



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the Ann Arbor Area

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Visit us at www.lwannarbor.org

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

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★ *Memo from the President* ★

It is with great excitement that I begin my mission of serving as President of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area. We have a very full calendar of events this year, and we hope to see you at many League activities in the coming months. Please take time to look at the Calendar in this newsletter and mark your personal calendar with those events you'd like to join.

In conjunction with LWVUS, we will be conducting two studies this year. The study of the Role of the Federal Government in Education will begin at our Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 13 and continue through the consensus meeting on October 11. In early 2012 we will proceed with plans for the second LWVUS study on Privatization. We look forward to learning about

these important issues and working to come to consensus on the questions. Locally there are several possibilities for involvement: a forum on the role of the DDA in Ann Arbor, a look at a possible park on the library lot, a youth voter registration project, and a review of our natural resources positions. We look to the membership for input on where your interests lie and willingness to participate in planned activities.

And finally, I would like to encourage you all to go the viewing of *Living for 32* on November 10 at the Michigan Theater. The showing of this documentary on the shootings at Virginia Tech is sponsored by a large group of local family physicians concerned about gun violence in our society. You won't want to miss it.

As we gear up for the coming League year, I look forward to working with you all. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 663-2027, at my personal email address nschewe@comcast.net, or through our website www.lwvann Arbor.org

In League,
Nancy Schewe



Yo

The League welcomes your participation in all of its work. At this time, we are actively seeking volunteers for:

- **Voter Service (Candidate Forums)**
- **Privatization Study**
- **Downtown Development Authority Study**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Youth Voter Registration Project**

Please contact Nancy Schewe at nschewe@comcast.net or 663-2027 to get involved.



Zoe Behnke, Program Director

The Liberty Awakes exhibit has been traveling in Washtenaw County since it left the Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum on Main Street. After the museum, it went to University Living for three weeks, then on to Ypsilanti District Library (Downtown Branch) for 3 months. It is currently at Glacier Hills. Zoe has given a talk at University Living, Ypsilanti District Library, VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, and will be speaking at Glacier Hills.

If you know of a place that would like to host this exhibit, please call me and I will contact the organization that is interested.

VOTER SERVICE FORUMS

League sponsored November Election Candidate Forums live broadcast by CTN, Channel 19. All forums will be rerun up until the November election. If you have a computer, you can also access CTN Video on Demand to view them.

Board of Education Forum: Monday, October 3 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

City Council Forums: Wednesday, October 5 from 7:00 – 9:45 pm. Times for each Ward are below:

Ward 2: 7-7:30pm

Ward 3: 7:45-8:15pm

Ward 4: 8:30-9:00pm

Ward 5: 9:15-9:45pm

If you are interested in being a timer or a greeter, please contact Jeanine DeLay by email at: jadelay@umich.edu or by phone at [734-971-7996](tel:734-971-7996).

LWVAAA Brings Officials Together to Discuss Redistricting

State Representatives Jeff Irwin and Mark Ouimet joined Ann Arbor City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry and Washtenaw County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum at the Ann Arbor District Library last June in a panel discussion on Redistricting. The meeting was particularly timely as the State redistricting map had been released that very day.



From left to right:

*Jacqueline Beaudry,
Ann Arbor City Clerk*

*Rep. Mark Ouimet, 52 District
Michigan House of Rep.*

*Rep. Jeff Irwin, 53rd District
Michigan House of Rep.*

*Lawrence Kestenbaum, Washtenaw
County Clerk*

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION STUDY

The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

The lwv.org website contains articles written by the members that are on the Public Education Study. The articles can be accessed on lwv.org, click the "Projects and Programs" link under "FOR MEMBERS". Studies are on the right.

The articles contain references that can be accessed on the internet.
THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION - SCHEDULE

This autumn we have the chance to weigh in on the role of the federal government in education. We hosted a meeting on September 13 for our members and AAUW. A panel has been put together by Judy Mich, Ulla Roth, Nancy Schewe, and Zoe Behnke. This forum will be held at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown on October 6 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. The speakers and their topics are:

Ms. Alesia L. Flye, Deputy Superintendent for Instructional Services-Ann Arbor Public Schools

Topic: Equity and Funding

Steve Cameron, Associate Professor, Graduate Coordinator, Special Education Department at Eastern Michigan University

Topics: Historical Perspective and Children with Special Needs

Ms. Laura Roop, Director of Outreach- National Writing Project- Her background includes school reform-University of Michigan School of Education

Topic: Common Core Standards and Assessments

Ms. Brigid Beabien, Phd., Associate Professor of Teacher Education - Teaches classes in early childhood education, social studies, and urban education at Eastern Michigan University.

Topic: Early Childhood Education

We will wrap the study up with a consensus meeting on October 22, 2011. Only league members will be able to take part in the consensus. Consensus results are due to the League of Women Voters by November 30, 2011.

Please bring a friend to our meetings - come and share a story of your teaching experience.

Members: Ulla Roth-Ritter (Chair), Zoe Behnke and Judy Mich

PUBLIC EDUCATION STUDY CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

General Questions

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is
Much too small too small about right too large much too large
2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)
 - a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 - b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 - c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 - d. To monitor state efforts for funding
 - e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.
3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.
Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

Common Core Standards

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)
 - a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
 - b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 - c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

Should there be a **national assessment aligned** with the common cores standards?

Yes

No

If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)

- a. Voluntary
- b. Mandated
- c. Mandated, if fully funded

If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
- b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
- c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically

5. National standards should lead to: (choose one)
 - a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - d. No national curriculum.
7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)
 - a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.
8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
 - a. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.

- b. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - c. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.
9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):
- a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
 - b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
 - c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
 - d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
 - e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

Funding and Equity

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)
- a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
 - b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
 - c. Competitive grants only
 - d. No federal funding
11. If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then: (choose one)
- a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.
12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)
- a. High-quality teaching/learning
 - b. Adequate and current learning materials
 - c. Clean and well maintained physical facilities
 - d. Food and health care
 - e. Safe and secure neighborhoods
 - f. Secure housing
13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered “categorical” rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.
- Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?
- Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.
- a. Strongly Agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly Disagree
 - b. This funding should be extended to :
All children only those with special needs special needs first

TAKE ACTION FOR CONVENIENT VOTING



League of Women
Voters of MI

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
218 W. OTTAWA ST.
LANSING, MI 48933
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM



TAKE ACTION TO MAKE VOTING CONVENIENT FOR ALL

Times have changed. People are busier. We need election laws that serve today's busier, more complex world and fit with the lifestyles of today's families. Michigan voters – old and young – are overwhelmingly supportive of making voting more convenient through early and no reason absentee voting.

Join the League of Women Voters of Michigan and other advocates to **Take Action for Convenient Voting**, a day devoted to learning about and advocating for ways to make voting more convenient and accessible.

REGISTRATION: The event is free of charge but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**. Online registration can be completed at <http://fs16.formsite.com/lwvmi/ActionDay/index.html>.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **POLICY ISSUE BRIEFING**
Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk and Board member of the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association, will provide an update on the status of voting reforms in the Legislature.
- **STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS**
Jean Doss, Government Relations Consultant, will give an inside view of the Legislature, challenges and opportunities, and how to have an impact on policymaking.
- **ADVOCACY TRAINING & PRACTICE**
Tim O'Brien, League of Women Voters US, will present techniques for communicating effectively with legislators and facilitate a practice session in exercising our voice.
- **MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS**
Delegations of League members and friends will meet with their Representatives and Senators. Delegations will be organized by LWVMI in advance of the event.

BE A VOICE FOR CHANGE ON OCTOBER 12TH!

Michigan Voter Power Campaign

A project of the League of Women Voters of Michigan

Funded in part by The Joyce Foundation

For more information, contact Kris Zawisza, LWVMI/MVP Project Director, at 517-484-5383 or voterpower@lwvmi.org

LWVUS STUDY ON PRIVATIZATION

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

August -October 2011

Information provided to Local and State Leagues

November 2011-May 2012:

Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus.

Organization: The committee will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

Recommended Reading:

Government Privatization: History, Examples, and Issues

Paul Starr, The Meaning of Privatization," Yale Law and Policy Review 6 (1988): 6-41.

Privatization: A Seattle League Study

We are looking for members who would like to work on this study. A great way to get your friends to join the League. E-mail me if you are interested. We should be receiving more information in October. Check the lrvannarbor.org website for information as we receive it. --Zoe Behnke, Program Director

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!!

Dear Member of the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area (LWV-AAA),

It's time to renew your membership. By early January our local League needs to send state and national LWVs our membership list for the year 2011. Now is the time for you to renew so you can continue to be a part of our League and receive local, state, regional and national LWV membership benefits. Please return this form with your 2011 dues (and extra contribution, if you wish) no later than December 15, 2011 for uninterrupted membership.

If you've already sent a membership check after July 1, 2011, our thanks -- you're in!

Questions? Call Judy Mich, 668-6491, Treasurer.
*Thank you for your support and contributions to our local league.
LWV-AAA's success this year, and past years, comes directly
from our members. We couldn't have done it without you.*

Membership Application/Renewal Form

(Cut and Send to LWV-AAA, P.O.Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832)

FALL 2011

1. Annual Dues: Individual \$60.00/Household (two members at one address) \$90.00
(\$60 or \$90)\$ _____

2. Optional Contributions:

A. Non Tax-Deductible Contribution to Local League (sends members to conventions, covers budget needs): Dues and non-deductible contributions, make one check payable to LWV-AAA \$ _____

B. Tax-Deductible Contribution to the LWV Education Fund: For Voter Service activities only, make a separate check to LWV-EF \$ _____

Please print clearly, and note any new information.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Email (For League access, never shared or published) _____

Living for 32

**Michigan Theater
Thursday, November 10th, 7:30 p.m.**

Living for 32 is the inspirational story of Colin Goddard, a survivor of the tragic gun shooting massacre which occurred on the Virginia Tech campus, April 16th, 2007. The winning combination of Colin's passion, charisma and optimism has commanded the attention of the American public and media since the devastating incident which left 32 dead and 17 injured. In *Living for 32*, Colin shares an intimate account of terror he and his classmates endured and the courageous journey of renewal and hope he chose to pursue.

Brought to Ann Arbor by local family physicians concerned about gun control

TAPPING THE POWER: Voter Service and the New Media

November 19, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Rd., Livonia

League leaders are invited to participate a gathering sponsored by the LWVMI State Board **to help re-energize the work of the League of Women Voters in communities throughout Michigan in preparation for the 2012 election season.**

The purpose of this capacity building event is to tap into the true power of the League-- networking with other League leaders. We hope all local league officers, board members - and potential leaders will attend. **We particularly hope all presidents and leaders responsible for your league's voter service activities, website and communications will plan to participate.**

Look for details and registration information in September. For questions contact Judy McDowell, LWVMI Vice President for Membership and Leadership Development, jsmcdowell@charter.net (989) 839-6926.

2011/2012 Officers and Directors

NAME	POSITION
Board Members	
Nancy Schewe	President
Susan Greenberg	Vice President
Cyrene Aksman	Secretary
Judith G. Mich	Treasurer
Betty Bishop	Ed. Fund Treasurer
Zoe Behnke	Program Director
Shirley Axon	Nat. Res. Director
Fran Lyman	Nat. Res. Director
Rosemary Austgen	Member at Large

NAME	POSITION
Nominations	
Margaret Hiss	
Marina Brown	
Fran Lyman	
Off Board Members:	
Jeanine DeLay	Voter Service
Nancy Brucken	Mailing
Joan Overmire	Memb. Sec
Trina Borenstein	Newsletter
Susan Wooley	Webmaster

League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area
P.O.Box 3832
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2011/2012 CALENDAR

Tuesday, Sept. 13: Role of the Federal Government in Education Information Meeting with ASUW, 7-9 pm, AACC, 1850 Washtenaw Ave.

Monday, Oct. 3: Candidate Forum for Board of Education Candidates, 7-8 pm, CTN

Wednesday, October 5: Candidate Forums for City Council, 7- 9:45 pm, CTN

Thursday, October 6: Panel on Role of Federal Government in Education, 7-8:30 pm, AADL Downtown

Tuesday, October 11: General Meeting on Role of Federal Government Consensus, 7-9 pm, AACC, 1850 Washtenaw Ave.

Wednesday, October 12: Take Action for Convenient Voting, 8:30 am - 4 pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lansing

Tuesday, October 25: Board Meeting, 7 pm, Turner Senior Resource Center

Tuesday, November 29: Board Meeting, 7 pm, Turner Senior Resource Center

Tuesday, December 13: December Potluck, 6 pm, Shirley Axon's home, 2016 Seneca Ave., Ann Arbor

Tuesday, January 10, 2012: Membership Meeting on Program Planning, 7 pm, AACC, 1850 Washtenaw Ave.

Please check website for corrections and additional meetings