIGHTS AND SERVICES** always at the forefront. But we are not done, and never will be. It took almost 100 years for women to win the right to vote and that movement created the League of Women Voters in 1920. Almost 100 years later, we are faced with ever more threatening challenges, and our mission seems more important than ever. We started the year with a sense of urgency and we are ending our year with a sense of urgency, but we made a difference!



Please join us on May 15th at the Kerrytown Concert House as we honor your contributions, celebrate our victories and get updates on our current goals and challenges.

PROMOTE THE VOTE!!

Our Ann Arbor chapter of the League of women Voters has been working hard to bring voting opportunities to various members of our community! One more training date is available on May 2, 2018 but time is running out to collect the required number of signatures! See the sign-up link in our calendar below. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



LWV-AAA has taken to the airways with **IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**, a series of 10-minute interviews by **WEMU (89.1 FM)** host Lisa Barry who chats with League members about our programs and activities. The bi-weekly interviews air on alternate Mondays at 4:35pm and can be heard via podcast at www.wemu.org. To hear the April 23rd interview "Making It Easier To Vote" with Sue Smith go to <http://wemu.org/post/public-interest-making-it-easier-vote>

Our Youngest Voters!

On the previous WEMU program, Roddy Wares updated everyone on the progress of our campaign to register young, first time voters in Washtenaw County. She reports that Dearborn began this very successful program five years ago and our campaign is following their model. As of the broadcast Ms. Wares reported that with five schools yet to go they had already registered nearly 700 new voters!

In the wake of the Parkland shooting and the activism that those students have shown, our local high school students are especially eager to have their voices heard as well. They want to be heard and they are eager to vote.

Click here to listen to the program.
<http://wemu.org/post/registering-wash-co-students-vote-part-public>



Volunteers recently registered young voters at Washtenaw International High School. Retired school teacher Dan Ezekiel said "The excitement of the WiHi students was palpable as they lined up for one of the milestones of life in a democracy, registering to vote. Thanks to Edwin Peart of the Washtenaw County Clerk's office, for being on hand to certify the new voters' registrations, which means they can vote absentee (from college) next fall, even if it is their first time voting."



Registering voters in underserved parts of our community!

LWV's volunteer Paige Nong reports on her work in the community: We have been building partnerships with various community groups to provide voter registration support and resources. **Nation Outside**, an organization created by and for the formerly incarcerated, is working with us to raise awareness about the voting rights of formerly incarcerated people and help them register to vote. We are partnering with the **Friends in Deed Circles** program for families in poverty to tackle important policy issues, register voters and provide some democratic engagement education. We will be working with food pantries, affordable housing initiatives and a variety of other community organizations through mutual and meaningful partnerships. If there are League members who have connections to any organizations that might like some voter registration and education support, please contact [Paige Nong](#). We are also looking for help designing accessible information about voting day and voting rights for underserved communities.

Outreach to Register Senior Citizen Voters

LWV volunteer Cathy Whitaker reports: we are hoping to approach the management at all independent and assisted living facilities in the county to offer League visits to help their residents register and complete absentee ballot applications. We are currently lining up summer visits to several facilities and foresee a major effort in the early fall before the November election. Our focus is on subsidized apartments housing low income seniors or facilities in less



affluent neighborhoods. We've had help from many members and volunteers but need more help to make this happen! Right now I have a list of places we need to telephone to verify contact information – a job you can do right at home! We will need lots of volunteers who have been trained to register voters this summer and fall. I'm also looking for members who have contacts – staff or a resident - at any senior center or residence that might be willing to reach out to management there – something very helpful to get our foot in the door. Please contact Cathy Whitaker with questions or to help out. Thank you! Cathywhit@gmail.com

Poster Contest!

NEWS ... FROM THE 2018 LWV POSTER CONTEST

On the earlier WEMU program, LWV Volunteer Nan Elder also updated everyone on the recent poster contest. April 26, 2018 was the deadline for the contest so we are into the judging portion of it now. The judges will be looking at the strength of the message and the impact of the graphic design. First prize will be \$500, second prize will be \$250 and third prize will receive \$100. Even more exciting, though, the winning design will be printed and distributed throughout the county! Watch your in-boxes for word on the winners!!

Our **Awards Presentation** will be held at the Pittsfield Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library on June 23 at 11:00 with teachers, League members, students and their families, as well as sponsors and donors to be invited. **Please come and support your 2018 poster contest winners!**

The winning poster is to be printed and distributed around the county, and placed on over **100 AATA** buses in October and November. In addition, an exhibit of poster entries will be mounted around the County in the Summer and Fall.

Sponsors:

The Alley Bar will donate 10% of their takings on **Giving Thursdays** during the month of June to help us defray costs. **COME SUPPORT YOUR POSTER CONTEST** and enjoy a craft cocktail or their wide menu of beers on one of the Thursday nights in June. A surprise program is being planned for two of the Thursdays. Come on LWV members, spread the word. The Alley bar is located at 112 West Liberty in Ann Arbor.

Our deepest thanks go to:

Kelly Parkinson from Allegra Printing in Saline, an invaluable partner to the team, dispensing advice, contacts and a healthy donation of printing costs

including the postcards and the winning poster with its conversion to AATA needs.

AATA has donated space on over 1,000 buses. Thank you, Mary Stasiak.

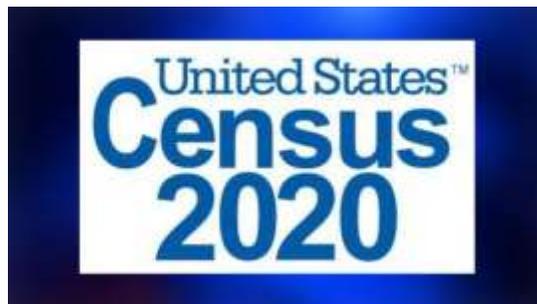
Kristin Howard of UPS Store of Ypsilanti is scanning every poster entry as a donation to LWV.

Donors to the Education Fund for the contest are being led by **Sesi Lincoln Volvo, Varsity Ford** and the **Bank of Ann Arbor**.

Additional sponsors include **Knight's Market** and **Mona Walz, the Buyer's Broker**.

2020 Census Question

Late in the evening on March 26, 2018, the Commerce Department announced the addition of an untested and unnecessary question to the 2020 Census form, which will ask every person in America about their citizenship status. The League of Women Voters believes that the question is unnecessary and will depress participation in the census, resulting in under-reporting of population in many areas. The U.S. Constitution requires that all persons, not all citizens, be counted. LWV would like to see the citizenship question removed from the 2020 Census.



To learn more about the LWV's position, click here: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/talking-points-citizenship-question-2020-census>



Have you ever considered being an election inspector?

The Washtenaw County Clerk/Register is looking for people to work the polls on election day this August and November. Want to know more? Click [“HERE”](#) for details about the job, and if you’re interested, send an email to elections@ewashtenaw.org or 734-222-6730.



Candidate Forums are Coming!

The campaign season is upon us, with the primaries being held in August and the general election in November. The League has traditionally held Candidate Forums for a variety of offices and this year is no exception. Donna Crudder will be spearheading the effort and would like to invite anyone interested in helping out to contact her via [email](#),

or text or phone at (734) 663-5754.

The jobs are varied:

Pre forum we will gather to create substantive questions for the candidates to answer--a kind of ‘kitchen cabinet’ to identify, review and capture those issues that will most affect our voters in the coming years

At the event itself, we will need greeters for candidates and viewers as they get comfortable with the venue and set up, timers to see that we adhere to a strict timed structure of questions and answers, a moderator (or 2) who welcome the audience and candidates formally to a League sponsored event and someone who will ask the questions and keep track of the sequence of candidate participation.

The venues are varied: some that are focused on the Ann Arbor precincts will be held at the CTN studios while others will be in other cities and towns often with live audiences, like Ypsilanti.

We will cover city, county, state and even national races and will need a cohort of League members to help us have a successful and informative season.

Donna looks forward to hearing from all of you interested in seeing us fulfill our mission, once again, to keep the public informed and knowledgeable regarding candidates and issues facing them in 2018.



MAY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
2:00 - 3:30 PM
Ann Arbor Library - Traverwood Branch
Program Room
3333 Traverwood Dr

Promote The Vote Petition Gathering Training

[HERE](#)



www.promotethevotemi.com

Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Your Polling Place

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
7:00-9:00 PM
Kerrytown Concert House
415 N. Fourth Ave
Opposite Farmer's Market
Public parking available nearby

ELECTION Washtenaw County residents can see what will be on their ballot at VOTE411.org

SPRING CELEBRATION AND LWVAAA ANNUAL MEETING. Come meet other members and enjoy a little fun
What's on the Agenda?

- Refreshments
- A celebration of the many wonderful LWV-AAA projects
- A poetry slam by the Neutral Zone
- More refreshments
- A slide show of our poster contest entries

- An opportunity to sign up for summer projects
- And, yes, a brief but essential business meeting to adopt the budget and elect the Board for the upcoming year.
- Yet MORE refreshments!

Please [RSVP](#), it's not required, but will help us plan.

See you there on May 15.

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
6:30 - 7:30 PM
Howell Carnegie Library Meabon Room
314 W. Grand River, Howell

Dark Money in Michigan Politics.

speaker, Craig Mauger, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network

Friday, May 18, 2018
Noon - 2 PM
Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse
411 Cedars Ln. Dexter

Lunch & Learn



Washtenaw County Clerk Larry Kestenbaum will be our guest.

RESERVATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED, Signup Genius link to come later.

NOTE: Date is the third Friday in order to avoid Memorial Day weekend.

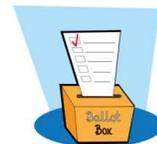
Tuesday, May 22, 2018
4:00 PM
Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W Ellsworth Rd
Ann Arbor 48108

Board Meeting.

Thursday, May 31, 2018
7:00 - 8:30 PM
Ann Arbor Library, Downtown Br.
343 S. Fifth Ave
Ann Arbor

Voter Registration Training Learn the details about how to register voters; find out about the many LWV registration projects.

[Please RSVP](#)



**Saturday, June 9,
2018
10:00 - 11:30 AM** **Ann Arbor
Library,
Pittsfield Branch
2359 Oak Valley
Dr.
Ann Arbor**

Voter Registration Training Another opportunity to learn the details about how to register voters; find out about the many LWV registration projects.
[Please RSVP](#)

**Wednesday, June
13, 2018
6:30 PM** **Tecumseh
District Library
215 N. Ottawa
St.
Tecumseh, MI
49286**

Campaign Finance in Michigan Elections. Craig Mauger, of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, will detail how the role of money in Michigan politics has changed over the last decade. The presentation will provide information on how campaign finance works in Michigan; what is dark money; how can a person identify dark-money funded campaign mailers and advertisements; and how can a person find out who's funding a TV ad.

**Saturday, June
23, 2018
11:00 am - 1:00
PM** **AA District
Library -
Pittsfield Branch
2359 Oak Valley
Dr.
Ann Arbor
48108**

Poster Contest Awards Ceremony Everyone is invited to meet the winning artists, see all the posters and applaud this fabulous venture.



**Thursday, June
28, 2018
-Sunday, July 1,
2018** **Chicago 53rd LWVUS National Convention**

**Wednesday, July
4, 2018
10:00 AM** **TBD**

Fourth of July Parade.
**Plan to march with the League of Women
Voters!**
Details to follow.

**Monday, July 9,
2018** **Your County,
City or
Township
Clerk's office**

**Last Day to register to vote in the August 7
Primary Election.**

Thursday, July 19, 2018- Sunday, July 22, 2018

Downtown Ann Arbor, Non-Profit Section

LWV-AAA Booth at the Art Fair. Sign up and help represent the League during the Fair
Email membership@lwvannarbor.org



Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Your Polling Place

PRIMARY ELECTION.

Washtenaw County residents can check what will be on the ballot by going to

<https://www.washtenaw.org/304/Elections>

About a month before the election, the League website VOTE411.org will go live with candidate information and responses to League questions.



Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Your County, City or Township Clerk's office

Last day to register to vote in the November 6 General Election.

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Your Polling place

GENERAL ELECTION.

Congressional, state and local races and ballot proposals.

Washtenaw County residents can check what will be on the ballot by going to

<https://www.washtenaw.org/304/Elections>

About a month before the election, the League website VOTE411.org will go live with candidate information and responses to League questions.



Help Wanted!

GRAPHICS DESIGNERS – Do you have graphics software and skills? Increasingly, LWVAAA projects need flyers, programs, gift certificates, and more. Our two volunteers need some help. Contact [Susan](#) for more information.

The **Art Fair** is Coming!!!
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!

Voter registration help needed! If there are League members who have connections to any organizations that might like some voter



registration and education support, please contact [Paige Nong](#)

We are also looking for **help designing** accessible information about voting day and voting rights for underserved communities.

Interested in helping with the upcoming **Candidate Forums**? Contact [Donna Crudder](#)

News on Line 5



The Great Lakes Committee is working to bring awareness of the heightened threat to 740 miles of Michigan coastline posed by Line 5 pumping 22.5 million gallons of oil a day under 4.5 miles of water next to the Mackinac Bridge. Concern is increasing because two nearby electrical lines were recently hit by an anchor drop and completely severed spilling over 600 gallons of coolant oil compound. Only some of that oil has been recovered. The deteriorating, improperly installed, 65 year old pipeline known as Line 5 also has 3 dents as a result of this anchor drop. The extent of the damage from the dents has not yet been revealed to the public. Clean up efforts are continuing while the extent of the damage is being assessed using ROV (Remote Operating Vehicles according to the [United States Coast Guard's April 23, 2018 press release](#) "Anchor Interaction" was the number one threat identified of the 12 threat categories included in the [Alternative Analysis Study](#) presented at the July 6, 2017 Pipeline Safety Advisory Board Meeting. The second principle threat identified in this report was "Incorrect Operations". Enbridge, who operates Line 5, is the Canadian company responsible for the 2010 spill which resulted in 35 miles of the Kalamazoo River being closed for 2 years. Line 5 is 24 years older. The unique thing about Line 5 is that it is operated by an easement which can be revoked by either the Governor (517) 373-3400) or Attorney General (517) 373-1110 alone. Officials get weekly summaries of the number and reason for calls, so it is important to call and say that you want Line 5 shut down immediately and completely in the Straits of Mackinac where over 10 times the flow of the Niagra Falls occur - and reverses direction every few days. For more about Line 5, go to www.RetireLine5.org which is the information website created by LWVAAA member and Great Lakes committee chair Terri Wilkerson to increase general awareness and non-partisan support. [Click here](#) to see a 30 minute Detroit Public TV documentary made this month.

WHY I JOINED THE LWV! Barbara Beaton

I've been stopping by the LWV booth at the Art Fair for years, picking up literature, yard signs etc. Each time I'd think, I need to join this group! I've long admired the LWV mission of fostering an informed and engaged electorate. My career and mission in life as a librarian have at their heart a passion for providing communities (however defined) with the tools they need to enhance their lives, educationally, culturally, politically, etc. Just as libraries are a public good, I see the LWV as fulfilling a similar role in our society and I'm grateful to finally be a part of this work! I'm especially excited about the League's efforts to create lifelong voters through voter registration drives in the high schools -- this next generation of voters is truly going to be a force!



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 Alina Dunlap 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](#)

[mail-in registration form.](#)

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.

