

April 2013



Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832
Visit us at www.lwvann Arbor.org

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

In This Issue

Memo from the President

Our year is finishing with a bang. Two representatives to the Michigan State House, one former member and one brand new member will be addressing League members in May. Former Rep. Lynn Rivers will be giving a talk on the Constitution at the Ann Arbor District Library on May 13th as well as at the State Convention, and newly elected Rep. Gretchen Driskell will be the featured speaker at our Annual Meeting on May 21st. Please read this newsletter for more details on these events.

More than 3500 *Your Elected Officials (YEO)* brochures were distributed to district libraries throughout Washtenaw County. In case you haven't seen this brochure, it contains contact information for federal, state, and local officials throughout the county. Thanks go to Cyrene Aksman, Rosemary Austgen, and Judy Mich for

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2011/2012 Officers and Directors

President **Nancy Schewe**
Vice Pres. **Susan Greenberg**
Secretary **Cyrene Aksman**
Treasurer **Judith G. Mich**
EdFund Treasurer **Betty Bishop**
Program Director **Zoe Behnke**
Nat. Res. Director **Shirley Axon**

gathering, formatting, and proof-reading all of the information to be sure that the document was accurate. Local librarians are always thrilled to get their supply of the YEO.

February and March were busy months as we held a forum at the UM Law School on Judicial Campaign Finance Reform-**Dark Money in Judicial Selection--**, a discussion on the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads selection: *The New Jim Crow*, and a resident council election at Chidester Place in Ypsilanti.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 21st at the First Unitarian Universalist Church as we honor our fifty-year members and listen to Rep. Gretchen Driskell. Wear your Defender of Democracy tee shirt. See you then.

Nancy



Annual Meeting of

Nat. Res. Director **Fran Lyman**
At Large **Rosemary Austgen**

Nominations Committee

Margaret Hiss
Mona Walz
Fran Lyman

Off Board Members

Voter Service **Jeanine DeLay**
Mailing **Nancy Brucken**
Memb. Sec. **Joan Overmire**
Newsletter **Trina Borenstein**
Webmaster **Susan Wooley**

March Monthly Meeting

The March 19, 2013 monthly meeting met at the Ann Arbor District Library (Downtown) to discuss the Ann Arbor Reads book "[The New Jim Crow : mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness](#)" (2010), authored by [Alexander, Michelle](#). The facilitator was Terry Madden.

Terry led the discussion and then we were divided into two groups. We discussed the questions that Terry presented and then met for a group discussion. The League would like to thank Terry for putting this program together. Carolyn, his wife, is a member of the League.

Zoe Behnke
Program Director

Calendar of Activities

Thursday, April 11th

Agricultural Migrant Work Visa Study

**A study/discussion session on
a proposed LWVMI position.**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
3rd floor Conference Room
Ann Arbor District Library,
Main Branch

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF THE ANN ARBOR
AREA**

**Tuesday, May 21st
7:00 p.m.
First Unitarian Universalist Church of
Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road**

**Guest Speaker: State Representative
Gretchen Driskell**



Business Meeting Agenda
(See supporting documents in this
newsletter.)

Dues Increase -Article below
Approval of Budget - See Link to
Budget below
Elections of Officers 2013-2014 -
Article below

Please come as we honor our fifty-year
members and don't forget to wear your
Defender of Democracy Tee Shirt!!

Dues Increase

SUSTAINING THE LEAGUE

343 S. Fifth

Monday, May 13th

**The End of the
Constitution?**

**Guest Speaker: Former Rep.
Lynn Rivers**

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

-

Friday, Saturday &
Sunday, May 17th, 18th,
19th

**LWVMI State
Convention**

"Powering our Voices"

Radison Hotel Lansing at the
Capitol
111 North Grand Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

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Tuesday, May 21st

Annual Meeting

**Guest Speaker: Rep. Gretchen
Driskell**

7:00 p.m.
First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Ann Arbor
League Board
Meetings**

**4:00 pm on each of the
fourth Tuesday of each
month**

The Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W. Ellsworth Rd, Ann
Arbor

-

Spring brings our Annual Meeting, election of officers and passing of the new budget for our fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. You'll find that information in this newsletter. And you won't need to look too closely to realize that the Budget Committee, with Board okay, is recommending a dues increase for your support. We are asking you to approve dues of \$70 for an individual membership and \$100 for a household of two or more members at the same address; this represents a \$10 increase in each category.

Why? More than two-thirds of this proposed dues income will go to cover "our" dues, called Per Member Payment (PMP) to the national, regional and state LWV organizations. Sending one person to the national convention in June 2014 takes another 25%. From the \$5 of each individual membership left to the Board we are covering postage, supplies, P. O. Box rental, liability insurance, voter education, Vote 411 support, Constant Contact and our website and domain service. The latter are all new since our previous dues increase and we couldn't function in the 21st century digital cyberworld without them. They have greatly magnified our effectiveness, but they don't come free.

Please read and consider this most needed increase. Your approval on May 24 will be much appreciated. Your questions or comments directed to me-preferably before the meeting - will enable us to enjoy our speaker and still conclude our necessary business.

As always, continued thanks for your membership support and the many generous contributions that have enabled us to stay afloat without draining savings while extending our outreach. You make it possible.

Judith G. Mich, Treasurer, 668-6491,
judithgmich@hotmail.com

APPROVAL OF BUDGET

[Click to see Budget](#)

Slate of Officers for 2013-2014

President

Vice-President for Program
Secretary
Treasurer
Ed. Fund Treasurer
Membership Director
Program Director
Natural Res. Director
Natural Res. Director

Nancy Schewe

Mary Banks
Susan Greenberg
Judith Mich
Betty Bishop
Rosemary Austgen
Zoe Behnke
Shirley Axon
Fran Lyman

Nominating committee:

Mona Walz
Sally Allen
Joan Overmire
Fran Lyman

MEMBER UPDATE

IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA VANDENBROEK



Virginia VandenBroek died March 30, 2013, at the age of 97. She was born October 24, 1915. Virginia attended Jackson Junior College, where she was valedictorian of her class, and graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in psychology in 1937.

In Ann Arbor she met a young immigrant from the Netherlands, Jan A. VandenBroek II, whom she married in 1939. They were honeymooning in Switzerland when Hitler and Stalin signed their pact and they barely made it back to the United States as World War II erupted around them. Jan and Virginia were happily married for fifty-eight years, until Jan died in 1997. Other



The End of the Constitution?

**A lecture by
Former State Rep. Lynn Rivers**

Monday, May 13th

7:00 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library
Downtown Branch
343 South Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

CONSENSUS STATEMENTS ON PARKS AND GREENSPACE

In planning for development in Downtown Ann Arbor, there are many proposals for various parks along the river and throughout the City. Our AAA-LWV Development Plan Consensus, approved by the Board last year, speaks strongly about planning parks and other greenspaces. The Natural Resources Committee plans to use the following statements from the Consensus as the basis for our League to speak at planning committees.

1. The public should participate in planning for parks, recreation and open space areas.
2. Open areas should be created in the older sections of the city.
3. Parks and recreation areas should be open to the streets to provide accessibility and a sense of open space.
4. Public access to the river front should be assured wherever possible.
5. There should be extensive urban landscaping, e.g., malls, pedestrian walkways, buffer plantings, etc.
6. The central business district should be developed

than several years in St. Charles, Missouri, Virginia lived her entire adult life in Ann Arbor. Jan and Virginia's eldest son, Jan III, died of leukemia in 1979. Virginia is survived by sons, Chris (Deborah) and Willem; four granddaughters and eight great grandchildren.

Virginia was very active in civic affairs and volunteer organizations. She was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women and, more recently, of the Grey Panthers. She was a member of the Board of the Ann Arbor District Library when the first branch library building was planned and opened. She was also an environmentalist with a life-long interest in water quality and was very involved in several environmental organizations.

Virginia had many good friends and participated fully in the cultural opportunities afforded by living in Ann Arbor. She lived a healthy and active life, attending exercise class three times a week until late in 2012. She was an omnivorous and fearless reader. In 1947 she joined the Critical Reading - Creative Writing Group (founded in 1946) of the Ann Arbor Branch of the AAUW and was an active member until well into the 21st Century. A gathering of friends and family to remember Virginia will be held on Saturday, April 27th from 3-5pm.

Virginia meant a lot to her friends at the League of Women Voters where she was an outspoken promoter of voting rights and voter education.

Two members have shared their own memories of Virginia. From Zoe Behnke:

"I met Virginia in the late 80's when I was on the board of the League in Ann Arbor. Our meetings were hosted by Pauline Walters at her house. Virginia lived on the route to Pauline's. I would drive and pick up Karwyn and then went to Virginia's.

The first time she lived in Ann Arbor she was not a member of the League. She was living in Missouri with her husband and sons when she joined the League. When she moved back to Ann Arbor in the late 80's she joined the Ann Arbor League. Virginia was co-president and served in many positions. Her comments and ideas were well regarded in the League. She

with the goal of providing an attractive and convenient environment for customers and central business district residents both during the day and in the evening.

7. Major activity centers should permit diversified land uses and should contain a pedestrian-oriented community focus such as a park or recreation area.

Shirley Axon, NR Chair

Chidester Place Election

by Nancy Schewe

An invitation to conduct a resident council election for a HUD housing project in Ypsilanti called Chidester Place turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of the year for me. Chidester Place had not had a resident council for many years and residents very much wanted a stronger voice in the ways things were run in the place they call home.

The League followed HUD rules to the letter in taking nominations, posting notices, and preparing ballots so that the election result could not be questioned. On Election Day, residents showed their IDs, cast their ballots, and eagerly awaited the results. A momentary crisis arose when there was a tie for the last of the seven seats on the council, but the candidates handled the situation with grace and one of the two stepped aside.

The council is now ratifying their draft bylaws and, hopefully, on their way to improving their living situation. The Chidester Place Election was truly an example of democracy in action and I was proud that the League could help make this happen.

served as parliamentarian for many of our annual meetings.

Jeanine DeLay and I interviewed her for the "Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County" exhibit on woman suffrage. The interview is on the League website."

From Judy Mitch:

"I remember that many of us Leaguers were invited to her 90th birthday reception held at the Michigan League. She was often our outspoken parliamentarian at annual meetings. Her early League years were in Missouri. Always loving, always a joy."

You will be sadly missed Virginia. It was a privilege to know you.

"Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County"

& the Veterans Administration

Joan Overmire and I represented the League on March 21, 2013. The Veterans Administration in Ann Arbor, Michigan was celebrating Women's History Month. The topic and guests were women who served in World War II. I brought 4 of the posters and our information regarding the League.

Nine WWII women veterans were in attendance from Southeastern Michigan. Women had to be 20 years old and needed their parent's signature. The women were either in the Waves (Navy) or WACS (the Army).

If you know any women veterans from WWII please urge them to contact the VA to record their story. The veteran and her family will receive a copy and a copy is sent to the Library of Congress.

Fleur Barton, Chair of Women's Diversity at the VA, has invited the League back in August to celebrate the passage of the 19th amendment.

Zoe Behnke
Program Director.



An eager Chidester resident casts her ballot.

[Join our League](#)

Click here to join your local, state, and national League of Women Voters.

[Forward this email](#)



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League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area | P.O.Box 3832 | Ann Arbor | Michigan | 48106-3832