

## League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

October 2012

[www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org)

Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Michele McGowen

Vol. 58 No. 2

League Phone: 269-544-0303

### We Need You to Volunteer to Capture the Election 2012

By Michele McGowen

We can learn a lot about money in politics by paying attention to political advertising. We can also find out what we don't know about groups that sponsor ads and who is trying to influence elections. All you have to do is collect campaign literature, watch and record information about television ads, and discuss your observations with others who are doing the same thing.

The League of Women Voter of the Kalamazoo Area is sponsoring **Capture the Election** to monitor political advertising during the 2012 election cycle, with a focus on Michigan's three Supreme Court races. The results will help us draw attention to what we know and don't know about sponsors of political advertising and the need for greater transparency and accountability.

#### During Campaign Season

**Save campaign literature.** Collect ALL campaign-related mail that you get from now until Election Day. Sort them by materials from candidates and ones from third-party groups. Sorting can be done as items are received or after you have finished collecting all campaign materials.

**Watch political ads on TV and record your observations.**

Include any ad that mentions a candidate.

Keep a log or journal of the ads you watch to note:

- the sponsor
- the candidate featured in or targeted by the ad
- whether the candidate is portrayed in a positive or negative way
- reactions you have to the ad (for example, effective, offensive, inaccurate information).

### Calendar

#### Sept 25 National Voter Registration Day

Tues.  
will be celebrated at the  
9-11 am Dept. of Human Services and  
9-3 pm Borgess Hospital

#### Sept 27 Voter Registration Day Rally in Lansing

Thurs.  
11 am With LWVUS President  
Elisabeth MacNamara  
Meet at St. Paul's Episcopal  
Church, 218 W. Ottawa St.,  
across from Capitol.  
Parade begins at noon.

#### Sept 27 Patriocracy

Thurs. Documentary film showing  
6:30 pm- Kalamazoo Public Library  
8:30pm 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo

#### Sept 28 2012 Summit on Racism

Fri.  
8:30 am - Fetzer Center  
4:40 pm Western Michigan University

#### Sept 28 Reception for LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara

Fri.  
4:30 am - The Park Club, 219 W. South St.,  
6 pm Kalamazoo  
See special mailing to members;  
reservations required.

#### Sept 29 Human Trafficking Awareness and Training Event

Sat.  
1-5 pm New Day Community Church  
3600 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo

#### Oct 5 LWVKA Voter Guide

Fri. online [lwvka.org](http://lwvka.org) and [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)

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## Women's Equality Day Celebration

**The event reminds us of women's struggles to gain the vote.**

By Denise Hartsough

Nearly 80 people gathered at the YWCA of Kalamazoo on Monday, August 27 to mark the 92nd anniversary of Women's Equality Day, which is August 26. The LWVKA and YWCA co-sponsor a celebration annually to remind our members and the community of the struggles it took for women to gain the vote in 1920. We also remind ourselves that women need to exercise the right to vote and to run for public office.

LWVKA Co-Presidents **Michele McGowen** and **Paula Manley** explained the work of the League and highlighted the exciting schedule of activities for this fall.

The featured speaker for Women's Equality Day 2012 was Representative **Barb Byrum** of Onondaga. A three-term State Representative for the 67th District, Rep. Byrum focused on the importance of women running for office. She pointed out that women make up 51 percent of the population, yet hold only 21.6 percent of the seats in the Michigan legislature (25 percent in the House and 5 percent in the Senate). She



suggested that it is vital for everyone's benefit—women, men and children—that women bring their perspectives to bear on public policy.

The under-representation of women in the legislature may have contributed to the House Majority Leader's ban on Rep. Byrum speaking on the floor of the House in June this year. Rep. Byrum and Rep. **Lisa Brown** of West Bloomfield attempted to address an anti-abortion bill that had come to the House floor without testimony from many women and doctors who had tried to speak during the committee hearing. The women legislators banned from speaking

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## Women's Equality Day Celebration continued

were characterized as having had “temper tantrums,” a term that treats the women policymakers like children and trivializes their speech.

The audience enjoyed hearing about Rep. Byrum's path to elected office and her background in agriculture, business ownership, law and politics. Rep. Byrum thanked the many people who came to Lansing in June to demonstrate support for Rep. Brown and Rep. Byrum. One audience member at the Women's Equality Day event underlined that support by displaying a relevant placard that she then presented to Rep. Byrum.

Over 20 LWVKA members participated in this year's Women's Equality Day event. Thanks to the members who provided materials and/or staffing for the LWVKA table at the celebration: **Carol Urban, Sue Nelmes, Kay Perry, Michele McGowen,** and **Paula Manley**. The LWVKA is grateful to the YWCA staff, who organized and ran the event.



## Capture the Election 2012 continued

Candidate-sponsored ads will include a statement of approval by the candidate. If not a candidate ad but the sponsor cannot be identified, log it as a third-party ad.

### After the Election

**Share and discuss your collections and observations with others.** We'll get together and discuss what we have learned. To participate or get more information, contact **Michele McGowen** at [mcgowenm@dnswm.org](mailto:mcgowenm@dnswm.org) or (269) 553-9699.

## Calendar

**Oct 13 LWVKA Voter Guide**  
Say. in print

**Oct 9 Last day to register for 11/6 election**  
Tues.

**Oct 16 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Tues. The Park Club  
5:30 pm 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo  
Food available for purchase  
6 pm Meeting  
Questions? Call 269-544-0303  
or email [president@lwvka.org](mailto:president@lwvka.org)

**Oct 23 Mock Election**  
Tues. at Kalamazoo public high schools, and KRESA Young Adult Program

**Oct 25 Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff Candidate Forum**  
Thurs. 7-8:30 pm  
Kalamazoo Public Library, Van Deusen Room, 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo

*Note: Board meets on 3rd Tuesdays. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.*



## News From National and State

### **From LWVUS**

#### **Voter ID Laws Could Disenfranchise 1 Million Young Minority Voters**

An estimated 700,000 young minority voters could be barred from voting in November because of photo ID laws passed across the country in recent years, according to a [new study](#).

#### **League President Testifies on Capitol Hill**

On September 12, [President MacNamara testified](#) at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on “the Citizens United Court and the Continuing Importance of the Voting Rights Act.”

#### **Help Us Reach 15,000 Facebook Fans!**

With election season heating up, we’re seeing an uptick on the LWVUS social media channels – and we’re now within striking distance of 15,000 Facebook fans and 2,000 Twitter followers! Help us reach these milestones by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter and by sharing our Facebook page and Twitter feed with your networks, and asking them to like us too. Together, we can expand our reach!

### **From LWVMI**

#### **Voter Registration Rally in Lansing, September 27**

On Thursday, September 27, 2012, LWVMI will host a Voter Registration Day on the Capitol steps in Lansing! Our National League President, **Elisabeth MacNamara** will join us in a parade from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church to the Capitol steps. Elisabeth will be one of our featured speakers. The fo-

cus will be on registering voters and getting out the vote.

Come and be a part of this rally with Elisabeth. Bring your League signs, VOTE 411 materials, suffragist hats and your enthusiasm! We will meet at St. Paul’s Church at 11:00 a.m. and will parade over to the Capitol at noon. We are looking for a small band to accompany us.

Following the Rally, there will be a reception with light refreshments at the new League office, 600 West St. Joseph Street, Suite 3G in Lansing. The reception will offer you an opportunity to meet President MacNamara and the newest members of our LWVMI staff, Executive Director, **Will Hathaway** and Project Director, **Linda White**. There’s a [flyer about the rally](#).

#### **LWVMI Members to be Honored**

Two League of Women Voters members are part of the 2012 class of the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame. **Gladys Beckwith** (LWVLA) pioneered in the field of women’s studies by teaching the first courses offered in Michigan and founding the Michigan Women’s Studies Association, where she served as president for more than 35 years. She also founded the Michigan Women’s Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

**Judy Karandjeff** (LWVLA) has had many leadership roles in organizations that work on behalf of women’s issues and support women in their pursuit to become leaders. She has been instrumental in efforts to advance women’s rights in Michigan. They will be honored at the 29th annual awards dinner on October 18, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. For [more information visit](#) or call 517-484-1880, ext. 203.

## Voter Registration Sites and Volunteers

**Thanks to all who helped with this important task.**

### By Karen Eddy

**T**hanks to the August volunteers who worked at various voter registration sites: **Keith and Janet Jones, Martha Cohen, Cheryl Lyon Jenness, Carol Smith Payne, Janet Nykaza and Scott Nykaza.**

Additional volunteers worked at a number of sites through September.

#### Weekly

DHS each Tuesday (9 -11) **Sara Wick, Fran Eckenrode, Urban, Karen Eddy, Margaret McAllister**

September 4 – KVCC Texas Township campus (10 – 4)

**Paula Aldridge, Karen Eddy, Susan Nelles, Charlotte Russell, Marie Rogers**

September 5 – KVCC Arcadia Commons campus (11 – 2)

**Cheryl Lyon-Jenness, Karen Eddy, Margo Light, Connie Ferguson**

September 7 – WMU Bronco Bash (2:30 – 5:30)

**Mary Gustus, Carol Payne Smith, Stu Eddy, Karen Eddy, Denise Hartsough**

September 10 – Goodwill Industries, Alcott St.

**Louise Robeck, Karen Eddy**

September 13 – K College Kfest (2:30 – 6)

**Sara Wick, Chris Bartley, Denise Hartsough, Karen Eddy**

September 17 - KVCC Arcadia Commons, presentation and registration (2-4)

**Karen Eddy**

September 19 – WMU, Rock the Vote event

(3 -6)

**Beverly Byle, Denise Hartsough, Stu Eddy, Karen Eddy**

September 25 - Borgess Hospital (9–3)

**Sara Wick, Terry Hluchyj, Karen Eddy, Jessica Reisser**

September 26 – Community Mental Health, Kalamazoo Ave offices (10 – 12)

**Karen Eddy**

September 26 – WMU Bernhard Center (6-7:30)

**Karen Eddy**

## Welcome New Members

### **Barbara Rider**

2622 Winchell Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
269-344-6471  
barbok2@charter.net

### **Leroy Crabtree**

9835 East HJ Ave  
Galesburg, MI 49053  
269-665-6740  
leroycrabtree@yahoo.com

### **Alexander & Anne Lipsey**

2324 S Park St  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
269-344-7934  
anne@kzoolf.org

## Meet Marie Rogers

**By Frances Eckenrode**

**M**arie Rogers recently joined the LWV. She is mom to member **Julie Rogers**. Marie is a registered nurse and taught in the Nursing Program at KVCC for 38 years, specializing in obstetrical nursing. She currently teaches part time in KVCC's Health Careers Program. Marie is interested in voter registration, and was involved with the LWV registration efforts at Western's Bronco Bash and KVCC's Cougar Connection.

Marie participates in many other volunteer activities. She is working hard in her daughter Julie's campaign for Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. She is also a

member of the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce Diversity and Inclusion Council and ERACE (Eliminating Race and Celebrating Equality) at the Douglas Community Center and KVCC. Some of Marie's other interests include boating and reading.

The recent League-sponsored debate in Texas Township was a catalyst in motivating Marie to join the League. She appreciates the value the debate added to helping people better understand issues. Marie likes to remind her students that they should not give away the hard-fought right to vote, especially when she hears that they do not intend to vote.

**Promoting general welfare  
Takes a little from all,  
Adds up to a lot,  
And lets us stand tall.**

*Flegal & Tibbitts*

*Certified Public Accountants*

2750 Old Centre, Suite 150  
Portage, Michigan 49024  
Phone (269) 383-1900

202 Trowbridge Street  
Allegan, Michigan 49010  
Phone (269) 673-2222

**"The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join us in making democracy work!"**



**Make use of this new one-stop voter site.**

**By Terry Hluchyj**

Our *Voter Guide* will be available this year on the Vote 411 website, in addition to our own [www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org). A one-stop site for non-partisan information on elections and candidates, Vote 411 is a central resource for LWV *Voter Guides* across the country.

After entering your address, you can:

- See your precinct location and what will be on your ballot
- Check whether you are registered to vote

- Compare candidates for races that concern you
- Note times and locations of local candidate forums.

Information about some national and state candidates has been loaded onto the site. Other state candidates, as well as candidates for Kalamazoo County Commission, officials and judges will be available by October 5. Check out [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

**REMEMBER—EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALONE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR VOICE.**

Yes! I want to Take Back the System. Please sign me up!

I'm enclosing a check for \$60 for individual membership.

I'm enclosing a check for \$30 for student membership.

I'm enclosing a check for \$90 for household membership.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE HOME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_


NAME OF SECOND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to my membership, I'd like to make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please send me more information on the League of Women Voters.

I can't join right now, but I'm enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support League activities.

Because we lobby at the local, state and national levels, membership dues and other contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax-deductible.



Make check payable and mail to:  
 The League of Women Voters  
 Paula Aldridge, Treasurer  
 8035 Glenwynd Drive  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of the Kalamazoo Area  
P.O. Box 2106  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Kalamazoo, Michigan  
Permit No. 1107

**Returned Service Requested**

## Meet Jennifer Hill and Family

### By Frances Eckenrode

The League is pleased to welcome the entire Hill family as new members, including mom **Jennifer**, dad **Robert**, and daughters **Marleigh**, **Brenna**, and **Lindsey**. They are excited that the whole family, including daughters aged 22, 20, and 18 are registered voters. They are looking forward to the upcoming election.

Jennifer is originally from Portage, but has lived in the City of Kalamazoo for 20 years. She is employed as a nurse in the student

health center at Kalamazoo College and occasionally works part-time at Borgess. She is also on the Kalamazoo Board of Education and is looking forward to the 5+ years of her term. Jennifer is actively participating in the LWV's education project for Kalamazoo public high schools.

Although she currently has limited time for hobbies, Jennifer enjoys reading and also makes one heck of a Halloween costume when the occasion arises. Welcome Jennifer and family!

### Resource for Young LWV Members

LWVUS has just started a [Facebook group for Young Professionals](#) in the League. It is designed for members who are 45 years and younger. If that is you, please consider joining the group!