



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

June 2015

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Meet your 2015/2016 Board of Directors



Nancy Schewe,
President



Miriam Borenstein,
Vice President



Harvey Somers,
Secretary



Zoe Behnke,
Membership
Engagement



Judy Mich,
Treasurer



Betty Bishop
Ed Fund
Treasurer

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Monday, June 29th

Ann Arbor City Council Candidate Forums

7:00 p.m. Wards 1 & 3

8:30 p.m. Wards 4 & 5

CTN

2805 S. Industrial

Ann Arbor, 48104

Monday, July 6th

LWV at AA City Council

7:00 p.m.

Larcom City Hall

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, 48104

Tuesday, September 29th

Membership Meet & Greet

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Hathaway's Hideaway
310 S. Ashley
Ann Arbor, 48104

Tuesday, December 8th

December Potluck

6:00 p.m.
Shirley Axon's House
2016 Seneca Ave.
Ann Arbor, 48104

Saturday, January 30th

Program Planning Meeting

Time and location: TBD

Tuesday, May 24th

Annual Membership Meeting

7:00 p.m.
Location: TBD

Board Meetings

4th Tuesday of the month
4:00 p.m.
Bank of Ann Arbor
801 W. Ellsworth Rd.
Ann Arbor



Pat Zagorski
Program Planning



Shirley Axon,
Natural Resources

This year we welcome two new board members into the fold and thank six returning members for their continued dedication. Miriam Borenstein and Harvey Somers are new to our board. Miriam is working on a Phd in history at Wayne State University and Harvey is a retired foreign service officer. They both have much to offer the League and we look forward to their increased involvement. Watch for their member profiles in future newsletters.

We welcome back with much gratitude returning board members Shirley Axon, Zoe Behnke, Betty Bishop, Judy Mich and Pat Zagorski. The many years of combined experience these women bring to our organization ensures that things will run smoothly and our important work will continue.

Finally, we want to thank Mary Banks, out-going Co-President and Rosemary Austgen, out-going Membership Chair for their hard work and good humor. Actually, neither is totally deserting us. Rosemary continues to maintain our membership roster with all due accuracy and efficiency. Mary will continue to help us with public relations by sending news releases to media outlets such as Michigan Radio, MLive, WEMU, and the Observer. Many thanks ladies for all of your work, both past and future.



Two members receive Belle Ringer Awards at State Convention



Candidate information available beginning July 7th.

ANN ARBOR ELECTION REFORM:
Update

Jeanine Delay

For faithfully and expertly coordinating candidate forums for LWVAAA since time immemorial.

Susan Wooley

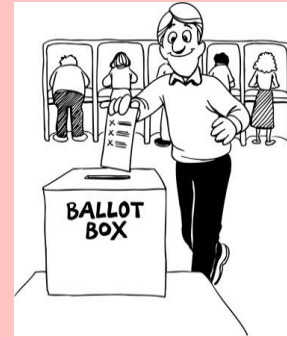
For carefully and beautifully managing our website and Constant Contact mailings since the beginning of time.

You are in League with...

Barbara Adams
Cyrene Aksman
Sally Allen
Rosemary Austgen
Shirley Axon
Virginia Bachman
Mary Banks
Laura Bien
Elizabeth Bishop
Miriam Borenstein
Laura Brodtkin
Marina Brown
Nancy Brucken
Mary Burney
Richard Burney
Barbara Carr
Margaret Carter
Barbara Clarke
Ellie Davidson
Jeanine DeLay
Fran Dew
Cheryl Farmer
Lindsay Garinger
Barbara Hall
Craig Harvey
Mary Hathaway
Paula Hathaway
Will Hathaway
Lucia Heinold
Margaret Hiss
Roland Hiss
Judy Judd

Last spring LWV of the Ann Arbor Area held two public forums on Ann Arbor Elections.

- Ann Arbor Elections: What Works? What Doesn't?
- Ann Arbor Elections: Exploring Options



City Council took notice.

The ideas brought forth in those two forums were instrumental in encouraging City Council to consider **two election reform proposals**.

Election Reform proposals to be introduced:

- The first proposes changing to nonpartisan elections.
- The second proposes keeping partisan labels, but converting to four-year council terms and eliminating odd-year elections.

LWVAAA invited to make public comment on July 6th

Representatives from our League have been invited to make comment on election reform when the proposals are introduced at the City Council Meeting on July 6th.

Watch us on CTN Channel 16 or come watch us in person in council chambers.

This might be a good time to wear that Defender of Democracy t-shirt.



Have you submitted your membership engagement survey yet?

If not, go to the link below to participate:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8Y5LSV>

DEADLINE: JULY 15TH

September 29th Meet & Greet

Richard Kato
 Jean Kluge
 Mariana Kopacz
 Pat Kuessner
 Frances Lyman
 Marcia MacMullan
 Carolyn Madden
 Norma Mau
 Marie McGonagle
 Lineve McKie
 Judith Mich
 Benjamin Miller
 Olga Moir
 Joan Overmire
 Frances Parker
 Barbara Robinson
 Nancy Schewe
 Stephen Schewe
 Molly Shanks
 Nancy Sitterley
 Susan Smith
 Harvey Somers
 Janya Somers
 Ann Staiger
 Gloria Stapp
 Ellen Teller
 Bette Thompson
 Mona Walz
 Rebekah Warren
 Robert Whitman
 Angela Williams
 Charles Williams
 Russell Woinowsk
 Galen Woods
 Susan Wooley
 John Zagorski
 Pat Zagorski

See you at our fall opening gathering where you can greet old friends, find out about League activities and sign up to participate.

Three speakers will be on hand to introduce us to opportunities for involvement.

- Susan Smith, Immediate Past President of LWVMI, will update us on efforts for state redistricting reform.
- Carolyn Madden, LWVMI Advocacy Committee member, will update us on League advocacy efforts in Lansing.
- Mary Morgan, Executive Director of the CivCity Initiative, will introduce her exciting new effort "to inform, educate, and engage Ann Arborites of all ages about local government and civic affairs."

See you there!!

Four Local Members Attend LWVMI Convention

Betty Bishop, Pat Zagorski, John Zagorski, and Nancy Schewe attended the state convention in Kalamazoo from May 15th - 17th, Giving Voice to Democracy. Nancy and Betty attended a pre-convention workshop titled "GROW ME" Membership Model," while Pat and John attended the "Speaking Out for the Environment" workshop. Everyone came away with new ideas of how to make our League move effective in engaging members and taking action.

Quick Links

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

[The League of Women Voters of Michigan](#)

[VOTE411](#)

Susan Demas of *Inside Michigan Politics* gave us an insider's view of just what is happening in Lansing and what hope there may be for positive change. Carla Campbell-Jackson inspired us with her talk, "Don't just TALK about it...but BE about it." We all left the convention ready to BE about the business of the League.

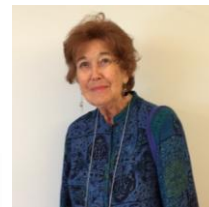
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2015/2016 Officers and Directors

Why I belong to the League: Fran Lyman



I joined LWV in 1964 when I was visiting my mother in Southern Calif.. We went to a meeting with six or seven other women who were planning how to respond to a proposed

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Zoe Behnke, Member
Engagement
Shirley Axon, Nat. Resources

nuclear power plant near San Onofre on the coast. It may have been a state study issue -this I do not know.

They were determined that the public should know the dangers/benefits that such a plant posed. (They had never heard of Fukushima - it probably wasn't built then. But how prescient of them.) To that end they planned a couple of meetings in the local community center and put out informational literature. It was so inspiring to see their efforts and their passion that I joined then and there. Unfortunately, intervening years did not present opportunity to exercise my membership and it lapsed. When I returned from abroad I rejoined here in Ann Arbor.



Since then I have been involved in League activities. This unique organization presents balanced information online, via publications and public meetings. The *Know Your Elected Officials* trifold handout was invaluable for years. It is an organization that has committed intelligent and thoughtful members. Why wouldn't you want to join?

Please Join Us

If you have not yet joined the League but would like to do so, please ["Click Here for Membership Form"](#)

We would love to have you join us.

Member dues are currently

\$70 for an individual

\$100 for a household, two or more members at the same address.

\$20 for a student

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