

President's Column

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

In these last five weeks before the midterm election, what better time to be involved in activities supported by the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area (LWVKA):

On Thursday, **October 18 at 6:30pm** the League will sponsor an educational presentation on the three ballot proposals that will appear on the November ballot. Our guest speaker will be **Judy Karandjeff**, President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan. This event is being held at the St. Joseph Catholic Church gymnasium. There is ample parking, and we hope that you will come and bring a friend.

If you need an alternative to the October 18th date, there are several other opportunities to hear about the ballot proposals:

Sunday, October 7—A Ballot Proposals advocacy event at People's Church of Kalamazoo, 1758 N. 10th St., Kalamazoo, 2:00-4:00pm. There will be an advocate for each proposal who will speak and answer questions. Because this is an advocacy event, and we have no position on Proposal 1, this event is not being sponsored by the LWVKA.

Wednesday, October 10—Ballot Proposals educational presentation for the Western Student Association, 6-7:30pm at the Bernhard Center at WMU. Denise Hartsough from LWVKA and LWVMI will be the presenter.

Saturday, October 20—Ballot Proposals educational presentation at the Parchment Library, 401 S. Riverview Drive, Parchment. This is a "Front Page" event, 10:30 to Noon. **Denise Hartsough** from LWVKA and LWVMI will be the presenter.

If you are interested in being involved in advocacy for Proposal 2 (Gerrymandering) and Proposal 3 (Promote the Vote), go to these websites to learn more about them and to volunteer for a phone bank team or a canvass team:

VotersnotPoliticians.com (Proposal 2)

PromotetheVoteMI.com (Proposal 3)

The Young Adult Voting Project

In order to help those who will soon turn 18 years old become familiar with the voting process, LWVKA partners with the Kalamazoo City Clerk's office to set up a mock election at the Kalamazoo high schools. This year the mock election has been scheduled for **October 23**. Ballots and tabulators will be part of this election education. Thank you to **Jennifer Hill** and **Chris Kuthe** for coordinating this election year event!

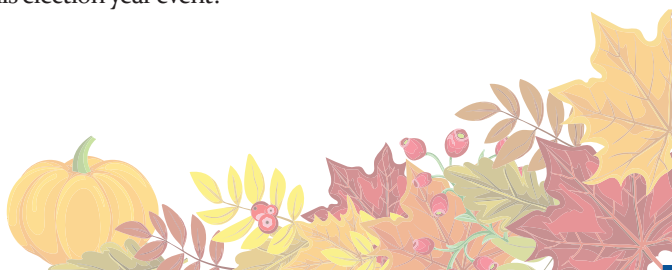
Calendar

OCTOBER 2018

- 1 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
Fountain St. Church, 7pm
- High School Voter Registration**
Kalamazoo, Oct. 1-5
- 2 Presentation About LWVKA**
South Haven Scott Club, 1pm
- Voter Registration**
Kellogsville Schools Family Event, 5-7pm
- 3 Voter Registration**
Heartside Ministries, Grand Rapids, 9am-3pm
- 6 Voter Registration**
HopCat, 300 E Water St., Kalamazoo, 12-4pm
HopCat, 25 Ionia Ave., Grand Rapids, Time TBD
- 8 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 9 Voter Registration Deadline**
- 10 Ballot Proposals Presentation**
WMU Student Association
Bernhard Center, 6-7:30pm
- 11 Vote Michigan: 2018**
Statewide Ballot Proposals Presentation
Byron Center Library @ 6pm
- 15 Voter Education**
Area High Schools, Oct. 15-19
- 18 Ballot Proposal Presentation**
by Judy Karandjeff—St Joseph's Gym, 6:30pm
- 20 Ballot Proposal Community Forum**
"Front Page" Event, Parchment Community
Library, 10:30 am-12pm
- 21 Vote411 Banner Displayed**
Westnedge Walkover, Oct 21-27
- 23 Mock Elections**—Kalamazoo High Schools

NOVEMBER 2018

- 5 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
Fountain St. Church, 7pm
- 6 Election Day**
- 12 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 27 Giving Tuesday**



What's On Your Ballot?

By Denise Hartsough

LWVKA, like local Leagues all over Michigan, is offering educational presentations on the three statewide ballot proposals:

Proposal 1: Regulate marijuana like alcohol; legalize recreational sales and use

Proposal 2: Citizens redistricting commission to end gerrymandering

Proposal 3: Promote the Vote with more secure and accessible voting

State League President **Judy Karandjeff** will explain what these proposals include, the arguments for and against, and who supports and who opposes them:

Thursday, October 18, 6:30-8:00pm, St. Joseph Church, 930 Lake Street

Co-sponsors of this event are: El Concilio, ISAAC, Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (KCAI), Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, Kalamazoo Chapter of NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives), Public Media Network, and the YWCA of Kalamazoo.

This and the other ballot proposal presentations around the state are made possible in part by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Remembering Julia Costello

By Denise Hartsough

LWVKA's donor appreciation event offered an opportunity to share memories of **Julia Costello** (1930-2009), for whom LWVKA's Legacy Circle is named. Legacy Circle members have made LWVKA part of their planned giving or have donated \$5000 or more in one calendar year.

Julia fostered financial stability for the League by helping to create two League endowment funds—for LWVKA and LWVMI. She also prompted creation of the LWVKA Education Fund.

Julia exhibited "persistence and thoroughness," whether she was helping a Caucasian couple adopt African American children at a time when that was rare, or aiming to raise \$100,000 for the League. LWVKA members appreciated her "humor and innovative ideas," one of which involved turning a stamp collection into magnets to sell at LWVUS conventions and other events.

"Spurring others into action with her ideas" was how Julia worked. We hope that learning about Julia's contributions may spur you to contribute to LWVKA's future, as well!

Thanks to **Connie Ferguson, Jessica Reiser, Diane Worden** and **Jackie Wylie** for sharing their memories.

LWVUS Update

By Paula Manley

Delegates to the LWVUS National Convention in June voted to add the **National Popular Vote** and **Equal Rights Amendment** to the national program. Members now have an opportunity to join a National Popular Vote (NPV) Google group or an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Face book group to discuss strategies and resources.

The LWVUS **Climate Task Force** has developed a guidance for leagues and individuals to comment on the proposed roll back of the **Clean Cars Standard** for cars and light trucks.

LWVUS with MI Familia VOTA and Promise Arizona has sued the Arizona Secretary of State for violating the Motor Voter Act. They allege that 500,000 Arizona voters are being disenfranchised as the Secretary of State is failing to ensure voters who move to have their addresses updated according to the Motor Voter requirements.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is partnering with **Rose Community Management**, an affordable housing group to launch a pilot program this fall. This program is intended to reach 6,500 household in over 30 low income housing properties to provide nonpartisan voter registration and education.

Members may check out further information about the news listed above and/or other league resources such as informational webinars under League Management site on the lwv.org website.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of

Jean Gal

from Diane Worden



“LWVKA members appreciated her “humor and innovative ideas,” one of which involved turning a stamp collection into magnets to sell at LWVUS conventions and other events.”

Member Updates

By Kym Mulhern, Membership Chair

Please welcome new members to the LWVKA. These members have joined in the last month and are eager to be involved. If you have a project that you need help with, call or email to invite them.

Eva Huddleston

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Kathryn & Martin Ludington

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Marshall, MI 49068
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Caitlin Oliver (Searfoss)

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caitlin.searfoss@gmail.com

Sherry & Edward Van Overen

6660 5 Mile Rd.
Ada, MI 49301
Sejke3@gmail.com



Directory Updates

Please make the following additions/edits to your LWVKA member directory. If you have a change in home address, phone or email, please contact kym.mulhern@gmail.com or call 269-744-7885.

Patricia Griswold — corrected email: tishgriswold4@gmail.com

Carol Payne-Smith — new address: 1400 N. Drake, #254, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Carolyn Sturgis — corrected email: ckvv519@gmail.com

Joan VanZoeren — deceased

Grand Rapids Unit Updates:

Local League members and friends have been hard at working registering voters at Cherry Health, ArtPrize and other pop-up locations in preparation for the November election. **We registered over 60 voters on Saturday September 22 alone!**

We'll finalize plans for October at our next monthly meeting at 7 pm on Monday October 1 at Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain NE).

We are looking forward to welcoming LWVKA member and LWVMI Treasurer **Denise Hartsough** to Grand Rapids for a presentation on the statewide ballot proposals on Thursday **October 11** at 7 pm at the Byron Center Library (8191 Byron Center Ave SW, Byron Center, MI 49315).



Sam Helmrick registers voters

Donor Appreciation Event

League members were invited to the LWVKA Donor Appreciation Event on September 13th at the Park Club. This event was an opportunity to thank members as we concluded our three-year fundraising campaign. Over \$25,000 has been pledged and raised to assist the League in pursuing its mission of "Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" in the community. Attendees also learned about the **Julia Costello** legacy program as another opportunity to ensure that our work continues in the future.

Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to Voter Registration Volunteers at Bronco Bash, KVCC Semester Kick-off, Phoenix High School, Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, and the 12th Street and Galilee Baptist Church Community Event

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Amidon | MerriKay Oleen-Burkey |
| Jane Barnes | Nancy Owens |
| Martha Cohen | Cheryl Rodbard |
| Lee Fevig | Silvia Roederer |
| Marti Fritz | Marie Rogers |
| Denise Hartsough | Jo Stavig |
| Jennifer Hill | Sara Wick |
| Karen Matson | Deborah Werner |

At the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta on September 15th, Spanish speakers **Larry Provancher** and **Allen Webb** assisted **Martha Cohen** at the LWVKA voter registration booth. LWVKA member **Bob Brown** helped with booth set-up and take down. Thank you!!!





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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Voter Registration + Voter Education + Candidate Forums + Voter Guides =

EMPOWERMENT

Please consider donating to help us continue our work on

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

NOVEMBER 27, 2018

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Kalamazoo Area

Thank you!

LWVKA Board for 2018-2019

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