

THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area

November 2018 • Vol. 65 № 3

President's Column

Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV): Now is the Time!

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

As a GOTV initiative, the board of the LWVKA is asking each League member to reach out to at least FIVE (5) unlikely-to-vote or irregular voters and encourage them to go to the polls on November 6th and let their voices be heard.

These last few days before the election are the most important for encouraging people to vote. For "Each One — Reach Five," consider those family members, friends or acquaintances that may need some encouragement to vote. Contact them with handwritten "please vote" letters or post-cards, phone calls, emails or texts—whatever method of communication is apt to work best for the individual.

Where it may be helpful, offer advice about having a plan to vote (i.e., time of day that works best). If transportation is an issue, remind them that **Uber** will provide **free rides**, the political parties may offer rides and other organizations are also available to give rides. Maybe assistance with childcare would be helpful, or they need information about their polling place or the ballot proposals (see article below). Direct them to the paper voter guides or Vote4u.org so they know what to expect on the ballot and can be prepared before they go to the polls. If they would like companionship, offer to go with them to the polls.

For the primary election this year, voter turnout was nearly 30%, an improvement over past primaries. Midterm elections are not known for high turnouts but with your help, "**Each One—Reach Five**" we can build on the primary momentum. Let's show what LWVKA can do to improve the vote!

Ballot Proposal Forum

By Denise Hartsough

LWVMI President **Judy Karandjeff** provided details about the three ballot proposals to an engaged audience of 35 people at St. Joseph Church on October 18th. The group had many questions about legalizing recreational marijuana (Proposal 1), creating a citizen redistricting commission (Proposal 2) and enhancing voting rights (Proposal 3).

Thanks to our co-sponsors for publicizing the event to their members: **El Concilio**, **ISAAC**, **KCASI** (*Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues*), **Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes**, **NOBLE** (*National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives*), **PMN** (*Public Media Network*) and the **YWCA**. LWVKA also greatly appreciates **El Concilio** for hosting the event.

Thanks to LWVKA members for their help at the event: **Fran Eckenrode**, **Jules Isenberg-Wedel**, **Millie Lambert**, **MerriKay Oleen-Burkey**, **Alison Parsons** and **Debbie Phillips**.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON THE BALLOT PROPOSALS! Please turn over your ballot to vote on the proposals. LWVMI has endorsed **Proposals 2 and 3**. Both will have significant and positive impact on the practice of democracy in our state, if we get ourselves and others out to vote and pass them!

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2018

- 1 GR Ballot Proposal Presentation**
Aquinas College, 7pm
- 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**

DECEMBER 2018

- 3 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
Fountain St. Church, 7pm
- 10 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm

JANUARY 2019

- 14 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm

Sharing Information with Social Media

By Aedin Clements

In the past two years, the number of followers of the LWVKA Facebook page has increased from 300 to over 500. Our information reaches the public because of 'followers', 'likes' and 'shares'. Followers see our posts in their Facebook feed and can easily help spread event notices and voter information by clicking 'share'. One recent event notice reached 1,300 people because sixteen individuals shared the post.

Please help us to reach one thousand followers by this time next year. Please 'follow' our page and 'like' and share our posts. The page url is here: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvka>



Find upcoming events, alerts and other announcements!

Vote411 & Voter Guide: Growing Our Reach

By Terry Hluchyj



We knew this would be a big election in terms of voter interest and length of the ballot. We didn't fully appreciate how much bigger it would be for us when we integrated two new factors into our election coverage efforts. For one, LWVMI developed an agreement with MLive to use Vote411 content in its publications across the state. Second, we significantly expanded promotion of Vote411. We're pleased that both new strategies stretched our reach into the community.

Our 2018 Vote411/Voter Guide team – **Jules Isenberg-Wedel, Debbie Phillips** and **I** – extend our appreciation to all who supported the production, design and promotion of Vote411 and the print Voter Guide:

- Forty-one others who delivered 22,000 Guides to more than 200 locations across Kalamazoo County: **Alison Parsons, AmySue Manley, Betty Lee Ongley, Bob Brown, Cheryl Lyon-Jenness, Chris Kuthe, Connie and Steve Ferguson, Denise Hartsough, Diane Worden, Fran Eckenrode, Gail Walter, Holly Wingard, Jackie Wylie, Jane Waldeck, Janet and Keith Jones, Janet Scarrow, Jennie Hill, Jo Stavig, Karen and Stu Eddy, Karl Westra, KC Miller, Kym Mulhern, Lee Fevig, Leilani Way, Mabel and Jochanan Stenesh, Martha Cohen, Marti Fritz, Meredith Place, MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, Paula Presler, Rick Freiman, Rochelle Habeck, Ruth Caputo, Sara Wick, Sarah Somers, Sue Nelmes, Tanya Potter, and Yolanda Mitts.**

- **Aedin Clements** who offered her garage for easy access of volunteers to pick up and deliver the Guides.

- **Tamara Carpenter** who did an outstanding job of designing and laying out the print Guide.

- Our promotion team: **MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, Fran Eckenrode, Lee Fevig** and **Barbara Dircks**. They kicked off a major campaign through email blasts to local organizations, new League promotional materials and plans for a long-term marketing strategy through social engagement. If you are interested in joining this effort by making phone calls and outreach to local organizations and businesses, contact MerriKay.

Be sure to LIKE the LWVKA.org Facebook page and help us to spread the word!

Thanks to all for empowering voters and defending democracy!

LWVUS Update

By Paula Manley

On National Voter Registration Day September 27th, LWVKA was one of over 400 Leagues in over 40 states participating in registering voters and giving out voter information.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is partnering with several nationwide organizations to reach potential voters:

- ProPublica, a national nonpartisan media outlet, will be incorporating Vote411 candidate information, as well as other voting information, into personalized messages in their Users Guide to Democracy. These messages will be available to their hundreds of thousands of readers nationwide.

- Lyft offices in selected communities are interested in distributing League voter education and get-out-the vote materials.

- Seattle/King County LWV and Starbucks have launched a Ballots and Baristas program. Starbucks managers in 40 locations nationwide are encouraged to work with local leagues to host special events promoting voter empowerment and community conversations.

HR 5308, introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee, proposes a series of quarters featuring a 19th Amendment icon on one side and a noteworthy woman from each state and territory. If you wish to contact your representative in support of this bill, there is a template on the LWV League Management Site.

#GivingTuesday

By Paula Manley

#GivingTuesday 2018 is Tuesday, November 27. Retail stores come together to offer deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday brings the nonprofit community together on a universal platform to raise awareness about the importance of supporting our valuable missions and work.

In this time of heightened partisanship, gridlock and increased frustration among the public, there has never been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual and civil voice that the LWVKA brings to our community.

Consider giving your support to the LWVKA on Tuesday November 27th. You may donate on the lwvka.org website or send a check to LWVKA Treasurer P.O. Box 2106 Kalamazoo, MI 49003.

THANK YOU!

#GIVING
TUESDAY™

National Voter Registration Day Volunteers: Job Well Done

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

For the first time, LWVKA hosted voter registration events at three locations on National Voter Registration Day this year:

Volunteers at Ministry with Community were coordinated by **Connie Micklin** and included **Marie Rogers, Sylvia Roederer, Marti Fritz** and **Ineke Way**. Again this year the volunteers were successful in helping many of the underserved in our community. Thank you!

The YMCA chose 2018 as a year to re-commit itself to engaging its members in the civic life of their communities by helping register voters. They asked the LWVKA for assistance and thanks to **Martha Cohen** who coordinated the League volunteers for this 2-day event many people were added to the voter registration rolls. League volunteers included **Julie Matheison, Maggie Bresz, Marie Rogers, Betty Cohen, Connie Ferguson, Polly Presler, Tiffany Malicki, MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, Paula Chomis, Ineke Way, Cheryl Rodbard, Martha Cohen, Jennifer Gorman, Sara Wick, Sarah Somers, Jo Stavig,** and **Debbie Phillips**. Your help was greatly appreciated by the YMCA who also provided their employees as

assistants to this effort. Thank you!

The LWVKA was also invited to do voter registration at a “Meet and Greet” event in Galesburg for local candidates running for office in November. There was a large audience at this event and Martha Cohen hosted the voter registration / education table. Thank you, Martha!

These were not the only voter registration events in the final days before voter registration closed on October 9th: Thanks goes out to Paula Aldridge and Louise Robeck who hosted a voter registration/education table at Goodwill Industries. Fall voter registration events were also held at each of the Kalamazoo high schools where Jennie Hill, Martha Cohen, and Connie Micklin registered new voters. On October 6th, the LWVKA was invited to host a voter registration event at the HopCat beer bar in Kalamazoo. Fran Eckenrode coordinated this event, and other League volunteers included Debbie Phillips, Denise Hartsough and Kym Mulhern. This HopCat event makes it possible for the LWVKA to participate in a fundraiser during the month of November in conjunction with HopCat. See details below.



Directory Updates

By Kym Mulhern, Membership Chair

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.

Sherry Higgins – updated address: 7491 Montego Bay St., Portage, MI 49002

Eva Huddleston – updated email address: huddlestoneya2018@gmail.com

Cynthia Keesler & Robert Weir – updated address: 715 Regency Square, Apt. 102, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Caitlin Oliver – phone number: 616-684-6949

Grand Rapids Unit Updates:

By Elianna Bootzin

Local League members and friends registered over 400 voters at ArtPrize this year!

We’ll finalize plans for November at our next monthly meeting at 7 pm on **Monday November 5** at Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain NE).

We are looking forward to welcoming LWVKA member and LWVMI Board Member **Paula Manley** to Grand Rapids for a presentation on the statewide ballot proposals on Thursday November 1 at 7 pm at the Wege Ballroom at Aquinas College.



HopCat FeelGood Tap=Donations to LWVKA!

For the entire **month of November**, League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area will be the recipient of HopCat Kalamazoo's FeelGood Tap. This means that for all of November, **\$1 per pint sold of Slum Lord*** by Shorts Brewing will be **donated to LWVKA!**

*Slum Lord is a double new england style IPA coming in at 7.3%.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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*The Bulletin is published monthly by the League of Women Voters
Kalamazoo Area*