

THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

August 2015
President: Denise Hartsough

www.lwvka.org

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President's Column

By Denise Hartsough

Many LWVKA members and friends apply themselves diligently and with serious commitment to our purpose, "Making Democracy Work." For that, I am most grateful! I enjoy partnering in common cause with volunteers who focus their energy and pride themselves on getting results. Those attitudes and traits have made us a very strong local League.

What I sometimes forget is the joy of building relationships and just having a good time together. New members, especially, may wonder how to become better acquainted with long-time League members. Here is a chance! LWVKA will hold a **Meet & Greet on Friday, September 18, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Arcadia Brewing**, 701 E. Michigan Avenue, just east of downtown Kalamazoo.

Please stop by for a chat! Feel free to bring family, friends and prospective members. No agenda or minutes. Let's build our social capital and have a great time while we're at it!



Calendar

- Aug. 4** **LWVKA Board Meeting**
Tues.
The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
Meeting
5:30 pm
6:00 pm
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org
- Aug. 4** **Kalamazoo County Transit Millage vote**
Tues.
- Aug. 15** **Voter Registration**
Sat.
Kalamazoo County Fair
- Aug. 26** **Women's Equality Day**
Wed.
with YWCA
- Sept. 1** **LWVKA Board Meeting**
Tues.
The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
Meeting
5:30 pm
6:00 pm
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org
- Sept. 8** **Voter Registration**
Tues.
KVCC Cougar Connection
Texas Township Campus
- Sept. 8** **Voter Registration**
Tues.
KVCC Fall Semester Kick Off
Arcadia Campus
- Sept. 11** **Voter Registration**
Fri.
WMU Bronco Bash
- Sept. 18** **LWVKA Social Hour**
Fri.
Arcadia Brewing
5:30-6:30 pm

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

Voter Outreach & Education

Upcoming Opportunities for Voter Registration

Can you help with this important League service? **By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey**

The LWVKA has several voter registration events coming up in the next two months:

Sat., August 15	Kalamazoo County Fair Parking passes will be available.	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tues., September 8	KVCC Cougar Connection / Semester Kick-Off Texas Township Campus: Student Commons Arcadia Campus: Hospitality Room	10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fri., September 11	Bronco Bash, WMU Sangren Pedestrian Mall	3 to 7 p.m.
Tues., September 22	National Voter Registration Day Bronson Park	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thurs., September 24	K Fest, Kalamazoo College Quad	3:30 to 7 p.m.

If you are available to help with voter registration on any of these dates, please let **Jen Richardson** know the specific dates and times that will work for you. Her email is: mookie842@gmail.com or phone: 269-599-1625. Thank you!

Upcoming Candidate Forums


Details to be announced. **By KC Miller**

Candidate forums for Kalamazoo City Mayor, City Commission, and Portage City Commission are in the works. All ven-

ues, partners, and dates are still to be determined. Watch for more information in the September *Bulletin*.


KCASI = Knowledge and Power!

Join us for informative programs the third Monday of the month.



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Advocacy in action

Ph. (269)373-5147 or visit us at www.kalcounty.com/aaa/kcasiindex.html, and 



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Issue Study & Advocacy

LWVKA Continues to Support Housing for the Homeless

"Vote YES for Kids!" proposal coming up in November.

By Janet Jones

Vote YES for Kids! is the new name for the HOMES Coalition. As we have done in the past, LWVKA continues to support this organization and the efforts to end homelessness in Kalamazoo County.

Beginning in 2011, this coalition of organizations and individuals has worked to expand funding for the Kalamazoo County Local Housing Assistance Fund (LHAF).

The first stage was to inform the community of the successes of the LHAF and why it should continue and hopefully grow. Coming from every one of the nine school districts in Kalamazoo County, 1,586 school-age children experienced homelessness during the 2013-14 school year. If county voters "Vote YES for Kids!" in November, at least 100 of these children's families each year will have a place to call home.

On July 21, Kalamazoo County Commissioners voted to put a .1 millage on the ballot in November. The cost to a homeowner with a house valued at \$100,000? Just \$5 a year.

If passed, funds will provide rapid re-housing and support services for families through local housing non-profits. The nine public school districts in the KRESA area already have the services of a Homeless Liaison, who will refer families. The Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission, chaired by **David Anderson**, will distribute the funds to local housing nonprofits through an RFP process.

Endorsing organizations to date are: Community Advocates, First Congregational UCC, League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area, ISAAC, Michigan United, Open Doors Kalamazoo, Social Justice Coordinating Committee of People's Church, YWCA of Kalamazoo, and the 60th District Service Office.

Go to voteyesforkids.net for more information, or contact **Ann Perry**, the League's representative for this initiative at 269-381-4277 or email her at annmperry11@gmail.com.

Money in Politics

Materials available to help you understand this important issue.

By Paula Manley

Last year the LWVUS Convention attendees voted to study "Money in Politics." As we approach another election cycle, this issue takes on more importance. The [LWV.org website](http://LWV.org) has posted educational study information on the Money in Politics Review Page. "Independent Expenditures" is now posted which describes the history of independent expenditures and evolution of regulations addressing

them. It examines recent trends in this type of spending and why it matters. A second link is posted to an e-book entitled *The New Soft Money* by **Daniel P. Tokaji** and **Renata E. B. Strause**. This book documents effects of new soft money in political elections.

Take advantage of the opportunity to view these interesting materials and be informed!

Administration

Women's Equality Day

Make your reservation for the League table.

By Paula Manley

Women's Equality Day celebration will be held at the YWCA, 353 East Michigan Avenue on Wednesday, August 26 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Each year the YWCA and LWVKA host a celebration of the passing of the 19th Amendment giving citizens the right to vote, regardless of gender.

This year the theme for the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment is "Voting Barriers and Prisoner Reentry." Speakers will include **Marcus Collins**, Director of Restore Ministries, **Stephanie**

Hoffman, Deputy Director of Open Door Kalamazoo, and **Elisheva Johnson**, Kalamazoo Justice Community Organizer of Michigan United. They will discuss barriers facing female ex-offenders in Kalamazoo.

LWVKA has a table available for eight League members who may attend for no charge. The first eight Leaguers to email **Paula Manley** at pjmanley@hotmail.com will have the privilege of taking advantage of this offer. We hope you will join community members in this celebration on August 26.

LWVKA Board for 2014-2015

Office

President
VP Organization
VP Program
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Chair
Past President
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

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Chris Kuthe
Paula Manley
Ruth Caputo
Jennie Hill
Terry Hluchyj
Ken Manley
Georgiann McWilliams
K C Miller
Merrikay Oleen-Burkey

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Administration

Welcome New Members

New members bring diverse interests and background to the League.

By Chris Kuthe

Please welcome four new members of LWVKA.

CONSTANCE MICKLIN

1618 Grove St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
269-345-6541
conniemicklin@yahoo.com

Connie is a retired Medical Social Worker with the Borgess Renal Care Group. She has lived in the Kalamazoo area for over 30 years and has a husband and daughter. She joined the LWV because of her interest in politics and current events. She is interested in Voter Outreach and Education. Connie is also a member of the Friends of Transit Organization.

FIONA POTT

5720 Old Douglas Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-385-3940
fiona.pott@gmail.com

Fiona is originally from Kalamazoo and returned to the area about 7 years ago after living all over the USA. She earned her bachelors degree in Teaching and Art History at WMU. Fiona used her Masters degree, earned at Central Michigan, to work with severely emotionally impaired children. She used her art to help children in a group home setting for over 23 years. She has a husband and one son and is active in the Log Cabin Quilting Guild. Fiona is interested in Voter Outreach and Education.

KAREN THOMAS

1835 Chevy Chase Blvd
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-2221
269-344-5320
karen.thomas@wmich.edu

Karen is a native of Muskegon. She has been a classroom teacher of English and Reading, earned her PHD in Literacy and Language Studies at University of Pittsburgh, and has taught at several universities including WMU for the past 18 years. She is interested in Voter Outreach and Education. Karen enjoys book club, gardening, and cooking. She currently serves on the Foundation Board of the Kalamazoo Juvenile Detention Home.

MAYOR BOBBY HOPEWELL

241 W. South St
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
mayor@kalamazoocity.org

Mayor Bobby Hopewell recently joined our organization. Mayor Hopewell was born and raised in Kalamazoo. He has earned degrees from KVCC, Sienna Heights University, and a Masters from WMU. He has spent his adult career in service of others. Bobby is the former Administrative Director of the Borgess Health Park. He is currently seeking reelection to his fifth term as Mayor of Kalamazoo.

MEMBER INFO UPDATES--

If you move, change your phone number, or email address, please let me know at ckuthe57@yahoo.com. Thank you, **Chris Kuthe**, Membership Chair.



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

Returned Service Requested

Issue Study & Advocacy

Constitutional Amendment Study

Study materials are available.

By Paula Manley

The LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study will be completed by December 1, 2015. At this time, members can view the study materials and consensus questions at <http://forum.lwv.org/member/resources/article/reading:guide-amending-the-constitution-convention>.

LWVKA will hold a consensus meeting in mid-November—time and place to be determined. You will be receiving further information in upcoming *Bulletins*.

LWVMI Redistricting

The League is organizing town hall meetings.

By Paula Manley

LWVMI is developing a community-based education campaign regarding how district lines are drawn in Michigan and possible reforms. This fall LWVMI is

organizing town hall meetings around the state to address redistricting. Watch for more information about a Town Hall meeting in Kalamazoo.