

February 2012



Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

Visit us at www.lwvannarbor.org

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

Calendar of Activities

Saturday, February 18, 8am - 4pm -- [Voter Registration](#) Drive, VA Hospital, 2215 Fuller Rd., Ann Arbor

Monday, February 27, 7-8:30pm -- [Forum on Privatization](#) of Government Services, at Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch

Tuesday, February 28, 7pm -- [Board Meeting](#) at Turner Senior Resource Center

***Saturday, March 10, 10-11:30pm -- [Privatization Consensus](#)** Meeting, at Grand Traverse Pie Co., 291 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor

***Monday, March 19, 2-3:30pm -- [Privatization Consensus](#)** Meeting, at Sweetwater's Cafe, 123 W. Washington, Ann Arbor

Tuesday, March 27, 7pm -- [Board Meeting](#) at Turner Senior Resource Center

Tuesday, April 24, 2pm -- [Redistricting Consensus](#) Meeting, Sweetwater's Cafe, 123 W. Washington, Ann Arbor

[Board Meeting](#), 7pm, at Turner Senior Resource Center

Tuesday, May 15, 7pm -- [Annual Membership Meeting](#) at New City Hall

***Alternate meetings. Choose one.**

Memo from the President

What a busy year! Three studies: Education, Privatization, and an LWVMI Redistricting Study. Public Forums. Consensus meetings. Voter Registration. Appearing before City Council. Whew! And it is only February. Your League is active and we need your

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Mailing **Nancy Brucken**
Memb. Sec. **Joan Overmire**
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Webmaster **Susan Wooley**

involvement. Please read through this newsletter, especially the calendar. Mark your personal calendars with the events that interest you and then join us as we work to build a better democracy.

In this election year, it is important that we make polling information and candidate statements available to all voters. A new initiative from LWVUS to handle all of this is Vote411.org Check it out. It is not yet fully loaded with all of the candidate information, but it would be worth a visit to check out its potential.

I am looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming League event.

Nancy Schewe, President

LWVAAA

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Privatization Study

In 2012, the LWV-US will study the issue of privatizing services, assets, or functions within a federal, state, or local government entity. The purpose of the study is to:

- Identify parameters and policy issues to be considered before privatizing.
- Review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers.
- Identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

The LWV-Ann Arbor will host a Public Forum on Privatization of Government Services on Monday, February 27 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library. Panelists will include the following:

- Susan Baskett, Ann Arbor School Board.
- Sabra Briere, Ann Arbor City Council.
- Bob Guenzel, Washtenaw County.
- Lois Richardson, Mayor Pro-Tem, Ypsilanti.

Prior to the forum, League members are invited to attend an "Introduction to Privatization" at Sweetwaters



Check out this website for all your voter needs.

Presidential primary information will be available soon. Local information will be input as candidates announce their intentions to run and the election approaches.

Who is in League with you?

Martha Agnew
Cyrene Aksman
Sally Allen
Rosemary Austgen
Shirley Axon
Virginia Bachman
Janelle Baranowski
Susan Baskett
Zoe Behnke
Elizabeth Bishop
Miriam Borenstein
Trina Borenstein
Jane Bridges
Marina Brown
Nancy Brucken
Trudy Bulkley
Alice Burks
Mary Burney
Jean Campbell
Jill Carey
Barbara Carr
Margaret Carter
Barbara Clark
Jean Crump
Ellie Davidson
Jeanine DeLay
Lola Dodge
Diane Drayson
Rohn Federbush

Cafe, 123 W. Washington from 2:00 to 3:30. After the Forum, there will be two consensus meetings to review the LWV-US consensus questions and to provide our answers to the National League. You may attend either meeting. The meetings will be Saturday, March 10th, at the Grand Traverse Pie Company, 291 Zeeb Road from 10:00 to 11:30 or Monday, March 19th, at Sweetwaters Café, 123 W. Washington from 2:00 to 3:30.

Memorial donations and bequests to LWVAAA

Our Ed Fund account - used for voter service, public education and similar activities - has grown significantly in the past month due to a \$5000 anonymous donation in memory of a former member. We have had other memorials and bequests in the past, although generally much smaller. Do remember that this is a way your interest in the League of Women Voters can continue when you are no longer with us. Consider making a bequest or letting it be known that memorials can be made to the LWVAAA Ed Fund (and they are tax-deductible!). Contact me if you need further information. Betty Bishop, EF Treasurer, bbishop@umich.edu

WOMEN IN PUBLIC POLICY

Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), a national nonpartisan public policy group, asked the Ann Arbor League of Women Voters to co-host an event at Paesano's restaurant in Ann Arbor on February 2nd. WIPP is a ten year old organization which educates and advocates on behalf of nearly 1 million women-owned businesses. WIPP has reviewed, provided input, and taken specific positions on many economic issues and policies which affect the bottom line of their members. At the luncheon, attendees heard from a panel of women who covered "Politics and Your Business: Why Women Should Be More Politically Aware." The panel was moderated by Sharon McRill, President/CEO, The Betty Brigade. The panelists were

- Barbara Kasoff, President of WIPP.
- Debbie Dingell, President, D2 Strategies and Chair of Manufacturing Initiative American Automotive Policy Council.
- Michelle Richards, Executive Director of the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development (CEED) which provides micro-loans for women-owned small businesses.

The discussion focused on how policy affects the bottom line of their businesses. Barbara Kasoff (WIPP)

Margaret Fellows
Vernita Gilkey
Susan Greenberg
Susan Gutow
Olive Hansen
Craig Harvey
Mary Hathway
Janes Hayes
Margaret Hiss
Judy Judd
Martha Kershaw
Dana and Paul Kissner
Jean Kluge
Mariana Kopacz
Ann Larimore
Jeanne Learman
Joanne Leonard
Fran Lyman
Margaret Lynch
Carolyn Madden
Yvonne Mavroleon
Edith Maynard
Virginia McCaig
Lineve McKie
Judith Mich
Olga Moir
Susan Morse
Ann Monro
Glenn Nelson
Gwen Nystuen
Joan Overmire
Aviva Panush
Barbara Peacock
Patricia Pooley
Dorothy Rehad
Barbara Robinson
Elizabeth Rogers
Ulla Roth
June Rusten
Patricia Rutowski
Norma Sarns
Nancy Schewe
Dorothy Schmidt
Mary Alice Shulman
Susan Smith
Priscilla Spencer

also discussed steps to procure government contracts and the difficulties women business owners have encountered over the years in obtaining their fair share of these contracts. All the women panelists strongly encouraged the owners of these businesses to stay involved in government at all levels and to band together to promote efforts for the common good of women-owned businesses.

Mark your calendars for a very special Annual Meeting

Featuring:

- A Private Tour of the New Ann Arbor City Hall
- A Presentation by Advocates for the Library Green
- A Demonstration of [Vote411](#)

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 15th
New City Hall, Jury Room
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor

Your League needs YOU



[To be our next Newsletter editor](#)

Contact: Nancy Schewe
nschewe@comcast.net
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[To help with voter registration](#)

Contact: Mona Walz

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Mary Stadel
Ann Staiger
Gloria Stapp
Gail Steih
Margie Teall
Ellen Teller
Bette Thompson
Katharine Uhle
Mary Lou Unterburger
Suzanne VanAppledorn
Virginia Vandebroek
Pauline Walters
Mona Walz
Rebekah Warren
Phyllis Werbel
Virginia Wernet
W. Scott Westerman
Mary White
Robert Whitman
Charles & Angela Williams
Russell Woinowsk
Susan Wooley
Jacquelyn Wright
Shirley Zempel

Follow-up Links



[Be Our New Editor!](#)

[Help with Voter Registration!](#)

LWVMI Redistricting Study Consensus Meeting

Tuesday, April 24th
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.



Sweetwaters Café
123 W. Washington
Ann Arbor

For those of you who think that because the maps for this cycle are drawn that we have missed the boat, let me assure you that the issue is not dead. The Michigan Redistricting Collaborative, of which LWVMI is a member, plans to continue to press for reforms. They look forward to the completion of this study and anticipate that our position will be a significant help as they draft a reform proposal and that we will be active in a campaign to achieve our goals.-Fran Hamburg, LWVMI

Please come and lend your voice in this most important matter.

League Collaborations

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and so LWVAAA is working in collaboration with the Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and the American Association of



University Women to register voters in the months leading up to the 2012 election. Delta Sigma Theta is also collaborating with us on our public forum on [Privatization of Government Services](#). In early February, the League co-sponsored a luncheon with Women in Public Policy. (See article in this issue for more detail.) We look forward to working with these organizations in an effort to be more effective in our common interests and common missions.

Ann Arbor City Council to Sign the Clean Air Promise Resolution

League President, Nancy Schewe, and Natural Resources Director, Shirley Axon, will appear before the Ann Arbor City Council on February 21st to testify on the importance of clean air for the health and well-being of all of our citizens. It is expected that City Council will sign the League's [Clean Air Promise Resolution](#) and join other cities in support of the campaign.

The final paragraph of the Promise states:
That we do hereby commend the Clean Air Promise Campaign on its educational efforts and undertake to support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended

to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to
safeguard our air quality.