

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

November 2014

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### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

#### Tuesday, November 11th

##### **Coffee and Conversation**

Election Debrief

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

B-24 Espresso Bar

217 West Michigan Ave,

Downtown Ypsilanti

#### Thursday, November 20th

##### **Reception for Members and Elected Officials**

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Hathaway's Hideaway

310 S. Ashley

Ann Arbor, 48104

#### Tuesday, December 9th

## Memo from the Presidents

We survived! Actually, we did more than survive: we thrived. We held **twelve** candidate forums, published VOTE411.org, advertised in the Observer, and observed polls on Election Day. In addition, when *Groundcover News* asked "Where are the debates?", we answered. Be sure to pick up a copy of the November issue of *Groundcover* to see our response. It's right inside the front cover.



Because the election was held less than a week ago, we don't have reports on the number of visits to VOTE411.org or the forums on CTN. They will definitely be available for our next issue. We expect them to be **VERY HIGH**.

And finally, we want to be sure to welcome our new Ypsilanti members, who put together candidate forums for Ypsilanti City Mayor, Council and the new Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education, with **sixteen candidates**. We are very excited about Ypsilanti's involvement with the League and welcome their energy and enthusiasm.

See you at the Reception for Elected Officials on Thursday, November 20th. See below for details.

Mary Banks and Nancy Schewe, Co-Presidents



**December Potluck**  
Presentation on  
LWV Lake Michigan Federation  
meeting  
6:00 p.m.  
Shirley Axon's Home  
2016 Seneca Ave.  
Ann Arbor, 48104

**Saturday, January 17th**  
**Program Planning Meeting**

10:00 a.m- noon  
First Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of AA  
  
4001 AA-Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, 48103

**Tuesday, May 19th**  
**Membership Meeting**

Location - To be announced

**Notice of additional meetings  
will be sent by email notice.**

**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



## Reception for Members and Elected Officials

**Thursday, November 20th**  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Hathaway's Hideaway  
310 S. Ashley  
Ann Arbor  
(next to Blimpy Burgers)

Join your LWV-AAA colleagues to meet and visit with current and newly-elected officials in a relaxed, convivial setting. Wine/soda and appetizers will be served.

### RSVP

Parking in the vicinity is located on the street or in the public lot across the street on Ashley, between Liberty and Williams. A lot is also located on the east side of Ashley between Liberty and Washington.

Looking forward to seeing you then!



## December Potluck



**Tuesday, December  
9**  
6:00 p.m.  
Shirley Axon's House  
2016 Seneca Ave.  
AA, 48104

**Program:**

Shirley Axon and Jean Kluge recently attended the LWV Lake Michigan Federation meeting in Traverse City and will share what they heard from experts about changes that are occurring in this great system of international water due to global warming and other impacts.

**Directions:** Seneca is one-block long between Onondaga and Oswego\* and parallel to and one block from Hill St. and Geddes. Parking is allowed after 6:00 p.m. and we can get three cars in Shirley's driveway. Please do not block the sidewalk.

Please [RSVP](#) by clicking on this link. .



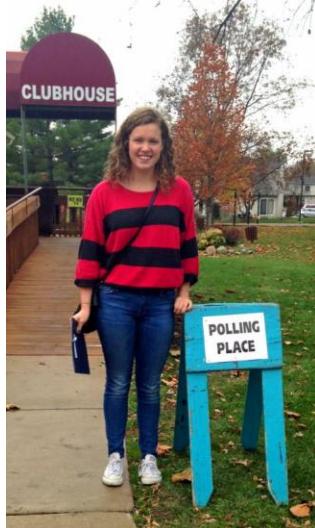
## Membership Matters: Dues

It's dues paying time again. Kindly print and fill out the form, write your check and mail in as soon as possible. We need your renewal confirmation by January 1.

If you have joined or renewed your membership in the League since July 1, 2014, you do not need to renew at this time. Your membership is good through 2015.

Once you've renewed, print another copy for a friend or consider gifting

## High School Students Help with Poll Watching



On Election Day I was able to help observe the polls at the League's location, the University Townhouses. As someone who has never voted before, observing was quite exciting. I was able to see the sample ballots, along with all the voters who spoiled their ballots, problems with the ballot machine, and voters getting upset with waits.

If there was one thing about the polling site that could be changed for next year I would suggest two electronic poll books instead of just one and more than nine booths. Voters took a lot longer to vote than I ever expected, so somewhere around sixteen booths would have been much more adequate for the population I saw.

Over all it was an eye opening experience and I hope to continue my work with the league. I am willing to assist with anything!

Gillian Gatecliff, Junior  
Washtenaw International High School

## Watch out for lame ducks in Michigan

Be on the lookout for legislation and horse-trading involving:



- the Electoral College system
- road funding
- education
- the Educational Achievement Authority
- term limits
- civil rights for LGBT persons

Our trusty League advocacy chair, Judy Karandjeff, will be keeping an eye on the Michigan legislature. She will alert us if we need to take action.

a membership. Dues prices remain the same with \$70 for an individual, \$100 covering two or more at the same address, and \$20 for a college or graduate student. Scholarships are available for active members appreciating assistance. Incoming dues cover our per member payments (PMP)to national, regional and state plus our local operating budget.

We're doing fine, but need you with us.

Contact Judy Mich by clicking [HERE](#).

[Download  
membership form.](#)

## Bee Awareness at the Ann Arbor Downtown Library.

The evening of October 20th, Dr.



Meghan Milbrath took a "colony" of honey bee enthusiasts on an informative journey into the perilous life and times of the honey bee. A peril that affects all pollinators. That, as she explained, was the sad part of her talk.

The second part of her talk, she assured us, was the happy part. We can all help the honey bee without even having to become beekeepers. We can plant flowering trees and plants (perennials preferably). Flowers are the only source of food for the honey bee. Plant spring, summer, and fall flowering plants to ensure a continuous source of nectar and pollen.

Watch your inbox and our Facebook page for action alerts and then [contact your legislator](#).

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

## Are candidates complacent about participating in forums?



The mid-term elections are now history. LWV-AAA significantly contributed to this election story by organizing nine moderated panel discussions for mostly local seats with our capable and skilled partners at CTN. Our reach is always as big as CTN's remit, which means we were able to host the following forums for: Ann Arbor mayor; state rep and senate for districts 53, 55 and 18 respectively; Ann Arbor Public Schools and Washtenaw Community College boards; county commission for districts 7, 8 and 9; and finally, circuit court and probate judgeships. For Ypsilanti Mayor, Council and School Board, three separate forums were organized and shown on YouTube. In addition, we organized a Michigan Board of Regents forum in partnership with LWVMI and Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Indeed, October was an especially compressed and active one for all those involved, from seasoned and polished moderators Judy Mich and Miriam Borenstein to well-versed newbie Will Hathaway. Special thanks to the fabulous Zoe Behnke for shepherding the volunteers, to our remarkable leader Nancy Schewe for her openness toward new endeavors, and to all the many spectacular volunteers who joined us in offering one of the few congenial settings where candidates can talk about the issues and ideas that touch us all. And a grateful nod to the League for providing voters with the information they need to make informed decisions in our representative democracy.

That said, complacency is not in the vocabulary of our organization. Among the trends many of us have been discussing: the tendency these days for candidates to forego or refuse to engage in forums with their opponents. To be sure, there are many reasons for this choice. But in so doing, the choices for voters become narrowed and circumscribed. Voters are deprived of a public arena for discussion and civic engagement. It's pretty simple. The more channels for issue talk and conversation, the more likely voters will have an opportunity to fairly evaluate their representatives on their terms--the people's terms--and not on the campaign strategists' or candidates' terms.

Please join our conversation about ways the LWV-AAA can ensure that

Dr. Milbrath owns and manages Sand Hill Apiaries and is president of the Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers. She can be reached at [a2b2club@gmail.com](mailto:a2b2club@gmail.com).

A big Thank You to the Ann Arbor Downtown Library that partnered with the League to present Dr. Milbrath's "Bee Awareness: Protecting Our Pollinators." The presentation was videotaped and will be available for viewing (within a month or less) at [www.aadl.org](http://www.aadl.org).



#### Quick Links

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

our forums remain trusted, even-handed and relevant shared opportunities for voters to learn about ALL candidates who wish to represent the people's interests and concerns in our democracy.

## Member Profile: Judy Mich, our treasurer

### LWV and Me



I am Judith Greasley Mich, currently serving as the continuing treasurer of the LWV-AAA. I joined our League in the early 70s having moved from Pensacola, Florida where I had been asked to "meet the League." That was one of only very few reasons that I didn't want to move back to the Midwest. Fast forward a few years and I asked my friend and colleague Nancy Foster about her League membership and what kind of interviews you had to do to join. Shortly after she stopped chuckling, she invited me to the then rather formalized fall membership meeting where I joined.

Like so many women's organizations of the time, the League too was in the throes of decline from a most robust 400 members and afternoon "units" to a large inactive membership of about 200. Those names were kept on handwritten 3 x 5 cards and dues were billed three times a year to spread the work and the money over 12 months. I know because that was my job as membership chair...typical entry level board position.

In my 40 or so Ann Arbor League years I've served as membership, public relations, nominating, secretary, voter service and forum moderator and almost forever treasurer. Why that? Because as an English major I wanted to master math and believe that the same column of figures would always add up the same. I also dread making phone calls and like to work on my own time schedule. All my secrets right there.

I particularly value the wonderful women-and men-I've met through the League. They are not come and go people; they stay. Most of all I value working in the political process, being involved in government without having to totally commit to one party right or wrong. Putting women and political activism together is a great combination under our historic banners; hence the League of Women Voters. I value sharing this with my fellow members and my fellow citizens. When our Groundcover saleswoman told me today she'd seen me on TV, I knew LWV and me had made it.

Judy

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*Try it FREE today.*

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