

Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

Visit us at www.lwvann Arbor.org

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



The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

September 2013

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Memo from the President

Welcome to the new League year! Doesn't it seem as if The League of Women Voters is needed now more than ever?

- The Voting Rights Act has been gutted.
- No Taxes for Abortion Insurance attempts to ban insurance coverage for abortions under the Affordable Care Act in Michigan. (**Don't sign this!!**)
- Hydraulic fracking has already started in Michigan and endangers our fresh water supply.
- Public education is threatened by constant attacks on funding and by unwise, hurried reform plans.



Read through this issue, mark your calendars, and join us for a year of action, advocacy, and study.

I look forward to seeing you at all of our upcoming events. Mark your calendars.



The End of the Constitution?-Part Two

A lecture by former State
Rep. Lynn Rivers



Voter Registration Day

September 24th
All Day

How you can help:

Register your friends to vote.
Run a voter registration event at your club, your place of worship, or your apartment or condo complex.

In today's America, the presidency has accumulated tremendous power - power much greater than what the framers envisioned and the Constitution provides. This has resulted in a system of checks and balances that no longer balances. Unfortunately, based on partisan preferences, Americans are either highly critical of presidential action or mute. Both responses are inadequate to protect the historical division of powers. Join Lynn for a discussion of the dangers of an all-powerful executive branch and the end of the Constitution. This will be a sequel to her earlier talk "The End of the Constitution?" You can view a video of the first talk by clicking [HERE](#)

Monday, September 23rd

7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library
Downtown Branch
343 South Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Monday, September 23rd **The End of the Constitution** **Lecture Part 2**

Guest Speaker: Former Rep.
Lynn Rivers

7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library
343 South Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, October 1st

Candidate Forums **Wards 3 & 5**

7:00-8:40 p.m.
CTN
2805 S. Industrial.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Wednesday, October 2nd

Candidate Forums **Wards 1 & 2**

7:00-8:40 p.m.
CTN
2805 S. Industrial.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Click for [Voter Registration Form](#)

Email Nancy Schewe at nschewe@comcast.net for information and materials.



Advocacy

LWVMI takes Action in Lansing

Did you know that you are a member of LWV of Michigan? Well, you are and you should be proud of the fantastic work they do on your behalf.

First of all, Judy Karandjeff, the LWVMI VP for Advocacy is amazing. She is smart. She is incredibly hard-working. And she knows her way around the Capitol.

Here is just a sample of the efforts LWVMI is making on our behalf.

Supporting

- Medicaid Expansion and the Affordable Care Act: Michigan will save over \$1.3 billion and provide coverage for nearly 500,000 residents as this program is expanded.
- Indigent Defense: The League supports state funding of all of the costs of an indigent person's defense in lieu of the current system of appointment of counsel.

Opposing

- Fracking: The League opposed the use of a flawed EPA study and expressed concerns over water-related impacts of sulfide mining.
- Petition drive to ban insurance coverage for abortions under the Affordable Care Act: ***Decline to Sign this petition*** and tell your friends not to sign it either.

These are merely four items from a list of fifty-six advocacy efforts made so far this year. The work continues and we are in it for the long-haul. Right?



Election Administration Reform

Election Administration Reform
Via Social Media



Thursday, October 10th
The Affordable Care Act

7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library
343 South Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tuesday, November 12th
Membership Meeting

Location - To be announced

Tuesday, December 10th
December Potluck

6:00 p.m.
Shirley Axon's
2016 Seneca Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Board Meetings are held the 4th
Tuesday of the month

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



VOTER CALENDAR

September 29th
VOTE411.org is ready

October 1st
Candidate Forum
CTN, Channel 19
7:00 - 8:40 p.m.

October 2nd
Candidate Forum
CTN, Channel 19
7:00 - 8:40 p.m.

October 7th
Last Day to
Register to Vote

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

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

Have you "liked" our Facebook page yet?

Like us on Facebook 

Watch your inbox and our Facebook page in the coming weeks for information regarding the November 5th election. Download voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications. Receive notice of important deadlines. Find links to candidate forums and, of course, to the all important VOTE411.org online voter guide.

Join us in our efforts to make sure that every voter is registered, has access to non-partisan information about the candidates and issues, and votes. When you receive these messages, please share them widely among your friends.



Membership August 2013



As you can imagine, it was quiet over the summer when it came to recruiting new members. While we were away enjoying our summer, our numbers remained the same with 61 individual members, 8 household members, and 5 honorary members for a total of 74.

We did just sign up one new member in the last week. Let's welcome Pat Kuessner of Ann Arbor to our rolls.

The national league has a new program called Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) and leagues participating grew 1.34% in 2012. Leagues participating in MLD capitalize on events that they are already planning in their communities actively reaching out via the media, partnering with allied organizations to increase the power of our voice, and consistently asking individuals to join the league. They intentionally engage new members to be a part of the event planning and execution process to develop more leaders.

Through the remainder of 2013 and into 2014, Nancy and I will be looking for ways to leverage our meetings and events to increase membership and keep the Ann Arbor league visible in the community always focusing on activities that serve democracy.

November 5th
Up to 4:00 p.m.
Emergency absentee
voting

November 5th
GENERAL ELECTION
Go to VOTE411.org for Info.

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

Proposals on the ballot
Milan Restoration Proposal
Milan Township: Renewal
of Road Maint. Millage
Saline Area Schools:
Operating Millage
Renewal Proposal

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and YOU

The Patient Protection and
Affordable Care Act (ACA),
signed into law in March 2010,
continues to change this
country's health-care system. It
has already

- expanded coverage of young adults by allowing them to stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26,
- outlawed lifetime limits on what insurance will cover,
- lowered the cost of drugs for seniors on Medicare,
- prompted 13 million consumers to get premium rebates totaling some \$1.1 billion, and
- extended access to free preventive care for patients of all ages.

But all of this is merely
prelude to the transformation

We would appreciate your ideas and support.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

In June, the Supreme Court effectively struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by a 5-to-4 vote, freeing nine states, mostly in the South, to change their election laws without advance federal approval.

The court divided along ideological lines, and the two sides drew sharply different lessons from the history of the civil rights movement and the nation's progress in rooting out racial discrimination in voting. At the core of the disagreement was whether racial minorities continued to face barriers to voting in states with a history of discrimination. [Read more.](#)

Women's Equality Day Featuring League Members

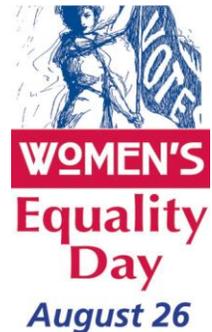
Zoe Behnke and Nancy Schewe represented the League at the Women's Equality Day celebration held at VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Along with the usual League materials, Zoe brought in displays from the Liberty Awakes exhibit on the women's suffrage movement here in Washtenaw County.

Nancy and Zoe were the featured speakers of the event. Zoe spoke on two historical figures in the suffrage movement and Nancy spoke on what women have gained by having the vote. While very important gains have been made, such as Title IX and increased numbers of women holding elective office, we have a long way to go.

Did you know that the United States ranks 78th out of 189 countries for the greatest representation of women in parliament? Rwanda is #1 with 56% of their parliament comprised of women. In 2013, women represented only 18% of the US Congress.

We have some work to do to make Women's Equality Day ring true.

In Memory of Virginia VandenBroek



coming in 2014 - when almost all Americans will have access to affordable health insurance that covers essential care.

How will the ACA affect you? Coming in October, the LWV-AAA will sponsor a public informational session to explore this historic shift in the U.S. health care system. Look for more information in your email box for the date, time and location of this event!



Quick Links

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

Member Update

Life Honorary League Member Virginia VandenBroek died March 30, 2013, at the age of 97.



Virginia was very active in civic affairs and volunteer organizations. She was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters joining first in St. Charles, Missouri and then our LWV-AAA after coming home to Michigan. She had fond memories of her former League and often regaled us with stories of her exploits there.

For several years, Virginia was 2nd vice-President for Advocacy. She faithfully wrote to Congress and the Michigan Legislature when the League had a position on a bill that was being voted on. Also, she served as co-president of the league. Virginia was very supportive of the board members and would often give us her thoughts on issues and concerns. She always said, " We are doing the best that we can when we couldn't do everything that we wanted to do in a calendar year. We could always count on her to be a most effective Parliamentarian at our annual meetings.

She was dedicated and believed in the League of Women Voters. Virginia believed that everyone should vote and be an informed voter. Even after her death, her bequest to our league reminds us that we need to keep working for voter education and voter rights.

She is dearly missed by the members who knew her.

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