



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

May 2011

www.lwvka.org

Vol. 56 No. 8

Co-Presidents: Connie Ferguson and Kay Perry

League Phone: 269-544-0303

"Gerrymandering" the Movie

The LWVKA invites you to attend the showing of "Gerrymandering" on Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the VanDuesen Room at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 South Rose Street.

The redistricting process has begun in Michigan and will be completed over the next several months. The movie "Gerrymandering" explores what happens when redistricting is manipulated for political gain. Join us to explore why we should care about redistricting and what role citizens should have in the process.

Voter Registration

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through "informed and active participation" in government affairs.

The voter registration is one of the many ways the League pursues that goal. Currently, LWVKA members register voters every Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. at the Department of Human Services, 322 Stockbridge. Can you help with this important League effort? If so, please contact **Karen Eddy** at 269-599-6399 or kseddy2@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Member

Jennifer Hill
2330 Midvale Terrace
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Home: 269-345-9229
Work: 269-267-6337

Calendar

Apr. 30 LWVMI Regional Gathering

Sat. Greater Kalamazoo United
9:30 am - Way, 709 S. Westnedge,
1 pm Kalamazoo
(pre-registration required)

May 3 Election Day

May 19 YWCA Women of Achievement Dinner

Thurs. Radisson Plaza Hotel,
5:15 pm Kalamazoo (reserve your place
through YWCA)

May 20- LWVMI Biennial 22 Convention

Fri.-Sun. Traverse City

May 24 Board Meeting

Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St., Kalamazoo
5:30 pm Food available for purchase.
6:00 pm Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org

May 25 Redistricting Matters

Wed. Kalamazoo Public Library
7:00- Rose & South Streets,
9:00 pm Kalamazoo
Join us to view the documen-
tary film "Gerrymandering."

Note: Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.

News From National and State

ADVOCACY

Affordable Care Act: the first year (from LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara)

What a year it has been. Since last year:

- Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage.
- Young adults can stay on their parents' health plans until age 26.

Together, we've made a lot of progress in the last year to ensure that more Americans have access to better, more affordable health care. But if some members of Congress have their way, our progress will be lost. No more coverage for children with pre-existing conditions. No more unlimited coverage. No more insurance for young adults getting on their feet. The cost of repeal will be vast.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the national deficit over the next ten years and leave about 54 million Americans without insurance. We have too much to lose to go back to where we started. We will not back down now.

League Supports New EPA Emissions Standards for Mercury and Air Toxics

The League and coalition groups spoke in favor of the Environmental Protection Agency's

proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standard: "The Environmental Protection Agency took sensible action to protect public health by limiting for the first time emissions of life-threatening toxic pollutants like mercury, arsenic and acid gases, dioxin and lead from power plants. This long overdue and critically important action...will save 17,000 American lives and prevent 120,000 asthma attacks." Read the full statement on lwv.org.

League Urges House to Oppose Legislation to Strip EPA Authority

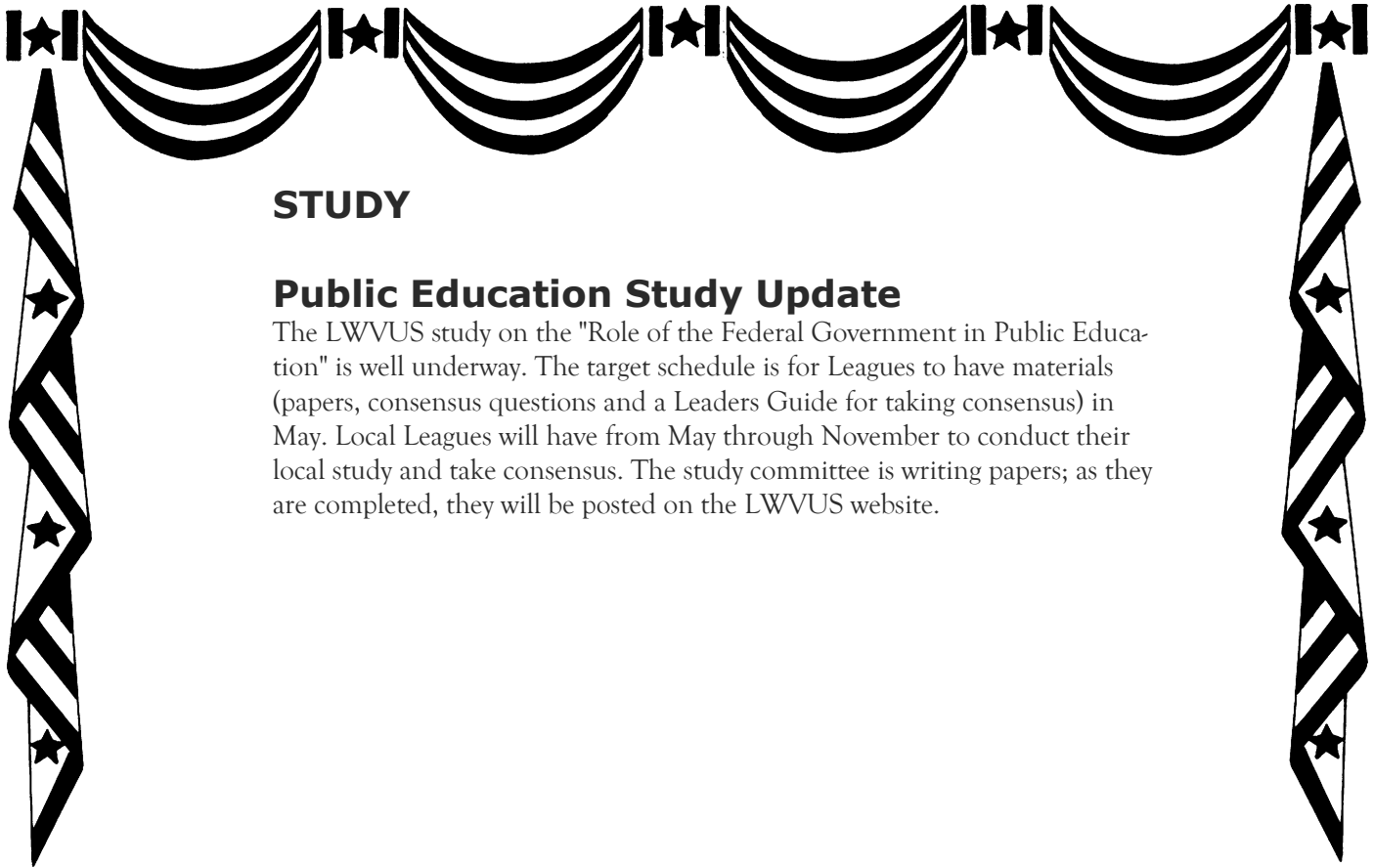
Legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives to permanently block EPA from regulating harmful carbon pollution. The League sent a letter to the entire House of Representatives and joined with coalition partners in a letter to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman urging them to oppose this legislation. The League's volunteer Lobby Corps visited select members of the House of Representatives also urging opposition. Leagues across the country (including LWVKA) submitted letters to the editor of their local and state newspapers. The letters urge continued support of the Clean Air Act.

League Applauds Senators' Efforts Regarding Budget Negotiations

The League sent letters to Senators Warner of Virginia and Chambliss of Georgia commending their efforts to develop a consensus approach to solving our nation's fiscal problems.

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News From National and State



STUDY

Public Education Study Update

The LWVUS study on the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" is well underway. The target schedule is for Leagues to have materials (papers, consensus questions and a Leaders Guide for taking consensus) in May. Local Leagues will have from May through November to conduct their local study and take consensus. The study committee is writing papers; as they are completed, they will be posted on the LWVUS website.

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**REMEMBER—EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION,
YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALONE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR VOICE.**

- Yes! I want to Take Back the System. Please sign me up!
- I'm enclosing a check for \$60 for individual membership.
- I'm enclosing a check for \$30 for student membership.
- I'm enclosing a check for \$90 for household membership.

NAME OF SECOND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER _____

- In addition to my membership, I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____
- Please send me more information on the League of Women Voters.
- I can't join right now, but I'm enclosing \$_____ to support League activities.

Because we lobby at the local, state and national levels, membership dues and other contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax-deductible.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE HOME _____

PHONE OFFICE _____



Make check payable and mail to:
The League of Women Voters
Paula Aldridge, Treasurer
8035 Glenwynd Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009