

# THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area

April 2016 • Vol. 61 No 7

## President's Column

by Denise Hartsough

Just over a year ago, LWVKA put in place a 3-year strategic plan for our League's work in the community. The strategic plan focuses on efforts beyond the regular, operational tasks that our League accomplishes. We routinely govern our group, record and communicate our activities, fundraise, manage our finances, recruit members, manage the membership database, maintain archives, cultivate leadership and socialize!

The strategic plan serves as a guide and framework for strategic deployment of our energy as LWVKA members and friends in our work for and with the community. Our strategic efforts fall into four areas: *Voter Outreach & Education*, *Issue Study & Advocacy*, *Election Administration*, and *Candidate Diversity*.

After a year, how are we doing? What are the openings for those of you interested in strategically applying your enthusiasm for *Making Democracy Work*?

**Voter Outreach & Education.** LWVKA aims to increase voter registration and improve turnout of informed voters. We actively register voters and conduct candidate forums. We regularly educate high school students and young adults about voting. More volunteers for those activities are always welcome. Contacts are MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, Jennie Hill, and Chris Kuthe. The strategic goal waiting for focused attention is general promotion of voting.

**Issue Study & Advocacy.** LWVKA intends to advocate on key issues. In the area of Natural Resources, we hold forums and have partnered with other Great Lakes Leagues in advocacy. Contact is Ruth Caputo. In the areas of Social Policy and Government, we have backed county millage requests and held one forum. Contacts are Kay Perry and Ann Perry. I see room for even more issue advocacy. To see if LWVKA has a position on a local issue about which you are passionate, please check [http://lwvka.org/LWV\\_Local\\_Positions\\_-\\_July\\_2014.pdf](http://lwvka.org/LWV_Local_Positions_-_July_2014.pdf), and then reach out to the appropriate contact.

**Election Administration.** LWVKA wishes to support full participation in elections by all eligible citizens and to oppose efforts to create new barriers to voting. Huge volunteer opportunity exists here! Activities include: interviewing clerks to learn about election processes, and identifying issues in those processes that may warrant advocacy.

**Candidate Diversity.** LWVKA aims to increase the number and diversity of people who run for office. Several members have begun to reach out to other groups with similar aims. If you would like to join them, contact Karen Thomas, Jackie Wylie or Janet Jones.

*Consider how you can help breathe life into a part of our strategic plan!*

“ The strategic plan serves as a guide and framework for strategic deployment of our energy as LWVKA members and friends in our work for and with the community. ”

## Calendar

### APRIL 2016

- 5 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.  
5:30 pm Food available for purchase  
6:00 pm Meeting  
269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com
- 12 Equal Pay Day**  
Gathering at State Capitol Steps  
12:30pm-1:30pm — **Wear Red!**
- 15 LWVKA Meet & Greet**  
“One Well Brewing”  
4213 Portage Rd., Kalamazoo  
5:30-6:30pm
- 30 LWVMI Workshops**  
“Defending Democracy — A Call to Action”  
St. Pauls' Church, Lansing  
10am-2pm

### MAY 2016

- 4 LWVKA Annual Meeting**  
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.  
5:30 pm Reception  
6:00 pm Dine  
*with special guest Judy Karandjeff, President of League of Women Voters Michigan*

### JUNE 2016

- 7 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.  
5:30 pm Food available for purchase  
6:00 pm Meeting  
269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com
- 11 Voter Registration**  
PRIDE Festival
- 7 LWVUS National Convention**  
Washington, D.C.

*Note: Board meets on 1st Tuesday. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.*

## LWVKA Fund-raising Drive 2016

By Ken Manley, LWVKA Fundraising Chair

At our annual meeting on May 4, 2016, we will officially begin our fund drive. Our board of directors, and major donors, have already done their part, and made their donations. On May 4, we will invite our membership and the community to join with us. Please be considering what you can contribute to support of our operating budget and Education Fund.

In this very interesting Presidential election year, we can perhaps more clearly see the need for the nonpartisan and unbiased voter education that we provide. Those providing partisan information have untold millions of dollars at their disposal. The LWVKA has only us. We stand virtually alone in providing the service that we do to voters.

“ You see, we need you now, as perhaps never before. ”

I ask you to search your hearts, and decide what you can provide in support of the LWVKA, so that we can get our services out to the voters. The future of the Republic truly hangs in the balance. Democracy is not a spectator sport. The LWVKA, and the country, are counting on you. Come to the meeting May 4, and be ready to make your pledge of support. You see, we need you now, as perhaps never before.

## Equal Pay Day

By Paula Manley

Celebrate Equal Pay Day on the State Capitol steps Tuesday, April 12, 2016 from 12:30m to 1:30 pm. Equal Pay Day 2016 marks the 53rd year since the Equal Pay Act of 1963, a federal law amending the Fair Labor Standards Act, became law. This day symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. Red is worn on this day as a symbol of how far women and minorities are “in the red” with their pay.

“ The female-to-male earnings ratio has not shown a statistically significant annual increase since 2007. ”

According to the Census statistics released September 16, 2015, women’s earnings were 78.6% of men’s in 2014, compared to 78.3% in 2013. These statistics are based on the median earnings of all full-time, year-round workers. In 2014 men’s earnings were \$50,383 and women earned \$39,621. The female-to-male earnings ratio has not shown a statistically significant annual increase since 2007.

The LWVMI is one of over 20 co-sponsors of this event. If you plan to attend, or would like further information, please email [president@lwvmi.org](mailto:president@lwvmi.org).

## School Safety: Addition to our Position

By Janet Jones

At the 2015 LWVKA Annual Meeting, we appointed a committee to consider adding a statement about Safety to our Education Position.

A consensus meeting was held on February 25, 2016 to finalize the language which will be voted on at the LWVKA Annual Meeting in May.

**Here is the section we are hoping to add to the LWVKA Education Position:**

*D. Safety: The League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area supports adoption of policies and procedures that ensure the safety of children and adults in the school environments. This includes:*

1. Establish disciplinary policies that use restorative practices to determine consequences for aggressive verbal or physical behavior of adults or students.
2. Ensure that all adults who provide services within school environments have background check histories free from violence.
3. Develop and use clear and easily accessed processes for handling grievances of students and adults.
4. Provide public reporting of policies and aggregated outcomes of disputes.

Thanks to the following League members who helped craft this position: **Connie Ferguson, Denise Hartsough, Jennie Hill, Paula Manley, Georgiann McWilliams, and Jack Urban**

## 2016 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 2016 Annual Meeting on May 4, 2016.

<b>President (1yr)</b>	<b>Denise Hartsough</b>
<b>V.P. of Program (2yr)</b>	<b>Fran Eckenrode</b>
<b>Treasurer (2yr)</b>	<b>Paula Aldridge</b>
<b>Board Member (2yr)</b>	<b>KC Miller</b>
	<b>Georgiann McWilliams</b>
	<b>Merrikay Oleen-Burkey</b>
	<b>Karen Thomas</b>
<b>Nominating Committee (1yr)</b>	
	<b>Kay Anderson</b>
	<b>Yolanda Mitts</b>
	<b>Paula Presler</b>

The current Nominating Committee consists of chair Kay Anderson, off-board members Yolanda Mitts and Paula Presler, and Board members KC Miller and Denise Hartsough.

# Green Water Presentation

by Fran Eckenrode

On Tuesday evening, March 22, Jeanette Neagu brought her considerable energy to the Kalamazoo Public Library, delivering the program “Why is the Water Green?” Jeanette is Chair of the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, and Past President of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan League. She is currently a Board member of the League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region as well as the League of Women Voters of Indiana. Recently she has focused on environmental threats to the Great Lakes. One of her passions is sharing concern for water, one of our most precious resources.

The program highlighted a toxic blue-green algae bloom of Microcystis — which can produce Microcystin, a liver toxin and skin irritant — that settled over the water intake for Toledo, Ohio. For three days a community of 500,000 was not able use its tap water. These types of algae blooms have not only impacted Lake Erie but also Michigan’s Grand Traverse Bay and Wisconsin’s Green Bay. Further, an overgrowth of the Cladophora Algae has been impacting Indiana and Wisconsin’s Beaches. The algae blooms have been attributed to excessive nutrient overloads of phosphates and nitrates to the

waterways primarily from agricultural run-off. While the problem is well known, solutions have been slow to be implemented.

Jeanette focused on the occurrence of this problem in Michigan and encouraged individuals and Leagues to take action to help reduce the nutrient overloads to Lake Michigan and its tributaries. She feels that the public is especially receptive to the cause for clean water because of the crisis with Flint’s water supply. The presentation concluded with a brainstorming of what individuals and Leagues can do to help reduce the nutrient overloads to Lake Michigan and its tributaries. Several suggested actions focus on legislation of known environmental solutions. These include use of protective buffers between farm fields and waterways; design of drainage ditches to maximize nutrient absorption and minimize nutrient wash to creeks and rivers; use of appropriate methods and timing of nutrient application; and recognizing and prohibiting the current practice of directing field drainage via drain tiles directly to waterways. It was also suggested that the League become more involved with clean water issues at the local level.

“ The program highlighted a toxic blue-green algae bloom of Microcystis — which can produce Microcystin, a liver toxin and skin irritant — that settled over the water intake for Toledo, Ohio. ”



Jeanette Neagu delivering the program “Why is the Water Green?” to LWVKA members.



Algae Bloom in Lake Eire 2015



“ These types of algae blooms have not only impacted Lake Erie but also Michigan’s Grand Traverse Bay and Wisconsin’s Green Bay. ”



# Board Recommends 2016-17 General Fund Budget

The majority of board members voted in favor of recommending the 2016-17 General Fund Budget to the LWVKA membership, which will consider the proposed budget at the annual meeting and is published below for your review.

## LWVKA GENERAL FUND Proposed 2016/17 Budget (with YTD Budget vs. Actual) July 2015 – June 2016

	Jul '15 - Jun 16	Budget	Over Budget	% of Budget	2016/17 Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME</b>					
43400 · Direct Public Support					
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	3,877.98	4,846.00	-968.02	80.02%	
43460 · Legacies and Bequests	75.00				
<b>Total 43400 · Direct Public Support</b>	<b>3,952.98</b>	<b>4,846.00</b>	<b>-893.02</b>	<b>81.57%</b>	<b>4,850</b>
45000 · Investments					
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	43.10	110.00	-66.90	39.18%	100
<b>Total 45000 · Investments</b>	<b>43.10</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>-66.90</b>	<b>39.18%</b>	<b>100</b>
46400 · Other Types of Income					
46410 · Education Fund	325.00	0.00	325.00	100.0%	
46420 · Meetings	577.50	1,700.00	-1,122.50	33.97%	1,700
46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
<b>Total 46400 · Other Types of Income</b>	<b>902.50</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>-797.50</b>	<b>53.09%</b>	<b>1,700</b>
47200 · Program Income					
47230 · Membership Dues	5,986.50	8,850.00	-2,863.50	67.64%	8,500
47240 · Wares Sales	50.25	150.00	-99.75	33.5%	150
47250 · Advertising in Bulletin	0.00	75.00	-75.00	0.0%	75
<b>Total 47200 · Program Income</b>	<b>6,036.75</b>	<b>9,075.00</b>	<b>-3,038.25</b>	<b>66.52%</b>	<b>8,725</b>
Total Income	10,935.33	15,731.00	-4,795.67	69.52%	15,375
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
65000 · Operations					
65010 · Advertising and Website	127.35	190.00	-62.65	67.03%	200
65015 · Office Supplies	55.40	125.00	-69.60	44.32%	100
65020 · Postage, Mailing Service	183.26	500.00	-316.74	36.65%	300
65030 · Printing and Copying	685.58				200
65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications	301.44	620.00	-318.56	48.62%	550
<b>Total 65000 · Operations</b>	<b>1,353.03</b>	<b>1,435.00</b>	<b>-81.97</b>	<b>94.29%</b>	<b>1,350</b>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65120 · Bulletin Expenses	974.88	1,220.00	-245.12	79.91%	1,300
65130 · Donations	112.24	250.00	-137.76	44.9%	150
65140 · Per Member Payment					
65141 · National PMP	4,560.00	4,350.00	210.00	104.83%	4,560
65142 · Michigan PMP	2,562.09	3,226.00	-663.91	79.42%	3,225
65143 · PayPal Fees	13.68	0.00	13.68	100.0%	
<b>Total 65140 · Per Member Payment</b>	<b>7,135.77</b>	<b>7,576.00</b>	<b>-440.23</b>	<b>94.19%</b>	<b>9,235</b>
65150 · Memberships and Dues					
65161 · Membership Recruitment	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%	250
65162 · Advocacy	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%	150
65170 · Meeting Costs	1,424.48	2,400.00	-975.52	59.35%	2,400
65100 · Other Types of Expenses - Insurance	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%	100
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>9,697.37</b>	<b>13,146.00</b>	<b>-3,448.63</b>	<b>73.77%</b>	<b>3,000</b>
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies					
68300 · Travel and Meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	0.00	1,150.00	-1,150.00	0.0%	1,100
<b>Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,150.00</b>	<b>-1,150.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>11,050.40</b>	<b>15,731.00</b>	<b>-4,680.60</b>	<b>70.25%</b>	<b>14,685.00</b>
Net Income	-115.07	0.00	115.07	100.0%	690

# Millage Proposals

by Janet Jones

At the March 8, 2016 LWVKA meeting, the Board voted to endorse both millage renewal issues which will be on the May 3, 2016 ballot:

## LAW ENFORCEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL

“For the purposes of maintaining portions of the Law Enforcement and Safety functions for the citizens of Kalamazoo County in the areas of Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Circuit Court Trial and Family Divisions, District Court, Animal Services and Enforcement, and Community Corrections shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in Kalamazoo County be increased by 1.4491 mills of taxable value on all taxable property in Kalamazoo County for a period of six (6) years, being 2016 to 2021 inclusive. It is estimated that 1.4491 mills would raise approximately \$11,879,000 when first levied in 2016.”

## TRANSIT MILLAGE PROPOSAL

“The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority was formed to operate and provide demand-response public transportation services within its geographic boundary and seeks authorization from electors to levy up to 0.315 mills. Shall the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority levy a tax for public transportation purposes of up to 0.315 mills, being 31.5 cents (\$0.315) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value, on all taxable property within the geographic boundary of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority for a period of five (5) years, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021? It is estimated that 0.315 mills would raise \$2,508,188 in the first year.”

Both Proposals fit with LWVKA Program

## FINANCING LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (1970, 1990, 2004)

The League of Women Voters favors measures to develop an adequate, equitable and flexible local fiscal system which is:

1. Based on ability to pay; and
2. Easily administered at a minimal cost.

AND

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION PROCESS (1998, 2004, 2008)

The League of Women Voters supports measures to ensure that local government is accessible to all its residents and responsive to their needs, carries out its functions in an ethical, effective, and efficient manner, provides creative and constructive leadership in resolving both local and regional issues, and pursues policies that promote the physical, economic, and cultural well-being of the jurisdiction as a whole.

“ At the March 8, 2016 LWVKA meeting, the Board voted to endorse both millage renewal issues which will be on the May 3, 2016 ballot: ”



*The stakes are too high for government to be a spectator sport.*

—Barbara Jordan

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

*Kalamazoo Area*

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# MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!



## **LWVKA Annual Meeting**

May 4th, 2016 at the Park Club in Kalamazoo. We will gather at 5:30pm. Dinner followed by program will begin at 6pm. Our speaker is Judy Karandjeff, president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

### **LWVKA Board for 2015-2016**

#### **Officers:**

**Denise Hartsough,**  
*President*  
denise.hartsough@gmail.com

**Sabrina Pritchett-Evans,**  
*VP Organization*  
Sabrina.pritchett-evans.ghk@statefarm.com

**Fran Eckenrode,**  
*VP Program*  
feckenr@gmail.com

**Susan Atkinson,** *Treasurer*  
sls.atkinson@gmail.com

**Janet Jones,** *Secretary*  
janetmjones848@gmail.com

**Chris Kuthe,**  
*Membership Chair*  
ckuthe57@yahoo.com

**Paula Manley,**  
*Past President*  
pjmanley@hotmail.com

#### **Board Members:**

**Ruth Caputo**  
ruth1281@att.net

**Jennie Hill**  
Jahill1231@yahoo.com

**Terry Hluchyj**  
hluchyberg@aol.com

**Ken Manley**  
Kenmanley@hotmail.com

**Georgiann McWilliams**  
georgiann@charter.net

**KC Miller**  
aakcmiller@yahoo.com

**Merrickay Oleen-Burkey**  
moburkey30@gmail.com

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