

THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

October 2013

www.lwvka.org

Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Michele McGowen

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League Phone: 269-544-0303

LWVUS Agriculture Study Update

By Paula Manley

The LWVKA is forming a study group to look at the LWVUS Agriculture Study Update. The Study Update focuses on:

- 1) Current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling
- 2) Current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies, and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Joining the study group is a great way to meet fellow Leaguers and learn more about this timely issue. The time commitment is short (several months), involves several meetings, and reading articles which have been selected by the LWVUS Study Committee. If you have an interest, contact **Paula Manley** at pjmanley@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunity for You?

By Karen Eddy

I will be retiring as voter registration organizer within the next year. It is my hope that another League member is willing to become familiar enough with our system within that time to take over and then organize it to her or his satisfaction after I retire.

All the tasks are interesting, the best parts include interaction with other League members, and encouraging citizens to know the importance of their vote. Please call or email me: 269-599-6399 or Karen.eddy336@global.com

Calendar

Sept. 24 Voter Guides

Tues. available on line at www.vote411.org and www.lwvka.org

Sept. 28 Voter Guides

Sat. distribution begins

Oct. 5 Kalamazoo City Commission Candidate Forum

Sat. 2 pm
Friendship Village
Kiva Auditorium
1400 N. Drake Rd
Kalamazoo

Oct. 7 Last day to register to vote in Nov. 5 election

Mon. Arcadia Campus

Oct. 15 LWVKA Board Meeting

Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
5:30 pm Food available for purchase
6:00 pm Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org

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

Voter Guides Available

Voter Guides for the city elections in Kalamazoo and Portage will be ready to distribute September 28. Voters will be able to pick one up at various locations in the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage by October 3. It will also be available online at www.vote411.org and www.lwvka.org by September 24.

News From National and State

Supreme Court Preview: *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*

The U.S. Supreme Court is set to begin hearing cases in its fall term. On the second day of arguments, a case that has been labeled the “next *Citizens United*” will be heard by the Justices. The League has joined a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in this case. Read our blog to get an [overview on *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*](#).

New Report Lays out League’s Election Improvement Agenda for 2013 and Beyond

The LWVUS is pleased to [release a new report, *Election Improvement Agenda*](#), which identifies central challenges facing our complex and outdated election system and provides a targeted action plan for overcoming the fallout from recent voter suppression attempts and the Supreme Court ruling gutting the Voting Rights Act. As our recent blog post points out, this comprehensive report showcases the best of what League volun-

teers and activists have done to overcome the challenges voters face nationwide. It also includes our key federal, state, and local advocacy and education priorities to protect and expand the vote even as we strive to grow our winning voter registration and education programs. We hope you will read this report and keep in mind these key priorities as you work to support and serve voters in 2013 and 2014!

Agriculture Update

The Agriculture Update Committee has posted a [list of suggested optional multimedia resources](#) to the Agriculture Update group of the LWVUS Forums. You can reach the Forums by logging into the website with your personal email address and password, and then selecting "Forums" on the left side, or then going directly to forum.lwv.org. If you have questions, you may contact Chair **Norman Turrill** at lwvturrill@mac.com.

[See the LWVUS Blog](#) for many more interesting articles.



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Kalamazoo City Commission Candidate Forum

LWVKA and Friendship Village are sponsoring a candidate forum for the Kalamazoo City Commission Saturday, October 5, 2013, at 2 p.m. in the Friendship Village Kiva auditorium, 1400 N. Drake Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. There are seven commission seats available and 15 candidates. The forum will be approximately 90 minutes long. Come meet the candidates.

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
Dawn Haley, Treasurer
5098 Deep Point Drive
Portage, MI 49002





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LWVMI Education Study

**Will you join
this
important
study?**

By Denise Hartsough

The LWVMI seeks input from local Leagues for an update of its position on education. Local Leagues are encouraged to examine some or all of the following issues: Teacher Evaluation, Students and Schools at Risk, Schools of Choice, Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning; Distance Learning and Cyber Schools, and Common Core State Standards.

The LWVMI Board will review consensus questions and background information at its November 9 meeting, then email material to local Leagues. May 1, 2014 is the deadline for return of consensus responses to the LWVMI office. If you are interested in preparing for this study, please contact **Denise Hartsough** at 269-599-1801 or denise.hartsough@gmail.com.

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