



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.



The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

April 2014

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ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Thursday, May 8th

Running for Public Office 101

Discover what you need to
know before you throw your
hat in the ring...

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library

343 South Fifth Ave.

Ann Arbor

Saturday, May 17th

Inequality for All

Memo from the President

We have had a busy 2014 so far. It has included the education and agricultural studies; the last lecture of our Lynn River's series on the U.S. Constitution; and three public forums (agricultural policy, transportation improvement millage in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti Township; and the Community Conversation). And this being an election year, it looks like the rest of the 2014 is going to follow suit.



Be sure to read the adjacent calendar and all of the articles to see what is in store for the months ahead. *Mark your calendars!*

One short report is on a fascinating lecture by Jocelyn Benson, dean of the Wayne State University Law School, two days after the latest US Supreme Court decision on campaign contributions. While most of the lecture was about the serious challenges facing our democracy as a result of recent decisions, she gave a list of opportunities for change:

1. Disclosure: We must work to maintain and strengthen laws requiring disclosure of campaign contributions.
2. Citizen-led Financing of Elections: We must work to encourage use of public financing of elections - local elections as well as national - and encourage more contributions from small donors.
3. Amending the US Constitution: We must work to pass a constitutional amendment that declares that corporations are *not* people.

I hope to see you all at our annual meeting and, hopefully one of our other May forums.

A Robert Reich film
Discussion to follow
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
First Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Ann Arbor
4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.
Ann Arbor

In League,
Nancy

Tuesday, May 20th

Annual Meeting

Guest Speaker:
Lana Pollack, Chair of the
International Joint
Commission.
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Kerrytown Concert House
415 N. Fourth Ave.
Ann Arbor

Wed, July 16th -

Saturday, July 19th

Ann Arbor Art Fair Booth

July dates to be
determined

Primary Candidate
Forums

Board Meetings

are held the 4th Tuesday of the
month

4:00 p.m.
Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W. Ellsworth Rd.
Ann Arbor



Proposed 2014-2015
LWV-AAA Board

Co-Presidents

Mary Banks
Nancy Schewe

Secretary

Susan Greenberg



Remember to vote on May 6th



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 20th

7:00 p.m.

(See calendar at left for details)

Guest Speaker

Lana Pollack, Chair

International Joint Commission

Ms. Pollack was appointed to the IJC in 2010 by President Barack Obama. The IJC prevents and resolves disputes between the United States and Canada under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and pursues the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two governments.



Mandates of the International Joint Commission include:

- The Boundary Waters Treaty
- The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- The Canada-US Air Quality Agreement

Lana, who began her public career on the Ann Arbor Board of Education, will speak to us about her experiences on the IJC.

Schedule of Events

- 7:00 - 7:45 Lana Pollack
- 7:45 - 8:00 Refreshment Break
- 8:00 - 8:30 Business Meeting

[Click below for meeting materials.](#)

AGENDA
BUDGET

Treasurer
Judith Mich

Ed Fund Treasurer
Betty Bishop

Program Director
Patricia Zagorski

Membership Director
Rosemary Austgen

Natural Res. Director
Shirley Axon

Voter Service
Beth Berglin

Nominating Committee
Joanne Overmire
Fran Lyman

Off Board Members
Newsletter-Nancy Brucken
Mailing-Nancy Brucken
Webmaster-Susan Wooley
Voter Registration-Mona Walz

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Overmire
Sally Allen
Zoe Behnke

INEQUALITY for ALL

A documentary that follows former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich as he looks at this country's widening economic gap



"This is the moment in history in which we find ourselves: unprecedented income divisions, a wildly fluctuating and unstable economy, and average Americans increasingly frustrated and disillusioned. The debate about income inequality has become part of the national discussion, and this is a good thing. INEQUALITY FOR ALL connects the dots for viewers, showing why dealing with the widening gap between the rich and everyone else isn't just about moral fairness." *Inequality for All*

Sponsored by

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Challenging Racism
The Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Council

**Saturday, May 17
1 p.m.**

**First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of AA
4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.**

Facilitated discussion groups to follow movie:

- **Education**, Cathy Reischl and Debi Khasnabis, U-M School of Education
- **Politics**, Susan Smith and Nancy Schewe, the League of Women Voters of Michigan.
- **Work and Wages**, Jim McAsey, organizer with the Graduate Employees Organization
- **Taxes and Wealth**, Stu Dowty, chair of Reclaim Our American Democracy from Big Money


**Running for
Public Office
101**

**Thursday, May 8th
7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor District Library,
Downtown**

Thinking about running for public office next year? Wish you knew more about the ins and



outs of throwing your hat in the ring? You're in luck! The Ann Arbor Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area (LWV-AAA) will host a free, public forum to answer just these questions.

Panelists:

Wendy Woods,
Moderator and

Former AA City Council member

Larry Kestenbaum,
Washtenaw County Clerk

Deb Mexicotte,
President, Ann Arbor Board of Education

Rolland Sizemore,
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners member

Alex Yerkey,
Communications/Field Director for Gretchen Driskell



Quick Links

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



2014-2015 Budget Discussion

[Click HERE to see budget](#)

Your budget committee of Betty Bishop, Mary Banks, Susan Wooley, Nancy Schewe and I are pleased to bring you a balanced and expanded budget for our next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014.

Realistically - although with higher hopes in a big election year - we are anticipating a membership of only 60 persons. That, plus generous contributions mostly from our own members, provide our primary income. President Nancy Schewe has been a master marketeer with our Super T Shirts and that income promises again to be most helpful.

Expenses, as always, are quite firm and immutable.

- Right off the top come the expenditures in Part D, Financial Support. These are dollars paid to national, regional and state League entities and take the greatest share of every member's dues dollars.
- Second come our expenses in A, Operating/Infrastructure, and B, Board/Discretionary. These are expenses which run our local League. Those in A we have cut to a bare, but necessary minimum while those in B go primarily to meeting room rental and the goods which make us 'go.' Membership service and voter education activities, the heart of our League, require much effort but limited expenditure.

Fortunately, we have savings to support us. This is true even more so now that we are blessed with the Memorial Fund, the member bequests account begun by the large and generous donation from our former president and officer of many hats, Virginia VandenBroek. The remembrance in her will gives the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area strong resources perhaps for years to come. This fund will have a separate accounting and will be used by the Board for local expenses to enrich and enhance our membership activities.

Judith G. Mich, Treasurer and Budget Committee



LWV-AAA SPONSORS PUBLIC FORUM ON TRANSPORTATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Standing-room only crowd hears transit debate

Are you willing to pay a more in order to have additional bus service? Voters in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township will be answering this question when they go to the polls on May 6 to decide on a millage request to fund increased services.

To help voters decide, LWV-AAA hosted a public forum on the proposal at the Ann Arbor District Library. A standing-room-only crowd

Our master moderator,



Judy Mich

An audience member asks a question.



heard representatives from More Buses (pro) and Better Transit Now (con) present their positions on the issue and answer questions from LWV-AAA and from the audience. Both the Pro and the Con representatives favored the proposed improvements to the bus system but differed on the need for the new millage.

The event ran smoothly under the capable guidance of moderator Judy Mich, timers Zoe Behnke and Susan Greenberg, and experienced microphone managers from the AADL staff.

You can view the AADL video of the forum "on demand" at http://www.aadl.org/aadl_events_20140407-transportation_millage

The proposal language can be found at http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections/2014-elections/copy_of_february-25-2014-proposals

Our "Defenders of Democracy" in action.

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Try it FREE today.