



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the Ann Arbor Area

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Visit us at 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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★Sez the Prez★

Welcome back to the start of another exciting League year!

Voter Service - Voters Service is an important part of any election year and we are off and running. In conjunction with Community Television Network (CTN), we held Candidate Forums for the August 3 Primary on four nights in July. Offices included Mayor and City Council, County Commissioner for District 11, State Representative for the 52nd District and State Senate for the 18th District.

Thanks to our Voter Service Team of **Jeanine DeLay, Judy Mich, Nancy Schewe, Zoe Behnke, June Rusten and Barbara Clarke**. This fall, we will hold Candidate Forums for the General Election. If you would like to be involved, let me know.

Membership Event - Increasing and engaging our membership is one of the goals set by the Board at its Retreat last spring. An exciting membership event is planned for October 12. Watch your mail for details.

Re-districting - Now that the US Census has been completed, new voting district lines will be drawn. Will the voters choose their legislators or will the legislators choose their voters? How can we increase the number of districts where there is a real contest between the candidates? Our local League has an opportunity to learn more about the re-districting process and how to influence the criteria used in drawing district lines. Let me know if you're interested.

Spending Your Dues Wisely - As printing and mailing costs continue to increase, the Board has decided we need to change from sending out the Newsletter by US Mail to emailing it to our members. Many other Leagues are already doing this very successfully. In addition to reducing costs, sending the Newsletter by email will allow us to use pictures, color and other enhancing features that are not currently possible.

Beginning in January 2011, we will send the Newsletter out by email, not by US Mail.

Please send your email address to Joan Overmire, thomasovermire@sbcglobal.net, to keep informed of the many activities going on this year.

We recognize that not everyone is able to receive the Newsletter by email. If you are one of those, please let us know by calling Judy Mich at 734-668-6491, and we will make other arrangements to get the Newsletter to you.

League Planning Calendar - We want to increase participation in League activities. To help find where you might fit in, the Board has developed a Planning Calendar for the year. It is at the end of this Newsletter.

Thanks - We all owe a debt of thanks to **Zoe Behnke** for her enthusiastic and energetic leadership the past three years. Zoe is continuing on as Program Director.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your President for the coming year. Please feel free to contact me about getting involved.

I hope to see you at one or more of our events.

Sue Smith

susanprakkensmith@comcast.net



Liberty Awakes "Winning the Woman's Vote in Washtenaw County" Exhibit, January 8, 2011-February 27, 2011, Washtenaw Historical Museum, 505 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area and Washtenaw Historical Society

For more information on the exhibit, see the following programs on CTN and/or attend the Washtenaw Historical Society's November 21 meeting, 2:00 - 4:00 at Glacier Hills (open to the public and League members).

CTN, Channel 19: see CTN schedule for times (www.a2gov.org/ctn)

September 23: Soap Box

October 7: Community Access

HOLD THE DATE: OCTOBER 12TH, 4-6 P.M.

All members are invited to a Wine and Cheese Reception at Hathaway's Hideaway featuring special guests

Watch for more details on our

website: www.lwvannarbor.org

BUDGET MATTERS Judy Mich, Treasurer, 668-6491 judithgmich@hotmail.com

WE'RE KEEPING OUR PROMISE... Going green and saving green will be firmly in place for the League beginning January 1, 2011. You're holding the second-to-last mass-printed and bulk-mailed edition of our local Voter bulletin. There will be a final edition in late fall delivered with sighs of relief from our fabulous volunteers, Trina Borenstein and Nancy Brucken.

The new LWV-AAA bulletin will be published online, and available in your email or on our website, with kudos to Susan Wooley.

If the USPS is your only mail source, please contact the LWV President or Treasurer, and we will fulfill our promise to stay connected with our membership.

... **AND YOU MUST KEEP YOURS!** To receive the new 2011 online bulletin we must have your email address. Please fill this in on the enclosed dues notice at the bottom. Or let us find you through a neighbor, or relative who's willing to print you a copy. And remember, we need a

change of address notice every time you update your email. Please help us stay in touch.

DUES ARE DUE -- It's September, and activities begin again. And again we need your support. Please fill out, **completely**, the enclosed annual dues notice. Put in your membership check including a contribution if you're able or even an additional check to cover tax-deductible activities.

Email addresses are more important every year, so do write in yours.

Raising dues in tough times is tough. Our State and National organizations have already raised the mandatory Per Member Payments, and after paying our maintenance costs we have nothing left for working locally without your additional help. It will be a busy and demanding election year. As always, we are counting on you - know that you can count on us to spend your money wisely. Scholarship help for active members or payment plans can be arranged through the Treasurer.



**NATIONAL CONVENTION 2010
IN ATLANTA**

Three members of the Ann Arbor Area LWV attended the LWVUS Convention in Atlanta this June on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women

Voters. Trina Borenstein and Nancy Schewe were sponsored as delegates of our local League, and Sue Smith attended as a delegate from the State League. It

was an exciting convention, with well wishes from Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State; a keynote address by Kathleen Sebelius, US Secretary of Health and Human Resources; and a personal welcome by Congressman John Lewis, 5th Congressional District of Georgia. A panel of past League Presidents highlighted the important milestones of progress made by

the League over the years, and a revue, "Petticoats in Politics", used song and dance to showcase the role of women from Jane Adams up through Eleanor Roosevelt and Bessie Smith. It was quite a performance.

Below is a summary of the actions taken by the Convention.



NEW NATIONAL STUDIES approved: (All current positions retained)

Federal Role in Public Education: The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. (Supported by a good number of Leagues. Board recommended.)

Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services, and assets to the private sector. (Non-recommended item - close votes for consideration and approval.)

CONCURRENCES approved:

Arms Control: Board-Recommended concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position. See the LWVUS website www.lwv.org for new position text.

Equality in Marriage: Adds to LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position: "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved." [Non-recommended. Required 2/3 vote to approve.]

National Popular Vote: This concurrence adds the following words to the third sentence of the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished" [Non-recommended. Required 2/3 vote to approve.]

RESOLUTIONS approved:

Safe Drilling and Mining: Support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.

Support Lifting the Travel Ban to Cuba.

Limit use of the Filibuster: Call upon the U.S. Senate to change its rules.

Add the principle of Transparency to the SARA resolution passed in 2009: (SARA - Security, Accuracy, Recountability, Accessibility, and now Transparency in voting).

Advocate for improved Medicare for all.

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill: Our government should hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable, the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.

2010-11 BUDGET adopted. Per-Member-Payment to LWVUS by Local Leagues was **raised to \$29.70 for 2010-11** (includes \$0.10 added to accommodate non-recommended Privatization study) and **to \$30.00 for 2011-12.**

BYLAWS changed: 1) Drop word HONORARY before words „life member“ for those who have been members for 50 years and are excused from payment of dues. 2) Provide for adoption of biennial budget at Convention, starting in 2012. 3) Provide for Council to be held at a time and place or manner determined by national board.

LWVUS BOARD and Nominating Committee Elected for 2010-2012:

OFFICERS are: **ELISABETH MacNAMARA, President;** Judy Duffy, 1st vice president; Judy Davis, 2nd vice president; Susan M. Wilson, secretary/treasurer.

DIRECTORS are: **Patricia Donath (MICHIGAN),** Margaret Hawkins Hill, Mary Klenz, Janis McMillen,

Marcia A. Merrins, Marlene O" Brien, Norman Turrill, and Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE members are: Elaine Blodgett, chair; Laura Blackburn, and Jennifer Vidrine.

In short, it was an exhausting, but exciting convention, and all three of our representatives came home full of renewed enthusiasm for the League. Nancy and Trina, in particular, would like to thank the

Ann Arbor Area League for its financial support in sending them as delegates. We should all take pride in being members of this important organization, the League of Women Voters.

League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area
Officers and Directors for 2010-2011

Officers and Directors

President	Sue Smith
Vice-President-Membership	Nancy Schewe
Secretary	Trina Borenstein
Treasurer	Judith Mich
Education Fund Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Program Director	Zoe Behnke
Natural Resources	Shirley Axon

Offboard

Mailing	Nancy Brucken
Membership Secretary	Joan Overmire
Newsletter	Trina Borenstein
Webmaster	Susan Wooley

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Calendar
September 2010 - May 2011

Sept. 27, 28, 29: Candidate Forums at
CTN

October 12: Membership Event

October: Voter Registration

October 26: Board Meeting

December 14: Holiday Party

January 8-February 27: "Liberty
Awakes", Women's Suffrage Exhibit

January 22: Brunch: State Program
Planning

February 22: Board Meeting

February/March: Update "Your Elected
Officials" (YEO) Brochure

March 22: Board Meeting

March/April: Town Hall Meeting on
Topic of Interest to Community

May 13, 14, 15: State Convention,
Traverse City

May 24: Annual Meeting, Ann Arbor
City Club

*Please check website for corrections and
additional meetings schedule.*

