

THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area

December 2018/January 2019 • Vol. 65 No 4

President's Column

January Program Planning: What is it?

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

Leagues across the country hold program planning meetings each January. Our program is our agenda for the study of selected governmental issues leading to our positions on these issues as well as our agenda for action to implement the positions after agreement among members is reached. League program is developed at the local, state and national level.

The LWVKA and LWVMI programs to be reviewed in January 2019 include Representative Government, Social Policy and Natural Resources (See the specific positions at the respective websites: www.lwvka.org and www.lwvmi.org).

At our January membership program planning meeting we will review our local and state programs (local and national programs are reviewed in even numbered years) under the leadership of local League volunteers. These volunteers will make proposals for retaining, amending or adding to existing League programs. All members are then invited to discuss the proposals. The resulting suggestions for local program will be considered by the local board that recommends a proposed program. This program is adopted or amended by members at the Annual Meeting in the spring.

Suggestions made for state program will be sent to the state board that formulates a proposed program from suggestions of all local Leagues. Program choices will be made for two years by the delegates at the biennial State Convention in the spring of 2019.

When we consider amending or adding to program we consider the following:

- 1) Is the issue of current importance or is it one community interest could or should be developed?
- 2) Is effective citizen action foreseeable?
- 3) Is the issue important enough to inspire League interest and commitment?
- 4) Is this issue most appropriate for this level of League study and action?

Any amendment or addition to program accepted for consideration by the local or state board would go through the consensus process (See Handbook at lwvka.org). It would be assigned to a study committee that reviews the facts of the issue and encourages the expression of all points of view relative to the issue. A membership meeting would be called to discuss the proposed amendment / addition and a consensus would be required for adoption.

We hope to see you at the Program Planning meeting on January 26th. Best wishes for the holidays!!



Calendar

DECEMBER 2018

- 10 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 16 Grand Rapids Unit Holiday Social**
Home of Teri Chaplin, 1pm

JANUARY 2019

- 7 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St NE 7pm
- 14 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 26 Annual Program Planning Meeting**
Parchment Community Library, 10:30 to 12:30

FEBRUARY 2019

- 4 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St NE 7pm
- 9 Founders Day Meeting and Brunch**
Park Club, Kalamazoo, 10am-12pm
- 11 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm

Save the Dates!

By Georgiann McWilliams

01 /26/2019

The annual program planning meeting will be held **January 26**, from 10:30- 12:30 at the Parchment Community Library. This year we will be working on local and state issues (see *President's Column* on left).

No previous experience necessary. If you are interested in leading or co-leading a group, contact Georgiann McWilliams 269 685 1167. Come and join in the discussion.

02/09/2019

Our Founders Day meeting and brunch will be held at the Park Club in downtown Kalamazoo from 10 to 12. Members who joined in the last year and interested guests, no charge. Learn about activities and opportunities to join. Great information available.

Everyone is welcome, and please bring guests!

Democracy Wins in Michigan!

By Denise Hartsough

Voters on November 6th overwhelmingly approved Proposals 2 and 3, both supported by the League of Women Voters of Michigan and by the tireless efforts of many League members and allies.

Proposal 2 will create an independent citizens commission to conduct redistricting after the 2020 Census. This impartial commission will create district maps for state and congressional offices that cannot favor one party or candidate. The commission will operate in a transparent manner and with extensive public input. For more information, visit votersnotpoliticians.com.

LWVMI in coalition with the ACLU, NAACP and others under the banner "Promote the Vote" supported Proposal 3 to ensure that every eligible person can vote and every vote will count. This amendment to the Michigan Constitution safeguards our elections and removes barriers to voting with these provisions:

- Protect the right to vote a secret ballot
- Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count
- Provide voters with the option to vote straight party
- Automatically register citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines
- Allow a citizen to register to vote anytime with proof of residency
- Provide all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason
- Ensure the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results

For more information, visit promotethevotemi.com

NEWS FLASH!

Online voter registration comes to Michigan! Laws enacted by the legislature and signed by Gov. Snyder at the end of November will make Michigan the 40th state to allow online voter registration. Applicants with a Michigan driver's license or state ID and who have not filed a change of address in the past 10 days will be able to register online. They will have to vote in person the first time they vote for verification of their signatures and information.

LWVUS Update

By Paula Manley

Congratulations to LWVKA member **Connie Ferguson** and GR Unit member **Elianna Bootzin** on their recent appointments as *Ruth S. Shur Fellows*. The LWVUS Shur Fellow team consists of League volunteers across the country who work with states on engaging members. Currently, the program is focused on the diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI) vision for the League.

Colorado, Michigan, Missouri and Long Beach, California Leagues were successful in helping to pass redistricting initiatives on the 2018 ballot.

5.5 million voters sought election information on VOTE411.org which is **an increase of one million from the 2016 presidential election**. Three hundred state and local leagues participated in VOTE411.org. Leagues hosted over 1000 debates and forums around the country.

LWVUS is offering members a LWV/Wellstone Webinar on Coalition Building. This webinar will explore ways to build relationships with partners, community and individuals at all levels. Register for the **December 12** webinar at noon or **December 19** at noon.

LWVUS UN observers are preparing for the 63rd meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) **March 3-11, 2019**. The CSW is a global intergovernmental body devoted to promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives worldwide and shaping global standards on gender equality and empowerment of women. League members are invited to be delegates and must be able to attend a minimum of 4-5 days. Delegates are responsible for transportation, accommodations and meals. Potential delegates should send a statement of interest by December 31st to dorsey.michelle@hotmail.com.

“VOTE411.org which is an increase of one million from the 2016 presidential election.”

Thank You!

We would like to thank **Elizabeth Amidon** for assisting with Voter Registration in October at Loy Norrix. We missed including her in last month's Bulletin.



“This amendment to the Michigan Constitution safeguards our elections and removes barriers to voting.”

**Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.**

New Members

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.

Sarah Carmany
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Deborah Sparbel
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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 me at kym.mulhern@gmail.com or call 269-744-7885.

Moira Macleod – new address:
3300 Woodstone Dr. E, Apt. 217,
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Jack & Carol Urban – new address:
3721 Greenleaf Circle Apt 305
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Grand Rapids Unit Updates:

By Elianna Bootzin

Please note there will be NO monthly meeting in December. Join us instead for a low key holiday social at League Member **Teri Chaplin's** home at 1 pm on Sunday **December 16**. Request her address when you RSVP to theresa.chaplin@yahoo.com. Please plan to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Monthly meetings will resume at 7 pm on Monday **January 7** at Fountain Street Church.



GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN

Give a Gift

By Paula Manley

Need a gift idea this holiday season? Consider the gift of a LWVKA membership. Contact **Kym Mulhern**, membership chair, at kym.mulhern@gmail.com or send a check with the gift recipient's information to LWVKA Treasurer P.O Box 2106 Kalamazoo, MI 49003.



Year End Donations

As you make your year end charitable donations, remember LWVKA. With your gift to LWVKA, you are helping to support our efforts to Make Democracy Work in our community. You may choose to donate to the General Fund, tax deductible Education Fund or tax-deductible Endowment Fund either online at lwvka.org or by sending a check to LWVKA Treasurer P.O. Box 2106 Kalamazoo, MI 49003.

A Tribute to

Joan Van Zoeren

1931– 2018

50-year Member
&

Past President of LWVKA



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Kalamazoo Area

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