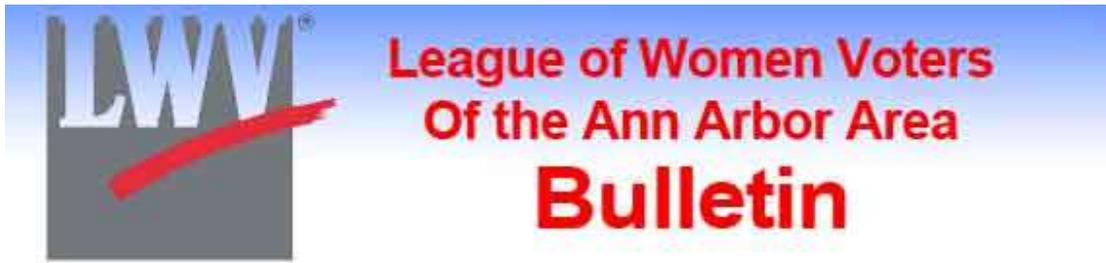


November 2012



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



Whew! We made it. We survived the election. Now we can celebrate the very important role the League played in this year's events.

- Beginning with voter registration, thank you Mona Walz for organizing registration events all over town.
- Followed by twelve candidate forums broadcast on CTN. Thank you Zoe Behnke for your organizational skills, Judy Mich for your engaging moderating, and many others for

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

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

writing questions, timing, greeting, and taking the risk of appearing on TV.

- On to VOTE411.org: Thank you Miriam Borenstein and Jill Carey for bringing us into the 21st Century with our online voter guide. Over 7200 residents of Ann Arbor visited the site. (See article below.)
- Voter Guides: 3500 LWV Voter Guides were distributed to libraries and senior housing complexes throughout the county. Thank you Mary Banks.
- Public Forum: Reporting the Election, with the news team from WUOM, co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library. Thank you Debbie Gallagher.
- Election Observation Corps: 24 election observers at the polls on November 6th. (See article below.)
- Local publicity: Sue Smith, LWVMI president, wrote an article for The Ann. An article on our League is in the current edition of Groundcover News. Pick one up.
- Our website was filled with information for voters and lots of people visited it. Thank you Susan Wooley.

Congratulations to the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area.

In League,
Nancy Schewe

Calendar of Activities

Annual December Potluck

Guest Speaker: Former U.S. Representative Lynn Rivers

Tuesday, December 11th
6:00 p.m.

At the home of
Shirley Axon
2016 Seneca Ave.
Ann Arbor, 48104

RSVP: Shirley Axon at shirleyaxon@comcast.net or 665-9349

Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 12th
10:00 a.m. - Noon



A HUGE SUCCESS!

The League of Women Voters of the United States adopted VOTE411.org as its online voter guide platform in 2011 and our local league used it for both the 2012 primary and general elections. We spread the word at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, each of our candidate forums, voter registration events, and in every contact we made throughout the year.

The exciting news is that 7265 voters in the city of Ann Arbor and an additional 1489 voters throughout Washtenaw County used the site to access information on candidates and ballot issues in the general election.

Now that is what I call success.

DONATE TO THE EDUCATION FUND

We have just concluded a very successful period of voter education/service with many candidate forums, voter registration, and voter guides (both paper and online). These activities are funded, in part, by your tax-deductible donations to the Education Fund. As we come to the end of 2012, please

What would you like the League to study and work on next? Voting rights?

Non-partisan local elections? Charter Schools? Local planning issues? Fracking?

Please join us at our annual program planning meeting where we will look ahead and decide what direction our League will take in the months ahead. Bring you ideas and your spirit of consensus.

Turner Senior Resource Center
2401 Plymouth Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Ann Arbor League Board Meetings

The Ann Arbor league Board meetings will take place at the Bank of Ann Arbor (801 W. Ellsworth Rd, Ann Arbor) at 4pm on each of the following Tuesdays:

- January 22
- February 26
- March 26
- April 23

Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7pm

Ann Arbor District Library
343 S. Fifth
Ann Arbor

Candidate Forums

Our League held 12 forums over 4 days for the November 6 General Election. We expanded the forums to include the nonpartisan judgeship (non-incumbent and incumbent), County Clerk/Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, Water Resource Commissioner, and County Prosecuting Attorney. Also, included in the forums were candidates for the Ann Arbor Mayoral office, 5th Ward, Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor Library, 53rd and 55th District State Representatives, County Sheriff, County Commissioners (7, 8,9 Districts), and Washtenaw Community College.

Thank you to the candidates for participating in the forums. Thanks to the media for covering the forums including CTN, annarbor.com, and annarborchronicle.com.

I would like to thank Judy Mich, Nancy Schewe, Rosemary Augsten, Susan Greenberg, Susan Wooley, SallyAllen, Kathy Gourlay, Mary Banks, and Virginia Weinert. Because of your enthusiasm and support, the forums ran smoothly.

Zoe Behnke, Program Director

consider making a donation to the Education Fund by writing a check to LWV-EF and sending it to: LWV-AAA, P.O. Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832.

Donations need to be postmarked by December 31, 2012 if you want to claim a tax deduction for 2012. You will be mailed a letter acknowledging your donation in early 2013.

Any questions, please contact Betty Bishop, EF Treasurer.

Your League needs YOU



**To
serve
as
Newsl
etter
Editor
!**

This job is not as daunting as it seems. The editor simply downloads articles written by Board members into our Constant Contact format and sends them out via email.

And there are only four issues a year!

If you are interested, contact:
Nancy Schewe
nscchewe@comcast.net
663-2027



League Participates in Election Day Observation Corps

Twenty-four League members and friends reported to local polls on Election Day to do poll watching at three local polls: 1.1 at the Michigan Union, 2.1 at the Family Housing Center on North Campus, and 3.1 at the Michigan League.

So what is poll watching? Poll watching is formally observing voting activities and reporting on any problems related to voter ID enforcement or other situations that might prevent a voter from casting a ballot, such as unclear signage, lack of sufficient voting equipment, shortage of election officials, etc. Poll watching and election observation describe the same activity. Poll watchers and observers, however, are not challengers and volunteers were not allowed to intervene in situations inside the polls. Nonetheless, if the need arose, they were allowed to call in an election protection team or to follow a voter outside the poll to offer help.

LWVMI provided training and logistical support. Observers were armed with packets containing check lists, reporting forms, information on voting laws, and phone numbers of support staff who could help with voting rights issues.

This Observation Corps is only one of the many ways in which the League of Women Voters has actively worked to protect voting rights this election season. Those rights are under attack at this very moment as the U.S. Supreme Court hears argument from those working to dismantle the Voting Rights Act. Please continue to pay attention as the League endeavors to protect this foundation of Democracy.

As one poll watcher posted on Facebook, "I did LWV poll watching at a mostly-student precinct this afternoon/evening. It was inspiring, heartwarming, and encouraging to see so many of them voting (700), many for the first time. Democracy lives!!

Next time, won't you join us?

MEMBERSHIP

It is time to renew your membership! Go to the membership page on this website for the necessary form!

2012 has been an exciting year for our Ann Arbor area League. We have added 18 new members so far this year bringing our current membership to 90 members. We would like to welcome our new members, Mary Banks, Nancy Sitterle, Carol Kuhnke, Susan Morse, Lucia Heinhold, Stacey LaFleur, Gail Bendit, Kim, Blumenthal, Kim Garrison, Deborah Gumucio, Barbara Hall, Will Hathaway, James Rocchio, Meredith Steih, Sheila Sanders, and Mary and Jeffrey Franklin.

We have approached increasing our membership from several angles this year. We have established a permanent Membership Chairperson position. We are sponsoring and co-sponsoring events in our area to increase visibility. We manned a booth at the Art Fair for all four days and I would like to give a big thanks to all of you who helped out doing this. We sponsored four nights of candidate forums on CTN in October which gave us a lot of visibility on community television. We are actively following leads passed to us from the national league on people who have expressed an interest in the league and we hope to increase interactions with other organizations to "spread the word" about the League.

We will periodically be highlighting new members so we can all get to know them. This month we chose Mary Banks who is helping us with public relations. I'll let her tell you a little about herself.

"A Detroit émigré, I moved to Ann Arbor when I married a little over a year ago. I was truly excited to have the opportunity to join the League of Women Voters - Ann Arbor Area earlier this year.

A "political junkie" long before that label came into popular use and a women's history freak to boot, I had always wanted to get involved with the LWV. I share with my fellow members a passion for strengthening voter education and accessibility as well as bolstering transparency in our country's political process.

I'm delighted now to put my "checkered past" and experience in public relations, journalism and nonprofit administration to work on behalf of the League. (Working with Nancy [La Presidenta] Schewe and Zoe Behnke has been a hoot, by the way.) I look forward to being an active member for many years to come."

Please help us continue our membership drive. Never underestimate the power of friendly persuasion. Don't forget to ask your friends and relatives to join the league and we will continue to grow.

It is time to renew your membership! Go to the

membership page to find the form.

Privatization Position

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. LWV-AAA was one of the 227 Leagues that participated in the Privatization Study.

The full Position Statement can be found at www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position
IN BRIEF: When privatization of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector is under consideration, community impact and goals of the transfer must be considered and transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

Services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. Such services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize should be made only after an informed, transparent planning process and the thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. The Statement of Position includes eleven considerations that will apply to most such decisions, for example, "...An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor."

Laws and regulations relating to Privatization are often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation should include seven requirements, for example, "...The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity."

TO SEE THE LIST OF 11 CONSIDERATIONS, PLUS 7 BEST PRACTICES FOR GOVERNMENT REGULATION, GO TO www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position