

THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area

September 2016 • Vol. 62 № 1

President's Column

by Denise Hartsough

The election season is upon us, and your community needs you to Make Democracy Work! If you have ever considered volunteering even just once for the League, now is the time.

Voter Registration. The League conducts voter registration at the semester kick-offs at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College, as well as at the events of particular interest groups. New requests come in every week. It's easy to learn with on-the-job training! Contact MerriKay Oleen-Burkey to sign up for a shift: moburkey30@gmail.com or call (269)270-3302.

Candidate Forums. Attend a candidate forum or meet-and-greet that features candidates who will be on your ballot. The more voters who attend, the more candidates will learn about their electorate. Please see the calendar in this issue of the Bulletin for dates and locations.

Voter Guide. Many voters feel comfortable viewing candidate information and responses online at www.vote411.org. For those who prefer to read the information on paper, the newsprint Voter Guide is a valuable resource. If you can help drop off copies of the Voter Guide at a few sites around Kalamazoo County, please contact Distribution Coordinator Jessica Reiser: jcreiser@comcast.net.

Young Adult Voter Education Project. Interested in bringing on the next generation of voters? Help high school students learn about voting and participate in a mock election using real voting machines. Contact Jennie Hill, 269-267-6337.

Election Observation. If you are free on election day, November 8, and would like to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote, then sign up now as an election observer. Election observers watch for any issues with long waits, for example, or implementation of the voter identification requirement. The League provides training. Contact Paula Manley, pjmanley@hotmail.com.

Volunteer with a friend! A shared task is more fun, easier and may just bring a new member into the League. Hope to see you at a League activity soon!

Volunteers Needed

Young Adult Voter Education Project Mock Election

October 18, 8am-1pm

Loy Norrix, Phoenix and
Kalamazoo Central High Schools

Contact Jennie Hill: 269.267.6337

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 6 LWVKA Board Meeting**
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Dine
6:00 pm Meeting
- Voter Registration**
KVCC Texas Township,
Cougar Kick-Off 11 am-5 pm
- Voter Registration**
KVCC Arcadia Commons
Student Hospitality Days
2-4 pm
- 7 Voter Registration**
KVCC Arcadia Commons
Student Hospitality Days
9 am-noon
- 9 Voter Registration**
Bronco Bash
3-7 pm
- 11 Voter Registration**
Fall Fab Fest 2016 Resource Fair
Sponsored by WMU Office of LBGST Student
Services, Recreation Center, 1-4 pm
- 22 Comstock Candidate Meet & Greet**
Comstock Community Center
7-8:30 pm
- 23 LWVKA Meet and Greet**
Old Dog Tavern
402 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo
5:15pm
- 26 State Representative Forum**
Districts 60, 61, 63 and 66
Portage Senior Center, 7-8:30 pm
- 27 National Voter Registration Day**

Note: Board meets on 1st Tuesday. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings. Contact 269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com

Financial Campaign Update

by Paula Aldridge

Financial Campaign 2015-16 is nearing its end. The current total amount given through 8/15/16 is \$11,288.34. We also have pledges of \$3,616.66 for the next two years. Have you given your donation yet? There is still time. You can give through our website with PayPal or send a check to Treasurer, P.O. Box 2106, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106. Write Financial Campaign on the memo line. And designate which Fund(s) you want to donate to.

Donations from AmazonSmile is an easy way to give to LWVKA Education Fund. Click on the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3440679> to participate. It's very easy to sign up. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area Education Fund.

Attention Pfizer employees! LWVKA Education Fund is now registered with the JK Group Organization Management System. Follow the Pfizer guidelines when donating to the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area Education Fund to receive matching funds.

LWV-MI Taxation and Budget Study

by Paula Manley

Have you wondered about the Michigan budget—what are revenue sources and how the money is spent? What are state and local fiscal relationships? At the May, 2015 State Convention, delegates approved a study to update the current LWV-MI position on taxation and budgeting. The materials have been developed and with consensus questions are now available on the LWV-MI website.

You have an opportunity to join the LWVKA local study group to review the materials over the next few months. This is a short term project to review materials and meet several times to discuss. It is a great way to learn more about how our state government is financed. At the conclusion we will hold one or two consensus meetings for the membership after the first of the year, as consensus question results are due to LWV-MI by March 1, 2017. Contact Paula Manley at pjmanley@hotmail.com to be part of this study group.

Public Advocacy for Voter Protection

Paula Manley

Once again LWVKA has been invited to participate in the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PVAP) project on Election Day November 8th. This project is a partnership with LWV Education Fund and LWV of Michigan Education Fund. PVAP is a “program of state based advocacy that aims to prevent the disenfranchisement of underserved populations.”

League volunteers will be nonpartisan poll observers at designated polling places around the community during Election Day. This opportunity is for anyone who has two hours or more to observe between 7am and 8pm. Observers will watch for any problems voters may encounter and record their observations. We will offer training prior to Election Day. Interested in seeing democracy in action and helping making democracy work? Contact Paula Manley at pjmanley@hotmail.com.



“ You have an opportunity to join the LWVKA local study group ”

“ Help prevent the disenfranchisement of underserved populations ”

Voter Registration Update

by MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

The LWVKA responded to a request for voter registration and assistance with absent voter applications at the Washington Square Apartments in July. On August 17th and 18th, we hosted a table at INSPIRE to promote Vote411.org among our community educators. Thank you to **Jennifer Hill** and **Denise Hartsough** for volunteering for those events! Goodwill was the site of a voter registration event hosted by **Louise Robeck**, **Paula Aldridge**, and **Lyda Stillwell** in August. Interfaith Homes invited the League to participate in its community festival on August 26th, and **Martha Cohen** hosted the voter registration table. Thank you to all of these volunteers!

September is shaping up to be a very busy month of voter registration! Several of you have volunteered to help with the early events and we could not do it without you! As of this writing, there are still a few open spots if anyone else is available:

Tuesday, September 6th —
KVCC Texas Township, Cougar Kick-Off
 11 am–1 pm — 2 volunteers needed.

Friday, September 9th —
Bronco Bash
 5–7 pm shift — One additional volunteer is needed.
 Also we still need a couple of volunteers to assist with canopy set-up at noon and take down at 7 pm.

In addition to National Voter Registration Day on September 27th, there are a couple of other September voter registration events pending approval. As soon as the details have been finalized, you will receive the information along with a request for volunteers.

If you are available to help with one of these spots, please email MerriKay Oleen-Burkey (moburkey30@gmail.com) or call (269-270-3302). Thank you!!

“ September is shaping up to be a very busy month of voter registration! ”

Latest news from the Grand Rapids Local Geographical Unit

by Elianna Bootzin

The Grand Rapids Local Geographical Unit’s Vote411 group is off to a strong start, thanks to training from Terry Hluchyj and Janet Jones on July 22nd that provided an in-depth introduction to the online system, as well as a general overview of the League from Christina Schlitt (LWVMI). The team recently hit “send” on its first candidate invitations and is looking forward to posting and promoting the responses in late September.

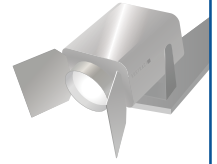
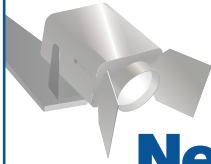
You can help lay the groundwork for a broad distribution network by encouraging your Grand Rapids contacts to “like” www.facebook.com/grlww.

Voter registration efforts are up and running, too. Our members are focusing on low-income Americans by visiting mobile food pantry distributions, netting about three registrations per outing.

Don’t Forget!

Our next meet & greet is September 23 at Old Dog Tavern. Please plan on joining us! It’s a fun way to meet new and prospective League members or catch up with long-standing League friends. Friends and family are welcome to attend too. Hope to see you there!





New Member Spotlight

by Chris Kuthe

Please welcome the eight new members who have recently joined the LWVKA. Because of vacations this summer, I was not able to talk to all of the new members, but hope to be able to share more information about them in the near future. You may want to use this information to update your most recent member directory.

“ Keep in Touch with LWVKA! Please contact Chris Kuthe at ckuthe57@yahoo.com if you need to update your address, phone number or email. ”

Pat Clark
221 W Maple St
Climax, MI 49034
patclark4kzoo@gmail.com
269-967-3390

Pat is very interested in politics and is currently a candidate for the Kalamazoo County Commission, 7th District.

Kay Ensfield
1818 Forest Drive
Portage, MI 49002
ensfieldk@hotmail.com
269-323-0975

Kay is a retired social worker. She formerly worked for the Red Cross Disaster Action Team supervising volunteers. She is married with 6 grandchildren. She is also a part time organist. The study of social issues is her area of interest.

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Welcome
NEW
MEMBERS!

Advertise in the Bulletin!

Are you or someone you know interested in reaching a discerning local audience with your advertising message? For only \$50, your business card-sized ad will appear in six issues of the Bulletin during the year. Not only will you reach over 150 highly engaged, community-oriented League members in the Kalamazoo area, your advertising dollars also help support the League's important work!

Women's Equality Day Celebration

by Paula Manley

On Friday, August 26th over one hundred-forty community members gathered during the noon hour at the YWCA to celebrate Women's Equality Day. The LWVKA and the YWCA have partnered for the past twenty-one years to host a community gathering each August 26th to mark the passage of the 19th amendment giving citizens the vote regardless of their gender. The theme of the day was "Making Every Vote Count: The Impact on Women and Women of Color". Shelby Moss, Deputy City Clerk for the City of Kalamazoo, explained voting procedures and some of the myths about voting. Rev. B Jo Mundy, co-Executive Director of ERACCE and Core Organizer/Trainer with Crossroads Antiracism, spoke about leading with "audacious reason and bold purpose" and the importance of connection and relationships within a community as we look to build on the past and move forward in new ways.

Thank you to League members **Fran Eckenrode, Denise Hartsough, Jennie Hill, Janet Jones, Paula Manley, Sue Nelmes** and **Jessica Reiser** for volunteering to help with the event.

“ The theme of the day was “Making Every Vote Count: The Impact on Women and Women of Color” ”





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Kalamazoo Area

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