

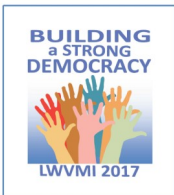


# The Michigan VOTER

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Michigan  
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## Join Us in East Lansing for the LWVMI Convention

All members of the League of Women Voters of Michigan are invited to participate in our biannual state convention over the weekend of May 19-21 in East Lansing. Registration materials were sent to all local Leagues and posted on our website on March 19, 2017. The LWVUS advises state and local Leagues to use their annual/biannual meetings to accomplish a number of tasks. Here are the challenges and the way that we hope to meet them over Convention weekend:

- **Celebrate the League's accomplishments from the past two years.** Local Leagues are invited to share their successes by participating in an on-going slide show of League activities, displaying a table exhibit of a significant League event and having a local Leader boast about major accomplishments over the past two years.
- **Recognize League volunteers for their great work.** LWVMI will award the Belle Brotherton, Maryanne Mahaffey Community Service Award, and the Helen Milliken Leadership in Civic Empowerment to deserving League members. Additionally, each League has the opportunity to name four "Belle Ringer" awardees.
- **Share the value of being a League member with the community.** Several outside speakers are already booked (and will be invited to join the League!) including our Saturday Banquet speaker, Zoe Clark from Michigan Radio, and Chris Hackbarth from the Michigan Municipal League.
- **Show the community how important and effective an organization the League is.** A number of statewide/national topics will be covered beginning with the Friday pre-convention Issues Update workshop (1:00-4:00pm): Redistricting in Michigan, the Line 5 Pipeline in the Straights of Mackinac and the State Budget.
- **Energize your members.** Six workshops on Saturday feature empowerment opportunities for local Leagues: Voter Registration the "League way", Engaging our Membership to utilize their skills, a Natural Resources Update that includes current information about fracking, pipelines and air quality, Moderator Training that highlights the best practices at League forums, Local League Fundraising that provides examples of successful fundraising pursuant to the LWV mission, and From Program to Advocacy that demonstrates how to utilize LWV positions to effectively advocate at the local and state level.
- **Engage current members and highlight leadership opportunities.** The delegates will be asked to participate in votes to elect new LWVMI officers, pass a 2-year budget, and vote on bylaw amendments and program.
- **Have FUN!** There are plenty of opportunities to have fun, beginning with the renewal of friendships of League members from all over the state, a welcome reception on Friday followed by a "Dine-Around East Lansing" prior to the first plenary, a silent auction and wares market where you will surely find treasures that you must have, and delicious meals shared with other League members all weekend.

Convention registration materials are on the League's website.  
  
Register before April 19 to avoid late charges.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## President's Message

Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI President,  
LWV Lansing Area

Spring is here! Time for many of our local Leagues to hold annual meetings and for the League of Women Voters of Michigan to hold it's Biannual Convention. The LWVMI Board of Directors looks forward to welcoming many of you to the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on May 19-21.

The state convention planning committee, headed by Paula Bowman, and the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area are busy getting everything ready.

There will be speakers on various topics and pre-convention workshops as well as interesting workshops. In addition, we will be electing a new board, reviewing bylaws, adopting the two year budget and adopting the program for LWVMI. This is your opportunity to have input on these important decisions. In addition, the board will report on our activities since we met in Kalamazoo in 2015.

Recognizing our volunteers is also mixed in throughout our agenda. So many people have contributed to make our League work possible at every level. Local Leagues have an opportunity to share what has happened too.

Previous conventions have allowed me time to learn new things, renew acquaintances, and meet new members. They renew my commitment to work for a stronger democracy! I hope you have similar experiences and look forward to seeing you at convention.

## We Goofed!



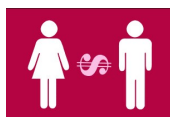
Missing from the long list of LWVMI donors that was published in the February Voter, were the names of several long-time League members and donors: Fran Hamburg and Vina and Phil Mikesell. We apologize for this error and are grateful for their continued support.

## Government Finance Study Completed

Twenty Leagues participated in the recent update of our LWVMI Government Finance position. From the results, the LWVMI study committee crafted position statements which were approved by the Board of Directors at their March meeting. A narrative of the position will be available soon and distributed to all Leagues.

Because of the high interest in this topic, we have invited Chris Hackbarth from the Michigan Municipal League as one of our guest speakers. Mr. Hackbarth is an expert on the state of Michigan's revenue sharing practices with cities, and he will share his insight with us.

## Equal Pay Legislative Day



LWVMI is a sponsor of the April 25, 2017 demonstration on the State Capital

Steps from 12:30-1:30. For more information, visit <https://miequalpay.blog/>

## LWV Takes Positions on New Bills

At their March meeting, the LWVMI Board took action on a slew of recently-introduced bills. The League will be monitoring these bills and take further action as the bills progress. The bill number, a short description and our stance are noted below:

- ▲**HB4199** - Restrict Oil and Gas drilling in large counties (>750K). (Support)
- ▲**SB154/HB4201; SB156/HB4200; HB4202** - Establishment of Natural Resource Commissions. (Support).
- ▲**SB155** - Improved municipal water testing methods. (Support).
- ▲**HB 4148-4157** - Legislative Open Records Act. (Support).
- ▲**SB173** - Distribution of Assets & Student Record Keeping Responsibilities for Charter Schools that are terminated not renewed. (Support).
- ▲**HB4205** - Limit state department rule-making authority. (Oppose).
- ▲**SB129** - Weakening of environmental regulations for small native copper mines. (Oppose).
- ▲**HB4003-4006** - Easier to carry concealed weapons and hunting knives for those over 21 yrs. (Oppose).
- ▲**HB4192** - Replacement of Common Core Standards with Massachusetts 2008-09 standards. (Oppose).
- ▲**SB162** - Prohibits state funding for organizations that provide abortions. (Oppose).
- ▲**SB164** - Requires facilities providing abortions to be licensed surgical clinics. (Oppose).

For more information on these bills, visit: [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

## Growing Our Leagues

Christina Schlitt, LWV Grand Traverse, LWVMI VP Membership

The interest in becoming a member of the LWV has risen dramatically nationwide recently. The same statement applies to the LWVMI. Many local Leagues have experienced significant increases in membership and interest to become members. At the state level, we make every effort to direct interested individuals to a local League. In some cases, we have groups of community members interested in becoming members and even starting their own League. Because of the dynamics of the LWV, we encourage these parties to take baby steps and form a *Geographical Unit* of the League of Women Voters.

We encourage and nurture the interests of community members willing to organize their efforts to service their community in developing voter service activities. We try to mentor community groups in a few ways such as development of a Geographical Unit, then to a State MAL (Member-At-Large) Unit then ultimately, an independent League. Each level of growth requires organizational steps that become more involved. We like to start with the Geographical Unit and attach the group to an established local League as a mentor in the process.



### Guidelines for Geographical Units:

- Major interest area of members in Geographical Units are voter services and various League positions.
- Interested individuals delegate a leader(s) and provide a list with contact information for interested parties

- LWVMI will review and attach the group to an established League (geographically near)
- Geographical Unit leader(s) will be invited to be on the local League-mentor board
- Unit members become part of mentor League and pay dues to that League
- Leader(s) (and or designee) participate in MLD networking calls with their mentor League
- Geographical Units develop voter services activities for their community (with guidance of mentor League)
- Communication devices are developed specific to their community such as Facebook. Newsletters to their members are articles in the mentor League's editions and then develop a separate newsletter as membership in the unit and activities grow. Website access is through that of the mentor League
- As membership grows and confidence and experience develops, Geographical Units may consider more independence by becoming a State MAL (Member-at-Large) Unit. This will change mentoring from local League to the State Board/ Membership VP.
- As this process strengthens the Geographical Unit and subsequent state MAL Unit, the next step is to become a full independent League. This step will require official recognition and support of the LWVMI state board, then forwarded to LWVUS for the national recognition of this status.

LWVMI is an organization where active leaders work to create lasting change in the community. For years, the members of LWVMI have worked hard to safeguard democracy and civic improve-

ment. Members of LWVMI have many opportunities to create an impact on local, state, and even national issues. Members are the League's most valuable asset. Members give the League clout, visibility and credibility. The LWV's strong grassroots distinguishes the League from other organizations.

The League is a truly grassroots organization. This, combined with our non-partisanship, is the secret of the League's success and the reason it garners the level of respect locally, statewide and nationally that it does. Political leaders know that when the League speaks on an issue, it is only after in-depth study by its members who participated in a wide-spread consensus process in arriving at the League's position.

By joining LWV, members become part of one of the most respected organizations directly involved in shaping the important issues which help to keep our communities strong.

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Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government.

The LWVMI welcomes tax-deductible contributions to the LWVMI Education Fund and encourages interested persons to name LWVMI as a beneficiary in their wills.

## Learn about your 2017-19 Nominated Board of Directors

### **PRESIDENT – JUDY KARANDJEFF**

Judy served as LWVMI President 2015-2017, Advocacy VP from 2011 -2015, and Legislative VP from 1981-1983. Judy also served as President of the LWV of the Lansing Area in 2013-14 and from 1979-1981, as well as held other local board positions. Judy retired after eight years as the Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Commission. Judy was also employed as the Executive Director for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, as a research analyst for the Michigan House of Representatives' Policy Staff on Public Health issues and as an aide for former Kalamazoo State Representative Mary Brown. She has a Master's of Public Administration from Western Michigan University. Judy lives in East Lansing.

### **VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAM – VINA MIKESSELL**

In 1966, Vina joined the League in Crawfordsville, IN when her husband joined the faculty of Wabash College. She served on the Board in many different capacities over the years including President. Vina was elected to the LWVIN Board for two terms before moving to Leelanau County. In 2012, as chair of the Leelanau Unit of the Grand Traverse Area League, she proposed independence. In the summer of 2013 the LWV Leelanau County became the 21<sup>st</sup> League in Michigan. The group has more than tripled in size since it began. Vina graduated from Carleton College with a BA in Political Science and from Purdue University with a BA in Computer Graphics. She has also been active in ShareCare of Leelanau, a group which keeps seniors in their own homes for as long as possible. Vina and husband Phil have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

### **VICE PRESIDENT – ADVOCACY – JOAN HUNAULT**

Joan joined the Leelanau County LWV in 2016 where she serves as secretary on the board, and as a member of the

Voter Services, and Energy and Natural Resources committees. For over 30 years, Joan worked in the legislative and executive branches of state and local government. Her state service included a short stint in the Michigan Senate; directing the House of Representatives research staff where she worked as a health policy analyst; working as education advisor to the governor while serving ex-officio on the State Board of Education; and serving as a legislative analyst with the non-partisan House Fiscal Agency, writing about education, local government, and election policy. In local government, Joan chaired the East Lansing Human Relations Commission, was a city councilmember for 10 years, initiated efforts to advance a regional arts economy, served on numerous boards and commissions, and was the city's first woman mayor. Joan holds a Master's degree in public administration from Michigan State University.

### **VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBERSHIP – CHRISTINA SCHLITT**

Christina has been a member of LWV since 2001 when she checked "joining" from her bucket list. As a member of the Grosse Pointe League, she held the voter services vice president position for a decade, then moved to president. Interest in developing membership and leadership within her own League is a contributing factor to accepting the nomination of VP of Membership on the state board; plus the opportunity to work with the exceptional LWVMI Board members. Christina's degree is in management (and finance) and she has had a career in that position with several different for-profit and non-profit organizations, including her own small business. Christina lives with her husband in Frederic, Michigan.

### **TREASURER – DENISE HARTSOUGH**

Denise Hartsough has belonged to the League for several decades, tak-

ing an active role once her daughter was in high school. Denise joined the board of the LWV of the Kalamazoo Area in 2011. She served as secretary and a co-president before becoming president for 2014-17. Denise had a career in academia as a Film Studies professor, then earned a Masters of Social Work with an emphasis in Policy, Planning & Administration in 1998. In her second career she worked for 15 years at the United Way in Kalamazoo, the last 12 as Community Investment Director. She then served as President & CEO of the Allegan County United Way from 2014-16. Denise's mother, Dalte Hartsough, is active in the LWV of Deschutes County, Oregon and formerly served as president for the LWV of Indiana.

### **SECRETARY – PAULA BOWMAN**

Paula lives in Plymouth and has been a member of the NW Wayne County League for 25 years. She has been a local League board member for nearly 20 years and has served in various capacities on the state board since 2003. Currently, she serves as the Voter Editor and Webmaster. Enduring friendships with other League members who share the same values is a bonus of her work with the League. Paula graduated from EMU with a teaching degree (French) she never used and continues to work full time as an administrator in a large real estate firm in Ann Arbor. She and her husband (also a League member) have 2 adult children and 2 grandchildren.

### **DIRECTOR – VOTER SERVICE – EVA PACKARD**

Eva has served on the LWVMI Board as Voter Service Director since 2009. She joined the League in Detroit in 1963 and has served on boards in Southfield, Warren and Oakland Area with portfolios including Treasurer, Voter Service Chair, Administrative VP, Citizen Ed VP, President, Voter Editor, and Secretary. Eva has a BS in Math from Wayne State University and a Masters in History from Oakland University. Her

## Learn about your 2017-19 Nominated Board of Directors *(cont.)*

career included the development of computer operating systems at General Motors Research and management positions in GM and EDS, from which she retired after 34 years.

### **DIRECTOR – VOTER SERVICE SUPPORT – BETSY CUSHMAN**

This fall, Betsy will mark 50 years as a member of the LWV! She has belonged to the Ferndale-Pleasant Ridge, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Dearborn- Dearborn Heights Leagues. Betsy has always enjoyed and appreciated the people who belong to the LWV. Her professional life was in Human Resources and Volunteer Management. She's been LWVDDH president for four years and on the State Board for two.

### **DIRECTOR – VOTER SERVICE SUPPORT – DEBORAH BUNKLEY**

Deborah recently retired from the University of Michigan dining services, a job that she'd had since 1995. She sees a position on the LWVMI board as an opportunity to keep Detroit's rich history in the minds of others. After receiving Volunteer of the Year in 1994 from Planned Parenthood in Ann Arbor, she was with the League in Ann Arbor for a short time. She then enrolled at EMU and graduated with honors. Deborah is now only a thesis away from a Masters, Hobbies include community gardening, estate sale shopping (thrift) and reading. She is proud of the Detroit League's work on local events, forums, and VOTE411. The voter services committee was welcomed into the local high schools, community colleges, libraries and recreation centers throughout Detroit. She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve as a director on the LWVMI board.

### **DIRECTOR – MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT – PAULA MANLEY**

Paula is a retired clinical social worker and spent 33 years as a therapist providing mental health services to children and their families in the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo area. The past two years she has served on the state

board as a Director at Large and is an MLD coach. She first joined the League in Pella, Iowa in 1974. Upon moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1975 she joined the board and served as treasurer. When she and her family moved to Kalamazoo in 1979, she joined the Kalamazoo League and has served in various leadership capacities through the years including treasurer, vice president of program and co-president. Paula and her husband Ken (also a League member) enjoy travel and have been involved in mission work in Haiti for the past 28 years.

### **DIRECTOR – NATURAL RESOURCES – LINDA HOFF**

Linda has served as the LWVMI Advocacy Chair for the past two years, while continuing to serve as President of the LWV of the Flint Area (since 2011). It has been very challenging to appropriately meet the very diverse needs of both roles. However, in her tenure, she and Natural Resources Chair, Suzanne Dixon, have discovered a shared passion for natural resources. Linda will continue to work with Suzanne Dixon on the Advocacy Committee, thus enabling Suzanne to enjoy her retirement a bit more. Linda is married to Craig, who is the Dean of Engineering at Kettering University (Flint). She has four adult daughters, five grandchildren, a great grandchild expected in June, a rescue dog and two rescue cats. Educational background includes a BSBA in Business and an MPA in Public Administration, specializing in special education law. She resides in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

### **DIRECTOR – DEVELOPMENT – KEN MANLEY**

Ken is a retired Pharmacist from the Veterans Administration, having also worked as a Pharmacist for Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo. Ken has served as a City Planning Commissioner, chair of a Zoning Board of Appeals and on the board of direc-

tors of International Child Care. Ken joined the LWV of the Kalamazoo area in the early 80's, serving in leadership positions on the Board of Directors, and twice as chair of the fundraising efforts.

### **DIRECTOR – REDISTRICTING – SUSAN SMITH**

Sue joined the Lansing Area League in 1968 and the Mt. Pleasant League eight years later. While living in Mt. Pleasant, Sue served on the School Board and the City Commission; she was also Mayor. After retiring from Central Michigan University where she had been a management professor and administrator for 20 years, Sue moved back near her hometown of Ann Arbor. She has served as: LWV-AAA President, LWVMI VP for Program (2007-11), and LWVMI President (2011-2015). Currently, Sue is LWVMI VP for Program with additional responsibilities for redistricting.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR - PATIENCE DRAKE ROSENBAUM**

Patience served on the LWVMI Board from 2015-2017 as Director-At-Large and Treasurer, and in 2017 as a member of the Nominating Committee. Patience first joined the League in Lansing. Her career was spent working in the public and private sectors in the fields of health care budgeting, finance, policy and quality improvement. She held positions on Legislative staff, in the Executive Branch and Governor's office as well as lobbying on behalf of nonprofits. Board positions she has held include the Foundation for Haslett Schools, housing cooperatives, and Planned Parenthood Mid & South Michigan. Patience lives in Haslett with her husband Frank (also a League member) and obtained her undergraduate and master's degrees from University of Michigan.

### **Nominating Committee Members:**

Judy McDowell  
Angela Ryan

# Silent Auction/Wares Market

Paula Manley, LWV Kalamazoo, LWVMI Director, Auction/Wares Market Convention Chair

State Convention is a time to learn, network and have fun! The Silent Auction offers delegates a chance to bid on and purchase many wonderful items. In the past, items such golf packages, museum memberships, tickets to Tigers' games, tickets to the Detroit Symphony, gift baskets, gift certificates to restaurants and a sailboat ride have been donated. We are asking local Leagues to contribute at least one item to the Silent Auction with a minimum value of \$25. Often, Leagues choose to donate something that represents their geographical area. You may have League members who wish to help. Multiple donations are welcome!

Auction items may be brought to the convention on Friday. The Auction room will be open at select times on Saturday for delegates to browse and bid. Bids will be accepted until Saturday evening when the winners will be announced.

Donation forms are on the website as part of the convention materials. If you have questions, please contact Paula Manley Auction/Wares Market Chair at [pjmanley@hotmail.com](mailto:pjmanley@hotmail.com).

Another fun opportunity at Convention is to shop for League related items in the Wares Market. Local Leagues will be offering League related items such as League t-shirts, note cards, stationary, and stamps commemorating women in history. The Wares Market will be located in the same room as the Silent Auction. Leagues who wish to reserve a table for the Wares Market should contact Paula Manley by May 1.

Bring your checkbook and take advantage of these great opportunities to shop during Convention breaks and at the same time, support LWVMI and Local Leagues.

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