

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE ANN ARBOR AREA
P.O. Box 3832 · Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832
www.lwvannarbor.org

Annual Report

2014-2015

Distributed at the Annual Meeting
May 19, 2015
Kerrytown Concert House

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area
2014-2015 Officers and Directors

Board Members

Co-Presidents	Nancy Schewe & Mary Banks
Secretary	Susan Greenberg
Treasurer	Judy Mich
Education Fund Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Program Director	Patricia Zagorski
Membership Director	Rosemary Austgen
Natural Resources Director	Shirley Axon
Voter Service	Zoe Behnke

Off-Board Positions

Mailing	Nancy Brucken
Membership Secretary	Joan Overmire
Newsletter	Nancy Schewe & Tawnya Phifer [†]
Webmaster	Susan Wooley
Candidate Forums	Jeanine DeLay & Zoe Behnke
Voter Registration	Mona Walz

2014-15 Nominating Committee

Joan Overmire
Fran Lyman
Susan Greenberg

Table of Contents

Current Leadership	Inside Front Cover
Order of Business	4
LWV-AAA Annual Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2014	5
Annual Reports	
Co-Presidents'	6
Treasurer	7
Education Fund	8
Membership	8
Natural Resources	8
Program Planning	9-10
Partnerships	11
Communications	12
Proposed 2015-16 Budget	13
Slate of Nominees	14
In Memoriam	15
Members	Inside Back Cover

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area
2015 Annual Meeting
May 19, 2015

Call to Order

Guest Speaker: Zoe Clark, Michigan Radio

Adoption of Standing Rules and Agenda

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Approval of the Minutes of May 20, 2014

Report from the Co-President

Nancy Schewe

Bylaw Review Committee

Nancy Schewe

Treasurer's Report

Judith Mich

Proposed Budget for 2015-16

Judith Mich

Nominating Committee's Report

Fran Lyman

Election: Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Directions to the Board

Adjournment

Standing Rules

1. Voting members must be registered by 7 p.m.
2. Members may speak to a motion for up to two minutes
3. No member shall speak to a motion for a second time until all members who wish to speak have been heard.

A majority of those present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for election of officers and directors, adoption of the recommended budget, and changes to the bylaws.

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

May 20, 2014

Members Present: Rosemary Austgen, Shirley Axon, Mary Banks, Zoe Behnke, Betty Bishop, Marina Brown, Barbara Clark, Susan Greenberg, Mary Hathaway, Judy Judd, Pat Kuessner, Fran Lyman, Norma Mau, Judith Mich, Sarah Newman, Nancy Schewe, Steve Schewe, Susan Van Appledorn, Susan Wooley, John Zagorski, Patricia Zagorski.

Prior to the business meeting, Lana Pollack, Chair of the International Joint Commission (IJC), spoke to us about some of the challenges faced by the Commission. The two main responsibilities of the IJC include regulating shared water uses and investigating transboundary issues and recommending solutions.

President Nancy Schewe called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Adoption of Standing Rules and Agenda: A motion was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote unanimously.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Susan Greenberg was appointed Parliamentarian for the meeting.

The minutes of the May 21, 2013 meeting were approved.

The 2014-2015 budget was presented by Treasurer Judy Mich and was approved unanimously.

The Nominating Committee slate of officers was presented and approved.

President Nancy Schewe gave her report, citing all of the ways in which LWVAAA is successful: candidate forums, public issue forums, VOTE411.org, community visibility. The area in need of development is membership recruitment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Greenberg, Secretary

Co-Presidents' Report

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area had a very busy and successful 2014-2015.

We should be particularly proud of our voter service activities, which helped local citizens be more informed at the polls. The Ann Arbor Area had over 13,000 visits to *VOTE411.org* during the 2014 election cycle, up nearly 35 percent from the 2014 cycle. We held six moderated candidate forums for the primary election and nine for the general election. Sue Smith, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, spoke at three educational forums in our area during the month of April on the May 5th Statewide Ballot Proposal, walking voters through all of the complexities of the proposal. The League was truly “Johnny-on-the-spot” with voter information this year.

Of course, the Ann Arbor Art Fair gives us great visibility when we set up our booth every other year and hand out *VOTE411.org* bookmarks and sell t-shirts and yard signs. We literally hand out thousands of bookmarks directing voters to use our online voter guide. And every year, at least two or three people tell us that they wished the League still ran the presidential debates. So do we.

This year Ann Arbor elections were given close scrutiny at two public forums examining the way in which we elect our mayor and city council. Panelists discussed such issues as partisanship, election timing, voter turnout, the ward system, the expense of running for office, and what changes are within our control to make. While no firm conclusions were drawn, the AA city council plans to hold a debate on election reform later this summer. A little nudge from the League never hurts.

We are now fully in the 21st Century in terms of our online presence. We have both Facebook and Twitter accounts and used both extensively during the election for both voter education and get-out-the-vote efforts. Nearly 100 percent of you receive our communications via our Constant Contact messages. Our website enables people everywhere to learn about us and our activities any time, day or night. All of this saves us a great deal of money and effort, makes us more visible to a whole spectrum of people, and helps us do more things because we can communicate so easily. Online communication will only increase. Please read your email, “Like” us on Facebook and “Follow” us on Twitter. There are links available for both on our website.

In 2014-2015 we plan to make greater efforts to engage our members. To that end, we are conducting a survey of what activities would make you feel more like a member. Please take time to fill out the survey either tonight or online at www.lwvannarbor.org

The League of Women Voters remains a vital presence in our community and you make that happen.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Schewe and Mary Banks
Co-Presidents

Treasurer's Annual Report

Fiscal Year-to-date

Our current LWV-AAA fiscal year runs July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

This report uses rounded amounts from portions of two different fiscal years covering the dates March 31, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

COMERICA BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance March 31, 2014 (previous fiscal year)		\$ 4,963
INCOME		
	Dues	4,483
	Contributions	1,175
	From EF and MI EF	1,022
	Sales of T shirts & signs	1,227
EXPENDITURES		
	Administration/Mgt.	1,212
	League Support (PMP)	2,882
	Conventions/Wkshps	704
	Purchase T shirts & signs	1,416
	Art Fair	796
	Voter Service	535
	Other	102
<u>CURRENT BALANCE, March 31, 2015</u>		5,223

COMERICA BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT

<u>SAVINGS FUND</u> (Savings and two Comerica CDs)	\$ 8,012
<u>MEMORIAL FUND</u>	
(Established 2014 and currently held within our Comerica Business Savings Account)	26,000
<u>CURRENT BALANCE, March 31, 2015</u>	34,012

More specific details on year-to-date income and expenditures may be found with the proposed budget sheet. The proposed 2015-2016 budget sheet in this report shows a comparison of actual income and expenditures with the current 2014-2015 operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith G. Mich, Treasurer
734-668-6491
judithgmich@hotmail.com

Educational Fund

During the current LWV fiscal year, the Education Fund was used to assist with funding for voter education and public education meetings. This came to a total of \$622.00. Between April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015, contributions to the Education Fund totaled \$885.00. The Ed Fund balance, as of April 1, 2015, was \$6016.05.

Betty Bishop
Education Fund Treasurer

Membership Report

	May 2014	May 2015
Individual Members	44	57
Household Members	9	8
Honorary Members	5	3
Total	58	68

We're delighted by this increase in our membership over the past year. Recruitment efforts and heightened visibility through our activities in the community throughout the year have really paid off.

Rosemary Austgen
Membership Director

Natural Resources

In October two members – Jean Kluge and Shirley Axon - attended the LWV Lake Michigan Interleague Group's weekend of information at Traverse City. The title of the meeting was "Climate Change and Its Effects on Biodiversity." We gave a report on the Lake's quality and problems at the December potluck.

The City of Ann Arbor continues to have questions of what kind of development to encourage. The Library Lot is part of the uncertainties.

Shirley Axon
Chair

Program Planning

2014-15: Year in Review

- July 7-9: **Primary Election Candidate Forums** —Managed by Zoe Behnke and held at CTN-TV's Ann Arbor studio, LWV-AAA sponsored three nights of forums featuring candidates running in the August Primary for Ann Arbor mayor, Ann Arbor City Council, Washtenaw County Probate Judge, and 22nd Circuit Court Judge. The “on-demand” videos had more than 1,000 viewings. Miriam Borenstein and Judy Mich served as moderators and volunteers included Sally Allen Mary Banks, Marina Brown, Susan Greenberg, Lucia Heinold, Nancy Schewe, Harvey Somers, Mona Walz and Patricia and John Zagorski.
- July 16-19: The League staffed a booth at the **2014 Ann Arbor Art Fair**. Galen Wood, Co-President Mary Banks' husband, built a sturdy booth to shelter volunteers from the hot sun and rain. Hearty League volunteers included Mary Banks, Zoe Behnke, Betty Bishop, Marina Brown, Susan Greenberg, Kathie Groulay, Pat Kuessner, Lineve McKie, and Nancy Schewe; they were ably assisted by 12 students representing Washtenaw International, Community, Skyline and Dexter high schools as well as Central Academy.
- Sept. 9: The League also had a booth (staffed by Zoe Behnke) at the **Feminist Fair**, sponsored by the Women's Resource Center of Eastern Michigan University and held at the Student Center.
- Sept. 22: **Membership Meet & Greet**, held at Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill in Ypsilanti's Depot Town historic district. New faces and lots of pizza.
- Oct. 4: **Observer Corps Training**: League members and volunteers (including Gillian Gatecliff, an 11th grader at Washtenaw International High School) trained as Election Day observers at local polling sites.
- Throughout October: **2014 General Election Candidate Forums**: The League sponsored nine moderated panel discussions with candidates running for Ann Arbor mayor, State House of Representatives and Senate for districts 53, 55 and 18 respectively; Ann Arbor Public Schools and Washtenaw Community College boards; Washtenaw County Commission candidates for Districts 7, 8 and 9; and Circuit and Probate Court judge-ships. Moderators were Judy Mich, Miriam Borenstein and Will Hathaway. In addition, the League sponsored three separate forums for Ypsilanti Mayor, City Council and School Board, viewable on YouTube. Lastly, partnering with LWV-MI and the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, the LWV-AAA sponsored the (*only*) University of Michigan Board of Regents candidate forum at the Ford School.
- Oct. 20: **Bee Awareness: Protecting Our Pollinators**, a lecture presented by Dr. Meghan Milbrath of Sand Hill Apiaries and held at the AADL.
- Nov. 20: **Reception for Elected Officials**, held at Hathaway's Hideaway in downtown Ann Arbor. Many thanks to LWV-AAA Member Mary Hathaway for her generous hospitality in hosting this much-anticipated event in the historic Hideaway.

Program Planning

2014-15: Year in Review *cont'd.*

- Dec. 9: **Annual Holiday Potluck:** Shirley Axon and Jean Kluge presented an overview of the LWV Lake Michigan Federation Conference, held in Traverse City. Many thanks for Shirley and the late Don Axon for their warm hospitality — once again, opening their lovely home for this much-anticipated annual event.
- Feb. 26: **2015 Member Meeting:** Members discussed 15 positions and made recommendations to retain, drop, or update each position at Grand Traverse Pie Company on Zeeb Road.
- Mar. 3: **Ann Arbor Elections: What Works? What Doesn't?**— First in a two-part discussion exploring the current local, partisan election system was a knowledgeable trio of panelist: Dave Askins, former editor of the now departed (2008-14) online *Ann Arbor Chronicle*; former (1978-83) Ann Arbor Mayor Lou Belcher; and former Ann Arbor City Council Member (1994-2006) Jean Carlberg. Held at the AADL-Downtown Branch.
- Apr. 8 & 9: **May 5th State Ballot Proposal: What is it? What would it do?** LWVMI President Sue Smith presented at two locations, the Chelsea Retirement Center and the AADL's Downtown Branch.
- Apr. 14: **Ann Arbor Elections: Exploring Options** was the second in the two-part series, this time featuring panelists John Chamberlin, professor of public policy at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Washtenaw County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum; and Joseph Ohren, Eastern Michigan University professor of political science. Held at the AADL's Downtown Branch.
- Apr. 18: *Pay 2 Play: Democracy's High Stakes*, documentary screening cosponsored with the Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Council, and ROAD (Reclaiming our American Democracy). Held at First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor.
- May 15-17: **League of Women Voters of Michigan Biennial Convention, Giving Voice to Democracy**, held in Kalamazoo. Four LWV-AAA members, (Board Member) Betty Bishop, Harvey Somers, John Zagorski and (Board Member) Patricia Zagorski attended, as well as Co-President (and LWV-MI Director-at-Large) Nancy Schewe.

Patricia Zagorski
Program Director

Partnerships

This was another banner year for creating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones. And, again this year, the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area made every effort to sponsor activities — as well as attract respected community partners — to fulfill one of our organization’s key goals: assisting voters in making informed choices at the polls:

Ann Arbor District Library (AADL): Once again this year, the AADL co-sponsored three much-talked about forums, including *Bee Awareness: Protecting our Pollinators*, with speaker Dr. Meghan Milbrath (October 20); and the two-part panel discussion, *Ann Arbor Elections: What works? What doesn't?* (March 3) and *Ann Arbor Elections: Exploring Options* (April 14).

Community Television Network (CTN): The wide-spread popularity of last year’s (a total of 16) primary (in July) and general Election (in October) candidate forums had a lot to do with our good, long-standing partnerships CTN. Both series of forums featured candidates in races for Ann Arbor mayor; Ypsilanti City Council; 22nd Circuit Court; Washtenaw County Probate Court; Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners; State Senate, State House of Representatives; Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees; and Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education. Again this year, they were taped at CTN’s Ann Arbor’s studios, rebroadcast numerous times on Channel 19 prior to the primary and general elections, and available for online streaming anytime through a link on our website (lww-annarbor.org).

University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy: Our cosponsor for the U-M Board of Regents forum, held at the Ford School on October.

Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Council, in partnership with Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, and ROAD (Reclaim Our American Democracy) were our co-sponsors for the April 18 screening of the John Wellington Ennis documentary *Pay 2 Play: Democracy’s High Stakes*.

We are grateful for the support of these partners.

Communications

As in any organization, keeping in touch with our key stakeholders (our members), supporters and the media is an essential component to our mission. This year, we continued to utilize several highly effective modes ways to keep the LWV-AAA mission, activities, action items and “brand” in the spotlight.

Constant Contact

We continue to primarily keep in touch with members online through Constant Comment email service, enabling us to format communications and keep track of how many members are opening these messages. This past year, we published four newsletters (September, November, February and March) and disseminated thirty-five notices and reminders about public events.

Website

The League website, *lwvann Arbor.org* continues to be an important, interactive presence. It features the League’s up-to-date calendar, links to *Vote411.org*, Michigan Secretary of State voter sites, forum video links and in-depth articles.

Thanks again to “webmistress” Susan Wooley, who maintains the LWV-AAA website, sends out Constant Contact messages and keeps the Board on task.

Media

Press releases and “media alerts” were disseminated online to more than two dozen individual journalists, media outlets and online calendars for each LWV-AAA event.

Voter Service

In addition to the highly visible 2014 candidate forums, the League continued to publicize the valuable online resource *VOTE411.org*.

With funding from the Bank of Ann Arbor, the League disseminated more than 3500 copies of the ever-popular **Your Elected Officials** (YEO) brochures to libraries, retirement centers and locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Slate of Nominees

1. League of Women Voters Ann Arbor Area Board.

The nominating committee has completed its task of choosing candidates for the 2015-16 LWV-AAA Board, and submits for your approval the following people:

President	Nancy Schewe
Vice-President	Miriam Borenstein
Secretary	Harvey Somers
Treasurer	Judith Mich
Program	Pat Zagorski
Ed Fund	Betty Bishop
Natural Resources	Shirley Axon
Membership	Zoe Behnke & Rosemary Austgen
Nominating Committee	Nancy Brucken Jeanine DeLay Lineve McKie

Respectfully submitted,
2014-15 Nominating Committee:

Joan Overmire
Fran Lyman
Susan Greenberg

In Memoriam

We remember loyal League members and friends who died in the past year.

Don Axon

Beloved husband of LWV-AAA Board Member Shirley Axon. With Shirley, Don hosted the LWV-AAA's Annual Holiday Potluck in their lovely home for many years. He always built a real fire in the fireplace to warm the season.

Tawnya Phifer

Exceptionally bright, newly retired woman when joined the League, Tawnya immediately volunteered to serve as our newsletter editor. Sadly, she died much too soon. Her energy and quick wit are greatly missed by all.

Mary Stadel

Central to her vision of reform was the educated citizenship promoted by the League of Women Voters; Mary was president of the LWV-AAA in 1963. She received her 50-year member award at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Pauline Walters

Pauline served on the LWV-AAA Board for many years and ran our office out of her home. She is well remembered for conducting fundraising campaigns for the League, which entailed huge mailing parties at her apartment.

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

Membership

Barbara Adams	Jean B. Kluge
Cyrene Aksman	Mariana Kopacz
Sally H. Allen	Pat Kuessner
Rosemary Austgen	Frances Lyman
Shirley Axon	Marcia MacMullan
Virginia L. Bachman	Carolyn Madden
Mary Banks & Galen Wood	Norma J. Mau
Zoe Behnke	Yvonne C. Mavroleon
Laura Bien	Edith Maynard
Elizabeth S. Bishop	Marie McGonagle
Miriam Borenstein	Lineve McKie
Laura Brodtkin	Judith G. Mich
Marina B. Brown	Benjamin Miller
Nancy Brucken	Olga Ann Moir
Mary & Richard E. P. Burney	Joan Overmire
Barbara M. Carr	Frances B. Parker
Margaret Carter	Barbara A. Robinson
John Chamberlain	Nancy & Steven Schewe
Barbara Clarke	Molly Shanks
Ellie Davidson	Nancy Sitterley
Jeanine DeLay	Susan K. Smith
Fran Dew	Janya & Harvey Somers
Dr. Cheryl C. Farmer	Ann M. Staiger
Lindsay Garinger	Gloria L. Stapp
Terri Gilbert	Ellen D. Teller
Barbara Hall	Bette M. Thompson
Craig Harvey	Mona L. Walz
Will & Paula Hathaway	Rebekah Warren
Mary Hathaway	Robert F. Whitman
Lucia Heinold	Angela & Charles Williams
Margaret & Roland Hiss	Russell Woinowsk
Judy M. Judd	Susan Wooley
Richard Kato	Patricia & John Zagorski

