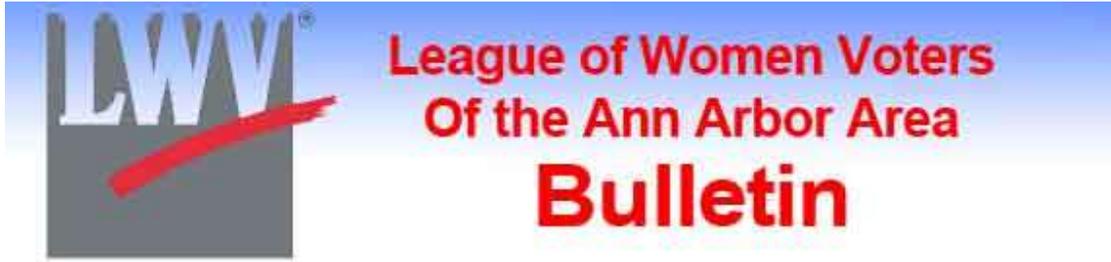


February 2013



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

Memo From the President



2013 offers us a brief respite from all of the election activities of the past year, but that does not mean that we can become complacent. There is plenty happening in the state legislature to keep us on our toes.

There is legislation being proposed on education, gun control, women's reproductive health, voter

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

Nominations Committee

Margaret Hiss
Mona Walz

accessibility, and many other issues that our state league, LWVMI, is watching carefully--testifying before the legislature, sending letters, meeting with legislators, and working with other groups to pressure legislators do the right thing. Go to

<http://www.lwvmi.org/positions.html>

to see our state positions on issues ranging from election laws through health care to prisons. You will see why it is important to continue your support of the League

Please check out the links in the [Tackling the Issues](#) section to find detailed information about events planned around the various issues. In addition, you will find the LWVUS positions on two topics facing our nation today: immigration and gun control.

And, of course, **we still have t-shirts**. Contact me if you'd like to buy one for yourself or a young girl you may be grooming as a future League member. They are a very fun way to raise our visibility in the community .

In League,
Nancy Schewe
lwv.ann.arbor.area@gmail.com

Tackling the Issues

- [Dark Money in Judicial Selection: A Threat to Impartial Justice?](#) Check the Calendar for the details of this exciting event. [February 11th](#)
- [Education Reform in Michigan:](#)

There are lots of proposed changes in Michigan's public schools coming out of both the Governor's Office and the State Legislature. LWVMI is watching this closely. We all need to keep our eye on these proposed changes. Check out the article. See calendar: [February 12th](#)
- **Prisons:** [The New Jim Crow](#) book discussion. See calendar: [March 19th](#)

Fran Lyman

Off Board Members

Voter Service [Jeanine DeLay](#)
Mailing [Nancy Brucken](#)
Memb. Sec. [Joan Overmire](#)
Newsletter [Trina Borenstein](#)
Webmaster [Susan Wooley](#)

Have you met your legislator in person yet? Here is your opportunity.

Over the next two months, League members across the country will be interviewing individual state legislators about their positions on issues the League plan to advocate for in the months ahead. We invite you to join us in these interviews.

Typically, the interviews take place in a local coffee shop with one or two League members chatting with their House Representative or Senator. The League supplies all of the questions and suggestions about how to proceed. It is really not an intimidating experience. In fact, it is fun.

Click below to let us know you are interested.
[Yes, I would like to be a part of an legislative interview team!](#)

Calendar of Activities

[Tuesday, February 7th](#)

The 2013 Big Ethical Question Slam
Come and cheer on your League Team

8:00 p.m.
Conor O'Neill's Traditional Irish Pub
318 S. Main Street
\$5 cover charge

Wear your League tee shirt to show your support.

[Monday, February 11th](#)

Dark Money in Judicial Selection: A Threat to Impartial Justice?
A forum to explore problems with the way

- [Agricultural Migrant Worker Visa Position:](#)

Learn about the new position proposed by the Grand Traverse Area League. See adjacent calendar: [April 11th.](#)

- [Gun Control:](#) As the gun debate moves to the forefront once again, you might want to read the League's position on Gun Control.
- [Immigration:](#) Immigration is once again front and center. The League position on Immigration will enable us to advocate in support of recent breakthroughs in this area. Check it out!

The Federal Role in Public Education LWVUS Position

In the fall of 2011, our league participated in a study of the role of the federal government in public education. At that time, we sponsored a panel at the AADL, studied materials sent out by LWVUS, and held a membership meeting to discuss the consensus questions. The document below is the outcome of that national study.

Background

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 (March 25, 2012) Board meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs who held meetings, involved their communities and worked to reach consensus on this critical issue of importance to all Americans. Committee Chairs Peg Hill (TX) and Joanne Leavitt (CA) and their committee: Pat Aaron (IL), Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (CO), Patricia Libutti (NJ), Sanford Ostroy (MA), Jean Pierce (IL) and Janelle Rivers (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

Position

The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of

Michigan selects judges and Supreme Court Justices and proposals for reform.

Panelists:

- The Honorable Marilyn Kelly, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Retired
- The Honorable Bridget McCormack, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court
- Rich Robinson, Executive Director, the Michigan Campaign Finance Network

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

University of Michigan Law School
Room 250 Hutchins Hall

Tuesday, February 12th

LWVMI Education Advocacy Meeting

A presentation and discussion on the Governor's proposed changes to public education and possible League advocacy.

1:00 p.m.

LWVMI Office
600 W. St. Joseph St.
Lansing

Want to carpool? Contact Nancy Schewe at nschewe@comcast.net

Tuesday, March 19th

League Book Discussion of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2013 Choice The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,

by Michelle Alexander

Facilitator: Terry Madden, a former English teacher in New York City and a school library media specialist retired from the Ann Arbor Public Schools

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

3rd floor Conference Room
Ann Arbor District Library, Main Branch
343 S. Fifth

Thursday, April 11, 2013

government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right. The League believes that the role of the federal government should include the following:

- Provide leadership and vision to promote a quality education for all children;
- Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build;
- Provide a suggested curricular structure or framework as a guide to state and local education agencies to develop their own curricula;
- Provide a national assessment that clearly informs teachers, parents and students about how well individual students have mastered criteria established at the national level;
- Provide a national assessment that informs districts how well their populations compare to other populations similar to theirs; and
- Provide a combination of competitive grants and non-competitive funding to states and local school districts to achieve equity among states and populations.

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government's involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (desegregation, special needs population, gender equity), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states. In accordance with the League of Women Voters' position on Equal Rights, we continue to support equity in public education for all through:

- Broad guidelines for accountability, leaving implementation to the state and local education agencies;
- Adequate funding sources that support the broad goals of national standards; and
- Mechanisms for local and state funding with adequate federal support for mandates that require less burdensome, compliance-based reporting and regulations.

The League of Women Voters believes a basic role of the federal government in funding education should be to achieve equity among states and

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
343 S. Fifth

Tuesday, May 21st

Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m.
Details to come.

Ann Arbor League Board Meetings 4:00 pm on each of the following Tuesdays:

February 26

March 26

April 23

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

The ERA rises again!?

Yes! The ERA is rising again!

In March of this year, bills to eliminate the ERA time limit will be introduced to both houses of Congress. There are three reasons the time limit may be invalid.



- There is no time limit in the Constitution for ratifying amendments
- The time limit has already been changed once
- The ERA time limit is in the proposing clause and not in the Amendment

In addition, ERA ratification bill will be introduced in 2013 in the following state legislatures: Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia. **We only need three out of those**

populations on the basis of identified needs. This should be done with full understanding that equity does not mean equal, given that some populations are more expensive to educate than others and some localities have specific needs.

The League believes that the federal government should be primarily responsible for funding any programs mandated by the federal government on local education agencies. Although the League recognizes equity in education depends on meeting basic human needs of children and of their families, the costs associated with providing equitable access to safe neighborhoods and secure housing do not belong in the education budget. Major programs of federal funding for public education (i.e., Elementary and Secondary Education Act) should be targeted toward children living in poverty and/or children with special needs. The federal government has the responsibility to monitor and support access to the following:

- High quality teaching and learning, supported by quality current learning materials and well maintained educational facilities; and
- Access to health care needs (i.e., hearing, vision, dental, immunization, school-based health clinics at the secondary level, etc.) and nutritionally adequate food (i.e., school-based meals under "free and reduced meal programs").

The League of Women Voters believes that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following:

- Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families;
- Research that documents quality early childhood education programs; and
- Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood

seven states to pass the bill and we'd be there.

A helpful website is: www.equalrightsamendment.org

Your League needs YOU

To help with

- VOTE411.org
- [Social Media](#)
- [Advocacy](#)



Interested???

Contact: Nancy Schewe
lww.ann.arbor.area@gmail.com

education programs and services.

[Join our League](#)

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