



# League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

June/July 2015  
President: Denise Hartsough

[www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org)

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League Phone: 269-544-0303

## Year in Review - 2014-15

By Denise Hartsough

Once a year, we look back to remind ourselves how the many efforts of LWVKA members Make Democracy Work!

LWVKA during 2014-15 pursued goals in three strategic areas of focus:

- Issue Study & Advocacy
- Voter Outreach & Education
- Election Administration Processes

To support that strategic work, LWVKA members shouldered administrative and governance tasks, as well.

### Issue Study & Advocacy

*Goal: Advocate on key issues.*

Our local League participated in the LWV of Michigan Education position update, as well as the LWV of the United States position update on Agriculture. In March, we offered a forum on food safety with **Dr. Julia Brasher**. **Sue Nelmes** and **Jessica Reiser** are participating in the local initiative addressing high infant mortality rates among African Americans, which is led by the YWCA. **Ruth Caputo** is active in the LWV of the Lake Michigan Region. She co-chaired the annual meeting in Traverse City last October, which focused on “Climate Change & Biodiversity for Lake Michigan.” Also in October, LWVKA held a forum and then took a position on the City of Kalamazoo charter amendments ballot proposal, thanks to **Terry Hluchyj**. In January we reviewed state and local positions to see what we thought ought to be updated. We identified our local position on Education as lacking a section on safety, which efforts in 2015 led by **Janet Jones** will address.

### Voter Outreach & Education

*Goal: Increase voter registration and improve turnout of informed voters.*

Voter Registration

- LWVKA conducted voter registration at community events: Mothers of Hope last August and the Pride celebration this June.

## Calendar

- July 6** **Voter Registration deadline for August primary**  
Mon.
- July 8** **Housing Matters Forum**  
Wed. 12-1:30 pm Trinity Lutheran Church
- July 7** **LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Tues. 5:30 pm 6:00 pm  
The Park Club  
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo  
Food available for purchase  
Meeting  
Questions? Call 269-544-0303 or email [president@lwvka.org](mailto:president@lwvka.org)
- Aug. 4** **Kalamazoo County Transit Millage vote**  
Tues.
- Aug. 18** **LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Tues. 5:30 pm 6:00 pm  
The Park Club  
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo  
Food available for purchase  
Meeting  
Questions? Call 269-544-0303 or email [president@lwvka.org](mailto:president@lwvka.org)
- Aug. 26** **Women’s Equality Day**  
Wed. with YWCA
- Sept. 11** **Voter Registration**  
Fri. WMU Bronco Bash
- Sept. 15** **LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Tues. See information above
- Sept. 18** **LWVKA Social Hour**  
Fri. 5:30-6:30 pm Arcadia Brewing

*Note: Board meets on 3rd Tuesdays. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.*

# Administration

## Year in Review—2014-15 continued

- Our members also regularly offer voter registration on local campuses: last fall at the two KVCC sites, at WMU, and at K College. In January, LWVKA registered 30 students at KVCC's winter kickoff!
- In months before elections, LWVKA also conducted voter registration two Tuesdays per month at the Department of Human Services office, and two Tuesdays per month at the Michigan Works office.
- *Voter Guides* and the website [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) conveyed helpful information to voters for two elections, thanks to the efforts of **Terry Hluchyj** and her crew. One guide included the contested races in the August primary, and the other covered the November election. Over 30 LWVKA members and friends distributed 26,000 paper guides to over 200 sites.
- As part of a national project, **Michele McGowan** posted messages on LWVKA's Facebook page prior to the November election, urging people to consult [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) for candidate information, and urging them to vote.

### Voter Education

- The award-winning Young Adult Voter Education Project was offered again in Fall 2014 at area high schools, led by **Georgiann McWilliams, Jennie Hill, and Kay Anderson**. The effort to train and deploy teens as poll workers led to a realization that state law needs to be changed to allow them to do that work.
- With the YWCA, LWVKA co-sponsored a Women's Equality Day celebration. Women's Equality Day, August 26, is the anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Keynote speaker was local resident and activist **Carla Campbell-Jackson**, who spoke passionately about barriers to voting.
- **KC Miller** organized a well-attended, lively forum last October for the offices of state representative and senator. Co-sponsored with Michigan United, YWCA, and WKZO Radio, the forum attracted 70 people who asked thoughtful questions.

### Election Administration Processes

*Goal: Identify and address current problems with voting processes throughout Kalamazoo County.*

- LWVKA secured a grant through the State League for the Public Advocacy & Voter Protection project.
- The State League trained local poll watchers, six of whom monitored selected precincts on Election Day in November.

### Administration & Governance

*Goal: Maximize volunteer time, skills and energy in pursuit of our strategic goals.*

Leadership: This past year saw a successful transition of voter registration responsibilities from **Karen Eddy** to **Merrickay Oleen-Burkey, Jennie Hill** and **Jen Richardson**.

Communication: LWVKA has a video on its history, thanks to **Carol Urban, Jack Urban, Janet Jones, and Ben Jones**.

## Administration

### Year in Review—2014-15 continued

Fundraising: LWVKA is newly participating in #Giving Tuesday and Amazon Smile, and at the 2015 Annual Meeting, voted to move ahead with a major, 3-year fundraising campaign.

Network Engagement:

**Connie Ferguson** serves as member of the LWVUS Board. She is one of 8 national Board members! **Paula Aldridge** served as a LWVMI Board member in 2014-15, and at the May 2015 State Convention, **Paula Manley** was elected to serve on the State Board. LWVKA hosted the May 2015 State Convention, with 8 delegates and many other local members helping and attending.

Membership:

During this past year, LWVKA began actively participating in the state's Membership and Leadership Development program. A state coach, **Christina Schlitt**,

helps our local team focus on how to increase and engage our membership. The local team includes **Jackie Wylie, Norma Clack** and **Denise Hartsough** with great help from **Chris Kuthe** and **Kay Anderson**.

Planning:

LWVKA updated its strategic plan for 2015-17 with input from small groups and a large group session in November 2014. The Board refined goals and objectives in December & January. Point persons have stepped forward for several of the strategic areas of focus: Issue Study & Advocacy, Voter Outreach & Education, and Increasing Candidate Diversity. Volunteers are still sought for Election Administration. If you have an interest in ensuring that voters' rights are fully honored every election day, then please contact me or any member of the LWVKA Board. It's how we Make Democracy Work!

### Remembering Rudy Hanson

**We've lost a long time League supporter.**

**By Terry Hluchyj**

The League recently lost a long-time friend – **Rudy Hanson** who passed away on May 14. Rudy and his wife **Janet** were faithful volunteers who delivered *Voter Guides* and attended many League events. They also donated Rudy's collection of political campaign buttons to the

League, an extensive array of memorabilia from elections gone-by. The collection always draws the interest of passersby when we display it at League events, prompting conversations that Rudy would certainly enjoy. We extend our condolences to Janet and her family.

## Voter Outreach & Education

### Twenty-seven Registered to Vote at Pride 2015

**What a positive response to voter registration!**

**By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey**

On Saturday, June 13, LWVKA volunteers registered 27 people at Arcadia Creek Festival Place Kalamazoo Pride event. Ten of these voters were from Kalamazoo County, and 17 were from surrounding counties. In addition, two people requested to become Kalamazoo League of Women Voters members. The response to our voter registration service at this event was overwhelmingly positive!!

Our next voter registration event will be at the Kalamazoo County Fair on **Saturday, August 15**. We will be there from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you will be available to help with voter registration on this date, do let **Jen Richardson** know by email: [mookie842@gmail.com](mailto:mookie842@gmail.com) or by phone: 269-599-1625.

### Fall Elections 2015

**Transitioning to the new city commission election system.**

**By KC Miller**

According to the City of Kalamazoo web site, six Kalamazoo City Commission positions will up for election this fall. The commissioner who receives the most votes will be Vice Mayor for two years and City Commissioner for two years. The commissioners with the second and third highest vote totals will have four year terms. The commissioners with the fourth, fifth, and sixth highest vote totals will have year terms. In the future, three positions will be up for election every four years. The Mayor will be chosen in a separate election every two years. Nominations have to be submitted by July 21, 2015.

As usual, LWVKA will conduct candidate forums for the City Commission races.

## Issue Study & Advocacy

### Taxation and Budgeting Update Study

**Study coming up in 2016.**

**By Paula Manley**

Delegates to the LWVMI State Convention approved a Taxation and Budgeting Update Study. Local Leagues will receive background information and consensus questions in May, 2016, to reex-

amine and update our state position. We will then have until March 1, 2017, to study and complete consensus. Watch for further information on how you can get involved in upcoming months.

## Issue Study & Advocacy

### Transportation Millage

#### LWVKA supports CCYA millage request.

By Paula Presler

At the LWVKA's June Board meeting, Board members voted to support the millage request placed on the August 4 ballot by the newly formed CCTA (Central County Transportation Authority). The 0.75 mills requested (75 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value on all taxable property) would be levied on those within the CCTA boundary – the cities of Portage, Parchment, and Kalamazoo, the townships of Comstock and Kalamazoo, and several precincts in Oshtemo.

This millage would replace the 0.6 mills that Kalamazoo city residents are currently paying for bus service. The residents in the rest of the county have been paying 0.4 mills for line haul bus service if they live close to the city, and for Metro County Connect and the Community Service Van Programs, especially if they are “out county.” Sean McBride, Director of CCTA, estimates that the countywide millage would decrease to the 0.275 to 0.33 range if state and federal funding stays near present levels. For those residents within the CCTA boundary their total transportation “bill” would be slightly above 1.00 mill when the cost of maintaining Metro County Connect and the Van Programs is included.

In addition to maintaining regular line haul bus service, the higher millage will enable CCTA to offer:

1. Sunday service from 8:00 a.m. to 5 pm on many routes.
2. Extended evening hours (adding two hours, Monday through Saturday).
3. More frequent service on selected routes.

These enhancements will benefit second shift workers, Sunday workers, those who would like to attend Sunday worship services, and, in general, all who depend on buses for transportation.

Local League support of this millage request is consistent with the 1988 LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs Position, which includes access to public transportation as an (energy efficient) essential, affording better access to jobs and housing for all citizens. Millage passage will bring in more state funding (30 cents for every dollar raised) and support a system that has been successfully “regionalized” with bipartisan agreement from township and city representatives. Ridership is up, and revenue from fares is strong (21% of 2013 funding). The millage rate would still be low compared to that of other Michigan cities of the same size. Finally, there has long been a need expressed for extended hours, Sunday service and increased service frequency in our bus system.

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the third Monday of the month.



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## Administration

### LWVLMR 48th Annual Meeting and Conference



Friday evening and Saturday,  
September 25-26 2015  
Wyndham Suites Hotel, Glenview IL

**Terrific Speakers, Stimulating Workshops, and League Friends from 4 states!**



Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis  
*Conservation Ecologist*  
The Field Museum  
*Co-Chair: Chicago Wilderness*  
*Climate Change Task Force*



Molly Flanagan  
*Policy Director*  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
*Former Senior Program Officer*  
*Environmental Program, Joyce Founda-  
tion*

Friday Evening Reception and Banquet • Optional Afternoon Field Trips  
Saturday Workshops • Policy Luncheon • Business Meeting • Nature Walk

**Conveniently Located • Many Nearby Attractions • Affordable Accommodations**

Wyndham Suites, Glenview IL An all-suites hotel with swimming pool and fitness room, convenient to train, airport, expressways and many major attractions, including: Chicago Botanic Garden (in Glencoe), the great city of Chicago, **Lake Michigan**, Rosemont Outlet Stores, Six Flags Great America, great restaurants and hikes! LWVLMR special rate of \$99.50 per night includes full breakfast for two people (sleeps 4) and offers free local van service.  
Extra nights at this rate are available.

**Reserve rooms by calling the Wyndham at 847/803-9800 and mention us before August 26**  
**Conference Registration Information: [LWVLMR.org](http://LWVLMR.org) OR on our Facebook page**

# Administration



## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference – “On the Divide”

Friday evening and Saturday, September 25-26, 2015

Wyndham Suites, 1400 N Milwaukee Ave., Glenview IL 60025

REGISTRATION FORM (NOTE: Hotel reservations must be made by August 26 to get group rate.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (in case there are questions) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Local LWV or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the delegate from your local league?  Yes  No  Not sure yet or Don't Know

### Registration choices:

- |                          |  |     |
|--------------------------|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friday Banquet (inc. soup, salad, coffee or tea, and dessert)                          | 50  |
|                          | Meal selection <input type="checkbox"/> Baked Herbed Chicken Breast in sage/wine sauce |     |
|                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Portabella Steak with Squash in Phyllo                |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday Morning Workshops   | 25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday Luncheon (inc. soup, dessert and coffee or tea)                               | 30  |
|                          | Meal selection <input type="checkbox"/> Togarashi Crusted Ahi Tuna and Salad           |     |
|                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Vegetable and Provolone Panini                        |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual Business Meeting (no charge)  |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All of the Above (please indicate meal choices)  | 100 |

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to **LWV Lake Michigan Region**. (additional donations are appreciated!)*

Mail check and registration: Pat Graunke, 980 Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 3-C, Chicago IL 60611-1701 Questions? Call Pat at 312/238-9489 or email [LWVLakeMichigan@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLakeMichigan@gmail.com)

**Reminder:** Individuals are responsible for making their own hotel reservations by August 26.

\*\*Call the Wyndham 847/803-9800 and mention LWV Lake Michigan Region for special rates.\*

Please indicate interest in potential Field Trips

Friday afternoon Sep 25, approximately 1 pm

- Wilmette Locks, with time to visit Baha'i Temple
- Fuller Prairie and Tyner Nature Center, in Glenview, across from Train Station
- Waukegan Harbor (an Area of Concern which will soon be delisted)

Friday afternoon Sep 25, 3-4 pm

- Abt Styrofoam and Electronics Recycling Center, and store (next door to hotel)  
(bring your Styrofoam and electronics from home!)

Saturday morning, 8 – 9 am

- Guided Nature and Bird Walk, highlighting the Continental Sub-Divide at the Grove [National Historic Site](#), which is across the street from the hotel. (Open and available for free on your own as well during the course of the weekend.)

## Administration

### Membership Chair

#### A new chair takes on membership chair tasks.

By Chris Kuthe

At the May Board meeting, I was appointed Membership Chair. Welcoming new members, keeping the roster up to date and sending out dues reminders will be some of my responsibilities. If you have

a change of address or email address please let me know at: [ckuthe57@yahoo.com](mailto:ckuthe57@yahoo.com)

Also, look for a member survey coming in your email this fall!

### Women's Equality Day

#### Save the date!

The 95<sup>th</sup> Women's Equality Day Celebration, co-sponsored by the YWCA and LWVKA, will be held at the YWCA on Wednesday August 26 at 11:30 a.m. Women's Equality Day celebrates the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U. S. Constitution which gives citizens the right to vote, regardless of gender. Watch for your invitation within the next month.

### LWVKA Board for 2014-2015

Office	Name	E-Mail
President	Denise Hartsough	<a href="mailto:denise.hartsough@gmail.com">denise.hartsough@gmail.com</a>
VP Organization	Sabrina Pritchett-Evans	<a href="mailto:Sabrina.pritchett-evans.gh1k@statefarm.com">Sabrina.pritchett-evans.gh1k@statefarm.com</a>
VP Program	Fran Eckenrode	<a href="mailto:feckenr@gmail.com">feckenr@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Susan Atkinson	<a href="mailto:sls.atkinson@gmail.com">sls.atkinson@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Janet Jones	<a href="mailto:janetmjones848@gmail.com">janetmjones848@gmail.com</a>
Membership Chair	Chris Kuthe	<a href="mailto:ckuthe57@yahoo.com">ckuthe57@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	Paula Manley	<a href="mailto:pjmanley@hotmail.com">pjmanley@hotmail.com</a>
Board Member	Ruth Caputo	<a href="mailto:ruth1281@att.net">ruth1281@att.net</a>
Board Member	Jennie Hill	<a href="mailto:Jahill1231@yahoo.com">Jahill1231@yahoo.com</a>
Board Member	Terry Hluchyj	<a href="mailto:hluchyberg@aol.com">hluchyberg@aol.com</a>
Board Member	Ken Manley	<a href="mailto:Ken_manley@hotmail.com">Ken_manley@hotmail.com</a>
Board Member	Georgiann McWilliams	<a href="mailto:georgiann@charter.net">georgiann@charter.net</a>
Board Member	K C Miller	<a href="mailto:aakcmiller@yahoo.com">aakcmiller@yahoo.com</a>
Board Member	Merricka Oleen- Burkey	<a href="mailto:moburkey30@gmail.com">moburkey30@gmail.com</a>



## Administration

### Belle Ringers

**LWVMI honors local members for their contributions.**

**By Denise Hartsough**

**S**usan Smith, President of the LWV of Michigan, publically recognized three LWVKA members as Belle Ringers at the May 2015 State Convention. Belle Ringers are local League members who provide critical support for League priorities.

- Strategic Planning: **Terry Hluchyj** lent her expertise to the process of reviewing and renewing LWVKA's strategic plan.
- Voter Service: **Georgiann McWilliams** continues to provide

leadership of the award-winning Young Adult Voter Education Project.

- Member Recruitment & Engagement: **Carol Urban** used her media experience and connections to help create the LWVKA history video.

Thanks to our Kalamazoo Area Belle Ringers!

### New Delegate's View of State Convention

**Delegates experienced a well organized convention.**

**By Denise Hartsough**

**L**WVKA hosted the May 15-17, 2015, LWVMI Convention at the Sheraton on Cork Street in Kalamazoo. Many local members participated! By virtue of the size of our membership, LWVKA sent 8 official delegates: **Denise Hartsough, Janet Jones, Ken Manley, Paula Manley, Georgiann McWilliams, KC Miller, Merrikay Oleen-Burkey** and **Betty Lee Ongley**.

Our only first-time delegate was Betty Lee Ongley. She offers the following observations of her experience.

“As I have been to dozens of conferences, both here in the US and abroad, I was very impressed with the organization of the conference, and its attention to the business at hand. No scheduled shopping, fancy dress, or pretentious, antiquated customs. The workshops were well presented and handouts distributed, to help carry the message home.

I met women with whom I had common friends and others who were very friendly, coming from all over the state. Food and accommodations were excellent and made Kalamazoo proud. Came home with a Silent Auction basket of goodies that I shared with my local family members. A bonus!”

If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please watch for the call for volunteers to participate at the next convention in Lansing in 2017!



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Mary K. Flegal, CPA

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of the Kalamazoo Area  
P.O. Box 2106  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106

**Returned Service Requested**

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## Thank You League Members

**Many helped  
at the State  
Convention.**

**By Paula Manley**

Thank you to Kalamazoo League members who helped LWVKA host a successful biennial State Convention May 15-17! **Ruth Caputo** chaired the local committee and worked with the LWVMI planning committee, spending many hours making phone calls and recruiting volunteers. Thank you to the following members who worked in many capacities before and during the Convention: **Aedin Clements,**

**Martha Cohen, Denise Hartsough, Linda Havens, Jennie Hill, Zaf Khaja, Cheryl Lyon-Jenness, Michele McGowan, Georgiann McWilliams, Amy Sue Manley, Ken Manley, Paula Manley, Yoland Mitts, Merrikay Oleen-Burkey, Betty Lee Ongley, Tanya Potter, Paula Pressler, Sabrina Pritchett-Evans, Jessica Reiser, and Jackie Wylie.**

Congratulations to LWVKA President **Denise Hartsough** for finishing first in her age division at the May 3 10K Borgess Run!

### Save the Date!

Friday, September 18, LWVKA Social Hour, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Arcadia Brewing, 701 E. Michigan Ave. All League members, potential members and friends are welcome!