

President's Column

March is National Women's History Month

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

The theme chosen by the National Women's History Alliance for 2019's National Women's History Month is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence." The Alliance says, "This year we honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence and injustice and pioneered the use of non-violence to change society." Those being honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 30th are:

Living Honorees

Kathy Kelly, peace activist and pacifist, and co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Graciela Sanchez, community organizer and co-founder and Director of the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

Zainab Salbi, humanitarian, media host, and founder and former CEO of Women for Women International

Deborah Tucker, national leader on ending sexual assault and domestic violence, and President of the Board of Directors of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

Dr. E. Faye Williams, peace and human rights activist, and President & CEO of the National Congress of Black Women

Sister Alice Zachmann, SSND, peace and justice activist, and founder and former Director of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission USA.

Deceased Honorees:

Elise Boulding, major contributor to the creation of peace and conflict studies

Sarah Brady, gun control advocate

Dorothy Cotton, civil rights activist

Peace Pilgrim, spiritual leader and peace activist

Mary Burnett Talbert, orator, suffragist, and anti-lynching activist

Nanyehi (Nancy Ward), Cherokee leader and advocate for peaceful coexistence

What can we do to honor Women's History Month in our own homes? We might write a letter to a woman who has inspired us, watch speeches from this year's Women's March, learn more about an historical woman, donate to a women's organization or teach children about the place of women in history.



Calendar

MARCH 2019

- 2** LWVKA Natural Resources Meeting
2pm @ home of Ruth Caputo
- 4** Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St NE 7pm
- 5** LWVKA Promotion Committee Meeting
7pm @ Biggby on Stadium Drive
- 11** LWVKA Board Meeting
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 25** LWVKA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Committee Meeting, 6:30pm site TBD.
- 26** LWVKA Book Discussion
(*Founding Mothers*, by Cokie Roberts)
7 p.m @ Kazoo Books, 2413 Parkview

APRIL 2019

- 1** Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St NE 7pm
- 8** LWVKA Board Meeting
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 29** Preferred LWVKA Annual Meeting

MAY 2019

- 6** Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St NE 7pm
- 13** LWVKA Board Meeting
Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm
- 17-19** LWVMI Convention 100th Anniversary
SE Michigan



Find upcoming events, alerts and other announcements!

LWVUS UPDATE

By Paula Manley



The LWVUS legislative priorities for 2019 recently approved by the LWVUS Board are:

- Campaign for Making Democracy Work (MDW) with special emphasis on protecting voting rights
- Watchdog: Respond strategically on issues with LWV positions when needed, but focus on Campaign for Making Democracy Work.

The LWVUS Board recently created a taskforce to look at the issue of National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. This taskforce will evaluate state league support, assess if enough momentum to warrant national engagement, make recommendations on the likelihood of gaining additional votes to pass the Interstate Compact and suggest plans for LWVUS engagement. This work will be completed by August 15, 2019 for the Board to take action at their fall meeting.

Check out the LWVUS Service for Leagues Guide on the League management site at lww.org. This guide explains resources and services available to state and local leagues.

LWVMI Updates

By Denise Hartsough



- State Convention, May 17-19 in Livonia, features LWVUS President **Chris Carson**; **Elaine Weiss**, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*; and LWVMI historian, **Diane Rockall**, and longtime Detroit member, **Kathleen Strauss**.
- LWVMI's redistricting case, LWVMI v Benson, was heard February 5-7 in federal district court in Detroit. We await a decision from the 3-judge panel. LWVMI members who made depositions in the case include **Jessica Reiser** and **Denise Hartsough**.
- LWVMI adopted the LWVUS statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and will create a DEI action plan for the State League.
- League members interested in following state legislation on a specific issue for the League should contact LWVMI Advocacy VP **Joan Hunault** (jbhunault@gmail.com) prior to a March 11 advocacy training call.

LWVMI Convention May 17-19

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

The League's 2019 Convention in Livonia will celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and the 100th anniversary of suffrage for Michigan women. The Convention promises to be informative, productive and fun. State Convention provides us with an opportunity to conduct important business of the state League as well as an opportunity to participate in workshops, learn more about the League and form and renew friendships with League members across the state.

Delegates will:

- Adopt the 2019 - 2021 state program, including any state studies
- Adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years, including the per-member-payment amount
- Elect LWVMI Officers and members of the Board of Directors
- Consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws, if proposed

A detailed schedule of events, a registration packet and other Convention documents will be sent to all Leagues via future e-mailings. See more at LWVMI.org

The LWVKA will be sending 10 voting delegates.

All members are eligible to attend and we'd love to have you! Contact MerriKay Oleen-Burkey if you are interested in attending.



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Endowment Fund Investment

By Jessica Reiser

Last October the LWVKA Education Fund Board of Directors contacted Vanguard regarding our Endowment Fund Investment in the Life Strategies Moderate Growth fund. It came to our attention that one of the four funds in LSMG, has investment in gun manufacturing. We initially chose our investment because it required little monitoring. LSMG is a fund of funds. However, because of our position on gun control we wanted to change our investment.

We asked Vanguard to consider offering similar options that invested in socially responsible funds that do not support gun manufacturing. Their response was helpful but did not solve our problem completely. They recommended individual socially responsible funds for investment.

The Education Fund Board of Directors voted to move our endowment money to invest in four funds that Vanguard recommended. This means we will need to monitor the investment ourselves. We plan to review our investment quarterly and mirror the asset allocation in the Life Strategies Moderate Growth Fund.

The Education Fund Board wants to consider both, social responsibilities with our investment and no negatively impact our financial return. We appreciate your continued support.

Group to Focus on Natural Resource Issues

By Ruth Caputo

A group is convening at the home of Ruth Caputo 2pm Saturday, March 2 to consider how LWVKA will respond to the growing number of natural resource issues facing the area, state, country, and world. What do we want to know more about? How will we educate ourselves and others? What issues can we have impact on? Is there a particular form of advocacy that will work well for us? What questions do you have you would like the group to consider?

If you're interested in joining us, please contact Ruth at rdecann47@gmail.com or 323-1538.

If you can't attend March 2, you can still participate. If you haven't already, ask Ruth to add you to her LWVKA Natural Resource email list.

DEI Committee Organizational Meeting

By Millie Lambert

The DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) Committee had its organizational first meeting on Feb. 20 at Panera Bread. Fourteen of the twenty-seven members who expressed interest in this exciting new effort were in attendance.

The group was provided with background information on several items: including the purpose for this committee as noted in the League Bulletin, the League's Member Dues Assistance Policy, the Student Dues Policy, the Shur Fellow Guidances from September and October 2018 dealing with DEI, the various Program Areas of the LWV as noted in the League Handbook, and the DEI Committee's responsibility to work through the Board and with the other League committees.

In addition, members provided information and suggestions regarding moving forward. Information will be provided via email regarding what was shared, where possible.

For the next meeting, Committee members are asked to review the positions of the local league regarding the various program areas as noted in the local league Handbook which is available on line. In addition, everyone is asked to make a list of organizations which might be potential partners or collaborators with the local league.

Our next meeting will be Monday, **March 25** at 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. Place: To Be Determined. At that meeting we will review the above information from the participants. We also hope to have an update from Connie Ferguson regarding the League National DEI Training which she attended in February.

All participants and resource members will receive an email reminder as soon as an appropriate place is located. Please RSVP to **Millie Lambert** (millielambert3922@gmail.com or 269-345-1447) after receiving the reminder. Note that Committee members who RSVP will receive, at the next meeting, copies of all materials provided at this meeting.

Thank you for a great, productive meeting,

Millie Lambert, Chairperson





“CyberMIND has flawlessly ensured LWVKA.org is always available to the community.”

Meet Our Business Partner: CyberMIND

By Debbie Phillips

LWVKA's relationships with local vendors and service providers are vital to our success in the community. One of the key companies behind the scenes is CyberMIND, our website services provider. Providing hosting, security, server management, domain name registration and email for LWVKA, CyberMIND has flawlessly ensured LWVKA.org is always available to the community.

Executive Administrative Assistant **Chrissy Roethlisberger** personally oversees the LWVKA account with supportive appreciation of the League's work with Kalamazoo Area voters. Chrissy specializes in Information Technology and Services and will be working directly with the LWVKA promotion team to bring our website services toward the future.

We extend our appreciation to Chrissy and the CyberMIND team for their fine work, reasonable pricing and dedication to excellence over the years. CyberMIND also provides home and office tech-

nology, including internet services, hosting, domain name registration, web applications, and enterprise computing management with a focus on cost-reduction and efficiency.

Grand Rapids Unit Update

By Elianna Bootzin

By the time this newsletter arrives in your inbox, members **Courtney Winell** and **Teri Chaplin** will have completed a visit with **Representative Amash's** staff in accordance with the call to action on HR1, the **For the People Act** which was introduced in the US House of Representatives to provide comprehensive democracy reforms.

Similarly, between now and May, we'll be embarking on biennial legislative interviews with incoming members of the State House and Senate. If you would like to participate in and/or help schedule these meetings, which will follow a questionnaire provided by LWVMI, please contact theresa.chaplin@yahoo.com

As always, you are welcome to join us at our next monthly meeting, on Monday **March 4th** at 7:00 pm at Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St NE).

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.

Holly Jensen
1453 Spruce Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Linda Pell
21887 12½ Mile Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49014
Ljpell55@yahoo.com

Linda Shafer
7617 Primrose Ln.
Portage, MI 49024
LLShaf@yahoo.com
269-598-7275

Linda Timm
2319 Mansfield Ave.
Portage, MI 49024
269-329-6998 (home)
269-744-0605

DIRECTORY UPDATES

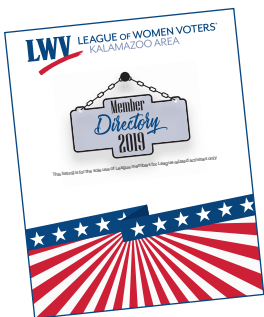
Please make the following additions/edits to your LWVKA member directory.

Mary & Donald Brown: change phone number 269-569-5962

Janet & Keith Jones: change phone number 269-903-5710

Carol Payne-Smith: change address and phone number
254 Friendship Village
N. Drake Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-762-3851 (home)
269-961-3730 (cell)

Judith Sivak: change address and phone number
105 Merriweather Ln.
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
269-303-4234



WELCOME
New Members!

2019 Nominating Committee Slate

By Kay Anderson

The following LWVKA members have accepted nominations for Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee. Members will vote on the slate at the 2019 Annual Meeting.



- Co-President (1yr) **Merrikay Oleen-Burkey**
- Co-President (1yr) **Fran Eckenrode**
- V.P. Organization (2yr) (in progress)
- V.P. Program (1yr) (in progress)
- Secretary (2yr) **Aedin Clements**
- Board Member (2yr) **Sabrina Pritchett-Evans**
- Alison Parsons**
- Debbie Phillips**
- Board Member (1yr) **Jules Isenberg-Wedel**
- Nominating (1yr) **Kay Anderson**
- Jackie Wylie**
- Chris Kuthe**

Current Nominating Committee consists of **Kay Anderson** (269-649-2461 or kander314@aol.com), off-board members **Chris Kuthe, Jackie Wylie** and board members **Denise Hartsough** and **Alison Parsons**.

LWVKA BUDGET PROPOSAL

GENERAL FUND

PROPOSED BUDGET YEAR JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020

REVENUES

Individual, Business Contributions	3,000.00
Membership Dues	11,000.00
Meetings Income	4,200.00
Wares Sales	300.00
Advertising in Bulletin	150.00
Interest Income	250.00

TOTAL REVENUES \$18,900.00

EXPENDITURES

Website	125.00
Office Supplies	60.00
Postage, PO Box	280.00
Printing and copying	550.00
Telephone	430.00
Bulletin Expenses	1,200.00
Donations	50.00
National PMP	6,300.00
Michigan PMP	4,700.00
PayPal fees	30.00
Membership and dues	25.00
Membership Recruitment	450.00
Insurance (Directors & Officers)	100.00
Meeting costs	4,200.00
Grand Rapids Unit	100.00
National/Sate Convention	2,500.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$21,100.00

TOTAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$(2,200.00)

BUDGETED DRAW FROM GENERAL FUND RESERVES \$2,200.00



**LWVKA Education
 Fund Board of
 Directors**

Jessica Reiser, Chairperson
 jcreiser@comcast.net

Paula Aldridge, Treasurer
 paula.mae.aldridge@gmail.com

Rebekah Fennell, Secretary
 rsfennell@sbcglobal.net

Susan Atkinson, Director
 sls.atkinson@gmail.com

Yolanda Mitts, Director
 ygmitts@gmail.com

Dennis Elmer, Director
 dgelmer@comcast.net

Eileen Schoenfeld, Director
 Benziedoc1@gmail.com

Professional Painting Services
BATES ENTERPRISE, INC.
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL
 Locally-Owned
 Experienced
 Reputable
 Exterior/Interior
 Power Washing
 Low Odor Interiors

(269) 553-6387
ProfessionalPainting-Michigan.com

THIRSTYCAT FOUNTAINS
**Handmade - Unique
 Cat Water Fountains
 Decorative Fountains**

**Food Safe - Ceramic
 Easy to Clean**
www.thirstycatfountains.com

LWVKA Board for 2018-2019

Officers:

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
President
 moburkey30@gmail.com

Fran Eckenrode
VP Organization
 feckenr@gmail.com

Georgiann McWilliams
VP Program
 georgiann@charter.net

Paula Aldridge
Treasurer
 paula.mae.aldridge@gmail.com

Aedin Clements
Secretary
 aedinclements@gmail.com

Denise Hartsough
Past President
 denise.hartsough@gmail.com

Kym Mulhern
Membership Chair
 kym.mulhern@gmail.com

Board Members:

Courtney Winell
 winell22@hotmail.com

Sabrina Pritchett-Evans
 sabrina.pritchett-evans.ghuk @
 statefarm.com

Debbie Phillips
 dphillips@siriusco.com

Millie Lambert
 millielambert3922@gmail.com

Alison Parsons
 alisonparsonsmi@gmail.com

Connie Micklin
 micklinc64@gmail.com

KC Miller
 aakcmiller@yahoo.com

Karen Thomas
 Karen.Thomas@wmich.edu

Paula Manley
 pjmanley@hotmail.com

Terry Hluchyj
 hluchyberg@aol.com

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