

Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

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**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 2014

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#### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 9th**

**Feminist Fair**

sponsored by the  
Women's Resource  
Center of EMU

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Student Center, Eastern  
Michigan University,  
Ypsilanti

**Monday, September 22**

**Membership Meet &  
Greet**

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

### Memo from the Presidents



Co-Presidents Mary Banks and  
Nancy Schewe at the Ann Arbor Art Fair

This time of year, the phrase is almost robotically automatic: "I can't believe summer is almost over -- it went by so fast!"

However, this League really knows how to pack a lot into a few precious, warm months: July's well-executed, well-received set of Primary Election Candidate Forums, expertly managed by Zoe Behnke (see article), had more than 1,000 "on demand" viewings (as reported by CTN)! Later that month, the League rocked the 2014 Ann Arbor Art Fair with our booth on the Washtenaw Non-Profit block on E. Liberty (see article.)

Perhaps the most gratifying element of the last few months wasn't an event or a program, though. It was a process: The experiment Nancy Schewe and I embarked upon with our shared "co-presidency" of this League. A situation that originated from my hesitancy (read: cowardice) and Nancy's legendary generosity, our little "arrangement" has resulted in a delightful synergy -- capitalizing on our individual talents and predilections. Nancy continues to be the diplomatic visionary and parliamentarian; I continue in my role in corralling

Aubrees 39 E. Cross St.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

**Saturday, October 4th**  
**Observer Corps**  
**Training**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Zion Lutheran Church  
1501 W. Liberty  
Ann Arbor

**October 8, 9, 14, 15, 16**  
**Candidate Forums**  
See Fora Calendar below.

**October 6, 7, 8**  
**Distribute printed voter**  
**guides**

**Thursday, October 20th**  
**Protecting our**  
**Polinators**

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

**Tuesday, November 4th**  
**ELECTION DAY**  
**Observer Corps at**  
**polling sites.**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, November**  
**20th**  
**Reception for Elected**  
**Officials**

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Hathaway's Hideaway  
310 S. Ashley  
Ann Arbor

**Tuesday, December 9th**  
**December Potluck**

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

communications. As we move along, we easily divvy up responsibilities and assignments. Nancy, graciously patient to a fault, is probably downing a perilous amount of Excedrin these days, but I'm so enjoying -- and cherishing -- this time of working this amazing woman.

Thanks, Nancy! ...  
And thank you, dear colleagues for this wonderful opportunity.

## Membership Meetings

September 22nd

Meet & Greet

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Aubrees in Depot Town  
39 Cross Street  
Ypsilanti, MI

Join us at Aubrees in Depot Town to find out about our activities for the year.

- Meet four new members from Ypsilanti and learn about their exciting plans for the league in their community.
- Find out about all of the plans for the election season and how you can help.

**BRING A FRIEND.**

November 20th Reception for Elected Officials

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Hathaway's Hideaway  
310 S. Ashley  
Ann Arbor  
More details in next newsletter

\*\*\*\*\*

**Board Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month**

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

# Voter Service

## We need YOU to be a poll watcher

The League of Women Voters will be participating in an election observation project this November and we are looking for volunteers to be trained to watch and document what is happening at the polls.



You must attend the training session on Saturday, October 4th (see calendar for details) in order to participate in the project.

For more information, contact [Nancy Schewe](#) (click on name)

[Register for workshop HERE](#)



## Bee Awareness: Protecting our Pollinators

Guest Speaker: Dr. Meghan Milbrath



## Candidate Forums: October

We are looking for greeters, timers, and various others to help out at the candidate forums at CTN in October (see adjacent calendar for details). This is your chance to be involved.

Contact [Zoe Behnke](#) to volunteer.

### ***What is going on with bees?***

Honey bees have been all over the media lately with talks of colony collapse and the doom of our food system. In this talk we will discuss a brief history of bees and beekeeping in the United States, and their current role in Agriculture. We will untangle what we know are the root causes for their decline, and will discuss ways that you can become involved to help their plight.

Dr. Milbrath owns and



Voters throughout Washtenaw County turned to VOTE411.org for information on candidates and proposals. In addition to national and state candidates, our league posted information on the candidates in 25 local races and the wording of 13 proposals.

**Did voters go to VOTE411.org? Yes they did!** 3234 voters in Washtenaw County turned to VOTE411.org for their voter information. In fact, close to **19% of the voters who cast a ballot for mayor of Ann Arbor used the site.**

### ***We know it is not perfect.***

We have heard your complaints about difficulty with the site and have passed them along to our headquarters...in a strongly worded message.

### **In the meantime, please follow our simple directions:**

- Click on [VOTE411.org](#)
- Type in your voting (home) address

manages Sand Hill Apiaries, a small beekeeping and queen rearing operation in Munith, MI. She is an active member in several Michigan beekeeping associations, and is currently the acting president of the Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

- **Click on the green bar: Get Personalized Information**
- **Click on the blue bar: Find My Information**
- **Click on blue bar: Go to My Races**
- **Click on All My Races and the list of races and proposals on your ballot will appear for you to review.**

## August Primary Candidate Forums: Did one watch them?



With our long-time partners, Community Television Network, the League held three nights of forums for the August Primary candidates running for Mayor of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor City Council, Washtenaw County Probate Judge, and 22nd Circuit Court Judge.

**So did anyone watch? Yes, they did.** While we do not have figures for how many people watched the night of broadcast, we know that there were **1042 separate viewings** of the programs and some of those viewings were to groups, so the number of viewers is larger than that number would indicate. Yes, people do turn to the League for information on the candidates and the candidates know that. Every candidate invited to participate in the forums did so.

The League would like to thank Beth Berglin for organizing the forums and Miriam Borenstein and Judy Mich for moderating. Many other League members helped as well. Thank you to Mary Banks, Sally Allen, Patricia and John Zagorski, Marina Brown, Harvey Somers, Lucia Heinold, Mona Walz, Susan Greenberg, and Nancy Schewe.

## Candidate Fora

**Watch the candidate  
fora on CTN,  
Channel 19  
or on demand at:  
[a2civitv.pegcentral.com/](http://a2civitv.pegcentral.com/)**

### Wednesday, Oct. 8

7:00 - 7:30

**Ann Arbor Mayor**

8:00 - 8:30

**22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court Judge**

9:00 - 9:30

**County Probate Judge**

### Thursday, Oct. 9

7:00 - 8:30

**County Board of  
Commissioners**

### Tuesday, Oct. 14

7:00 - 7:30

**State Senator**

8:00 - 9:00

## 2014 AA Art Fair: Good Times

Under (mostly) sunny skies and (for a change) pleasant temperatures, the 2014 Ann Arbor Art Fair proved to be a boon for the LWV-AAA this year.

State Rep.'s

**Wednesday, Oct. 15**

7:00 - 8:00

**WCC** (4 candidates)

8:30 - 9:30

**WCC** (4 candidates)

**Thursday, Oct. 16**

7:00 - 8:15

**AAPS** (5 candidates)

8:30 - 9:45

**AAPS** (5 candidates)



**Setting up for the fair.**

**Thank you Galen Wood for designing and building our booth and to Phil Tuchinsky for his help is setup.**

**VOTER CALENDAR**

**Monday, September 29**

**VOTE411.org goes online**

**Monday, October 6**

**Last day to register to vote**

**Saturday, November 1**

By 2:00 p.m.

**Deadline for mail application for absent voter ballot**

**Monday, November 3**

Up to 4:00 p.m.

**Absentee voters may vote in person at clerk's office**

**Tuesday, November 4**

Up to 4:00 p.m.

**Emergency absentee voting**

**November 4**

And, really, you can't beat having a booth at one of the Midwest's premiere events (attracting an estimated half-million visitors each year) to increase visibility and awareness for the League.

With the help of an enthusiastic corps of volunteers, more than 4000 Vote411.org bookmarks were distributed and 55 "Defender of Democracy" t-shirts were sold to fair goers. Add to that a couple of new memberships, several yard signs and cash donations - and it was well worth the effort. Most encouraging were the several hundred well-wishers (many of whom said they were from out of state) who stopped by the booth to pick up literature and express gratitude for the League's trusted, nonpartisan work in assisting voters to make informed choices at the polls. (And - oh, yes - they really miss the League-sponsored presidential debates!)

**GENERAL ELECTION**  
Go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for  
information.

#### Quick Links

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



#### Open for business!

Jayatiss, Noor Khan, Rahaf Khan, Riley Lee, Amanda Maninga, Troy Morgan, Mehreen Pervez, Riley Joy Rawson, Oby Ugwuebu, and Ireland Van Eck) and three (non-member) "friends of the League": Leon Bryson, Terry Holman and Emily Wood.

**We'll be back at the 2015 Ann Arbor Art Fair; mark your calendars (July 15-18) - and consider volunteering!**

## Member Profile

### Mona Walz



#### WE NEED TO VOTE

We, as a country, need to do better if we are to have a real democracy. In short: we need to vote. We need to participate in government at all levels, especially local. This is where the individual can have the greatest impact.

Too many people complain about how things are done, but do nothing to improve the situation.

The League of Women Voters membership inspires us to know the candidates as well as the issues. This helps everyone who reads, listens, and is learned in the policies of the day to take part in moving our local, state as well as national government in a positive direction.

Mona Walz

A big thank you is in order to the members who volunteered to work at the booth this year: Mary Banks, Zoe Benke, Betty Bishop, Marina Brown, Susan Greenberg, Kathie Groulley, Pat Kuessner, Lineve McKie, and Nancy Schewe.

LWV-AAA volunteers were ably assisted by twelve local students representing Washtenaw International, Community, Skyline and Dexter high schools as well as Central Academy (Taylor Erhardt, Gillian Gatecliff, Chathu

