



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the Ann Arbor Area

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Visit us at [www.lwvann Arbor.org](http://www.lwvann Arbor.org)

*LWV is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy*

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## ★President's Corner

Our year is almost over and as I look back upon the year, we have accomplished many things. Please come to our **Annual Meeting**, May 12, to discuss and vote on a local study, Slate of Officers, By-laws changes, and Budget. Shirley has invited Jeannette Neagu to talk and show slides on the Great Lakes. There is more information in this newsletter.

In April, we will be discussing our LWV-MI **position on prisons**. Carolyn Madden has agreed to put together the April program. Consensus questions and material will be provided for our consensus meeting in the new year. She has invited Kate Warner to participate in the League's discussion.

Please see Shirley's column on the speaker she has invited to our **April luncheon meeting**. Please bring a lunch and join us for tea and coffee. The meeting is at Zion Lutheran Church, please use back entrance, and it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. There is an elevator and I will be there to greet you at the door. The meeting starts at noon.

Shirley and I went to the **A2D2** meeting for public comment on zoning changes. We have a position on local planning and presented it at this meeting. I will be researching our files at the Bentley Historical Library, U-M, for local positions that our league has studied. I have really enjoyed looking through the files and learning how much the League was involved in our community and our county.

Please read Sue Smith's column on upcoming events in April that our League and the State League are sponsoring. We hope to see you at these events.

Enclosed are the proposed the **Budget and Bylaws** changes. Please read them and bring your questions to the Annual Meeting.

**School Board Debates** will be held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Incumbents Glenn Nelson and Irene Patalan will be April 20. (They are running for two seats for a 4-year term). On April 23, Adam Hollier and Ravi Nagin will be running for one 2-year term. Both events begin at 7:00 pm on CTN Channel 19.

**Thanks** to Nancy Schewe, Sue Smith, and Fran Lyman for being on the Nominating Committee and presenting a slate of officers for this coming year. Thanks also to Judy Mich, Sue Smith, Liz Rogers, and Susan Wooley for putting together the Budget for next year. And finally, on behalf of the League, I would like to thank Trina Borenstein for publishing our newsletter for this month.

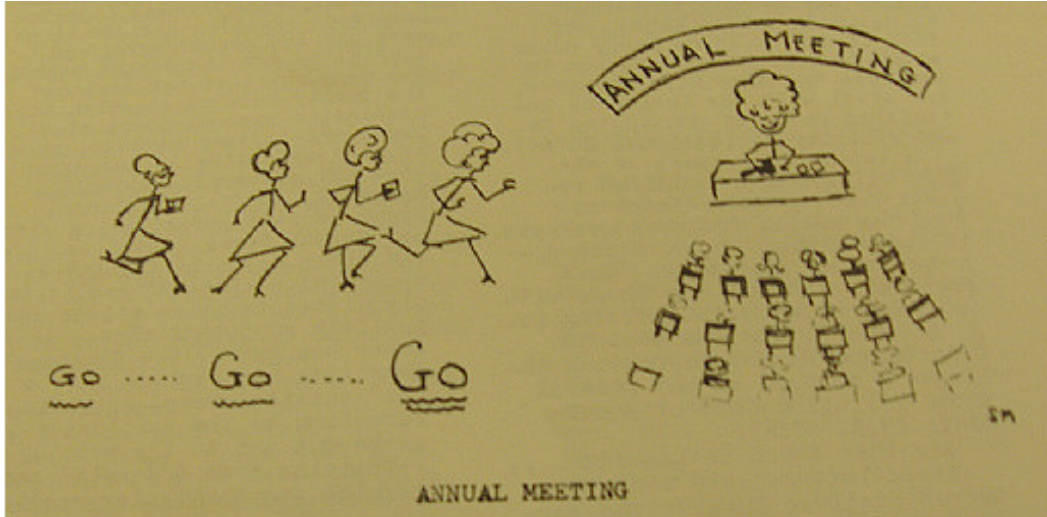
★ **Zoe Behnke, President, LWV-AAA**  
<bliz468@aol.com> or 734-663-1664.

## STATE CONVENTION -- OPEN TO ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS

MAY 15-17, 2009, SHERATON LANSING HOTEL, LANSING, MI

THE LEAGUE WILL COVER REGISTRATION, TRAVEL, AND HOTEL EXPENSES. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN HOW THE LEAGUE WORKS AND TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS THAT YOU DO. MAYBE THERE IS A STUDY THAT WE SHOULD BE DOING AND HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT. PLEASE E-MAIL ZOE AT [BLIZ468@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BLIZ468@YAHOO.COM) IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

From a LWV-AAA bulletin from the 1960's



## BYLAW CHANGES TO BOARD PROPOSED

After careful review your Bylaw Committee has suggested two simple changes shown below. These changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, May 12, at the Ann Arbor City Club. Please read and prepare your vote.

Since the Board has moved to an ad hoc rather than portfolio limited (e.g. just Government or Social Policy) we need fewer members. The lower number makes for a more efficient Board and eases the search burden on the Nominating Committee while making each Board position more contributory and valuable. Most nominees are asked to serve for one year and most eventually serve more than two years in a position, thus the second change merely makes official the current practices.

A few copies of the Bylaws will be available at the Annual Meeting and by request.

-- Judith Mich, Bylaws, 668-6491, judithgmich@hotmail.com

## ARTICLE V. Board of Directors

**Sec. 1. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League and seven elected directors, and not more than five/5 (formerly seven/7) appointed directors. Elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting and may serve for a one/1 (formerly one or two)-year term or until their successors have been elected. Appointed directors shall serve one-year terms.**

### 2009-2010 SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

<b>Officers:</b>	President	Zoe Behnke	<b>Directors:</b>	Shirley Axon
	Vice President-Membership	Sue Smith		Fran Lyman
	Secretary	Trina Borenstein		Nancy Schewe
	Treasurer	Judy Mich	<b>Nominating Committee:</b>	
	Education Fund Treasurer	Betty Bishop		Margaret Hiss, Barbara Peacock

## New Budget for 2009-10

Inserted within this bulletin is the 2009-2010 Budget prepared by your Budget Committee of Betty Bishop, Elizabeth Rogers, Sue Smith, Susan Wooley and ex officio Judith Mich, Treasurer. It is been approved by the Board and now awaits your passage at the Annual Meeting, May 12, Ann Arbor City Club.

We hope for steady membership income and the continued strong contributory support from our members. Interest income, once helpful, has become negligible. We rely on our Ed Fund account to sustain Voters Service and educational activities, including a portion of our public meeting costs. Although the budget relies on a major contribution from savings, you will note that previous budgets did the same, and we have not actually used savings funds except for the paper balancing required to make the budget work.

Expenses in the forthcoming budget year require significant expenditures to send two representatives to the LWV National Convention and our usual Per Member Payment (PMP) to both the state and the national organizations. Other expenses remain much the same with the addition of the small, but worthwhile, investment in the maintenance of the local web site which I hope you are both proud of and using often.

We have an outstanding guest speaker on Annual Meeting night, the committee hopes you will attend. Please study the budget and be prepared to vote! Questions may be directed to any committee member or to me.

-- Judith G. Mich Treasurer 668-6491, Budget Committee, ex officio

**≈ Natural Resources News ≈  
by Shirley Axon, NR Chair**

**NOON BAG LUNCH - PROFESSOR JONATHAN BULKLEY**

We have invited Jonathan Bulkley to give a new Powerpoint presentation on the Allen Creek Greenway at our April Noon Bag Lunch. Prof. Bulkley has a joint appointment with the School of Natural Resources and Civil and Environmental Engineering and is a member of the Allen Creed Greenway Conservancy Board.

The meeting will be at 12:00, Thursday, April 16, at Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Please bring your own bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

**ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER**

The speaker at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, will be Jeannette Neagu. Jeannette, Great Lakes environmentalist from Indiana, will present a slide show on the Great Lakes. The meeting will take place at the Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw, at 8:00pm.

For her part in helping to establish the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore State Park, Neagu has received the Isaac Walton League Environmental Achievement Award and the Paul H. Douglas Award from the Save the Dunes Council and a 2007 award from the House of Representatives of the State of Indiana "for her years of service to the citizens of the Great Lakes region and the State of Indiana.

In the 1990's, Neagu was the co-producer and host of a weekly television show, "This Land Is Your Land" that addressed environmental issues and concerns. As co-president of Lake Michigan League of Women Voters, Neagu has lobbied for Great Lakes issues and conducted educational programs on the Great Lakes throughout the region.

I saw Jeannette's excellent Great Lakes slide show in Portland, Oregon, at the LWV Bi-Annual meeting. You will be glad to have seen it!

**LWV-AAA SPEAKS TO CITY COUNCIL**

On March 23, Pres. Zoe Behnke and Natural Resources (NR) Chair Shirley Axon recommended to the Ann Arbor City Council that the City Planning Commission appoint an Urban Design Review committee to be made up of a landscape architect, an architect, an architectural historian, and an urban planner. Also, that the Design Committee develop Design Standards, and review proposed development projects to ensure that the standards are met. Finally, we asked that these standards be adopted concurrently with the zoning ordinance.

At the NR Bag Lunches, which have been meeting over three years to learn from experts about downtown plans, the group identified good design as a critical part of any proposed new buildings going up. Zoe was able to find in our LWV records at the Bentley Historical Library one of our Consensus statements that almost exactly mirrors the one we proposed to City Council. The year was 1965!

**The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area recommends that:**

- 1. The City Planning Commission appoint an Urban Design Review Committee to be made up of a landscape architect, an architect, an architectural historian, and an urban planner.**
- 2. The City Planning Commission charge the Urban Design Review Committee with: (a) Developing Urban Design Standards, and (b) Reviewing proposed development projects to ensure that the standards are met.**
- 3. The Urban Design Standards be incorporated into the city zoning ordinance concurrently with the adoption of the ordinance.**

## JAIL STUDY

At the April 14 general meeting, the League will discuss the recently approved LWVMI Jail Study. Kate Warner, Social Justice Chair at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation and member of the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Program will join in the discussion of the issues related to jail study consensus questions. Please join us for a very important discussion. The meeting will be at the Ann Arbor City Club , 1830 Washtenaw, at 7:00pm.

⌘ Voter Service News ⌘  
by Zoe Behnke, President

The League is known for its Voter Service. When I think of the League, I think of voter service. We are known for our non-partisan activities.

This year Jeanine Delay and Gwen Reed put together the debates. Gwen developed a list of groups that we could send publicity notices. Jeanine and Gwen were involved in setting up the debates with CTN and contacting the candidates. Sue Smith and Judy Mich agreed to moderate the debates. Several members from the League, including Jeanine, were the time keepers. Gwen put together and organized the volunteers (Community High School) to greet attendees and hand out information about the League. The debates were held in July and October.

The state league asked the local leagues to register people at DHS. We had several people who went to DHS in Ypsilanti to register voters. Also, voters were registered at the Ann Arbor Public Library.

Laurie Terrace (senior housing) requested that the League of Women Voters oversee its election to keep the residents board. We spent several hours witnessing the residents' voting, then tallied the votes and gave the results to the president of Laurie Terrace Residence Council. They voted to keep their residence council.

Several league members discussed the ballot issues with different organizations during September and October.

We are currently planning the Candidates Night for the Ann Arbor Public School Board Election that will be held on April 20 and 23, for the election on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The forums will be televised on CTN.

Sadly, Gwen Reed passed away and we miss her enthusiasm and "I can do that" attitude.

I would like to thank Judy Mich and Trina Borenstien for putting together the YEO's. We hope to publish it in May and then update it in June.

Thank you to all the members who helped this year in voter service. In this coming year we will have the November election and then we will be gearing up for the elections in 2010.

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area will be hosting a candidate forum and debate on Monday, April 20, and Thursday, April 23, for the Tuesday, May 5, Ann Arbor School Board election. The two events will be taped at the CTN studio and can be seen on Channel 19 at 7-7:30pm each night. Replays on Channel 19 will be broadcast up until the election. The Monday, April 20, forum includes "discussing the issues" with current Board members Glenn Nelson and Irene Patalan. Nelson and Patalan are running unopposed for two open 4-year terms. The Thursday, April 23, debate features the two candidates running for one seat on the Board for a 2 year-term. The candidates are: Adam Hollier and Ravi Nigam. If you would like to submit any questions for either the candidate forum or the debate, please contact the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area at: [www.lwvannarbor.org](http://www.lwvannarbor.org). The League is honored to host this important educational and civic event and thanks Community TV for making it possible.

*With deepest sympathy to the families of Gwen Reed, Lois Bovee, and Nancy and Ron Bishop. We are thankful for their friendships, wonderful work that they did in the league, and board positions that they were involved with. They will be greatly missed.*

## **School Board Elections**

Jeanine DeLay has organized the debates for CTN. Judy, Sue, Zoe, and Jeanine met to discuss the questions and the schedule for moderators, etc. The debates will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Judy will be moderating the April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 for the incumbents Glenn Nelson and Irene Patalan. Sue will be moderating the April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 for Adam Hollier and Ravi Nagin. You can watch these exciting and informative debates on Channel 19. It will be repeated up until the day of the election.

## **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Voter: Promoting Michigan Voter Power**

Come join your fellow League members and members of the public, Friday, April 24, 9:00am – 3:30pm at the Mazzara Conference Center on the campus of Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. (See flyer in this newsletter.)

What a wonderful opportunity to hear: Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Marilyn Kelly, speak about Supreme Court elections in Michigan; a Discussion of Term Limits by Senate Majority Leader, Michael Bishop and House Speaker, Andy Dillon; as well as a panel of city and county clerks discussing ways to make voting more accessible.

Cost to League members is \$30.00 and includes lunch. Register on line at [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org), or call 517-484-5383 for a registration brochure. Brochures and further information are available from Sue Smith, [susanprakkensmith@msn.com](mailto:susanprakkensmith@msn.com) or 434-2411. Contact Sue if you are looking for a car pool.

## **Climate Change: Choosing a Healthy Environment**

Our League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring a Town Hall meeting with the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights League of Women Voters on Climate Change and what residents can do to reduce human emission of greenhouse gases. The meeting will be on Thursday, April 30, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm in the Environmental Interpretative Center on the UM-Dearborn Campus at 4901 Evergreen Rd., Dearborn. (See flyer in this newsletter for more information and a map.) Contact Sue Smith, [susanprakkensmith@msn.com](mailto:susanprakkensmith@msn.com), or 434-2411 for more information and/or to share a ride.

## **Girl Scout Fundraiser**

The Girl Scouts are presenting "Fashionistas", Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 5:30pm. The cost is \$40.00 per person (\$20.00 is tax deductible), and reservations are required. RSVP by May 8, 2009, to [fashionistas@gshom.org](mailto:fashionistas@gshom.org). For more details, please call Zoe Behnke at 663-1664.

## **Washtenaw Historical Museum**

Jeanine and Zoe met with Susan Nenadic to discuss our upcoming exhibit to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of woman suffrage in Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County. Jeanine has agreed to chair this event and we are in the process of gathering information. The Ann Arbor Equal Suffrage Association was formed on October 24, 1910, by the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association. We were one of three that were formed in this state. Clara Arthur, Detroit, and other prominent suffragists came to Ann Arbor to discuss with women the importance of woman suffrage.

## **YEOs**

Trina, Judy, and Zoe met and are working on proof-reading the information. With Trina's computing skills it didn't take that to update. We hope they will be printed soon.

C a l e n d a r -- February / March 2009

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|----------|--|-----------|---|
| April 14 | General Meeting<br>Topic: Prisons<br>Guest: Kate Warner<br>7:00 pm: Social<br>7:30 pm-9:00 Program<br>Ann Arbor City Club<br>1850 Washtenaw<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48104                           | April 24  | <i>The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Voter: Promoting Michigan Voter Power</i><br>Henry Ford Community College<br>9:00-3:00 pm<br>Mazzara Conference Center<br>Dearborn, MI<br>Fee: \$30.00, register at: lwwmi.org |
| April 16 | Luncheon Meeting<br>Speaker Prof. Jonathan Bulkley<br>12:00-1:00 (please bring a lunch)<br>Zion Lutheran Church<br>1501 W. Liberty (back door, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48103 | April 30  | <i>Choosing a Healthy Environment</i><br>U-M Dearborn<br>Environmental Interpretative Center<br>7:00-8:30 pm.<br>4901 Evergreen Rd.,<br>Dearborn, MI  |
| April 20 | 7:00 pm, School Board Forum<br>Glenn Nelson and Irene Patalan<br>CTN Studios<br>2805 S. Industrial, Suite 200<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48104   | May 5     | School Board Election - VOTE  |
| April 21 | NO BOARD MEETING   | May 12    | Annual Meeting<br>Guest: Jeannette Neagu<br>7:15-8:00 annual meeting<br>8:00-9:30 Program<br>Ann Arbor City Club,<br>1850 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor 48104  |
| April 23 | 7:00 pm, School Board Forum<br>Adam Hollier and Ravi Nagin<br>CTN Studios<br>2805 S. Industrial, Suite 200<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48104  | May 14    | 5:30 pm, "Fashionistas"<br>Girl Scouts Fundraiser<br>\$40.00, RSVP by May 8   |
|          |  | May 15-17 | LWV State Convention<br>Lansing, Michigan   |

**League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area  
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