



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

August 2011

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The History of Federal Government in Public Education: *Where have we been and how did we get here?*

Reprinted from LWV web site.

Where Have We Been?

From the very beginning of our Republic, a well-educated citizenry was thought to be essential to protect liberty and the general welfare of the people. Even before the Constitution was established, the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 included responsibilities of the nation for an education system. Education has long been considered a national concern by the federal government. Through federal action, education has been encouraged and financially supported from the first Northwest Ordinance in 1785 to the present. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution granted Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States. It is under this "general welfare" clause that the federal government has assumed the power to initiate educational activity in its own right and to participate jointly with states, agencies and individuals in educational activities.

During the first century of our new nation, Congress granted more than 77 million acres of the public domain as an endowment for the support of public schools through tracts ceded to the states. In 1841, Congress passed an act that granted 500,000 acres to eight states and later increased land grants to a total of 19 states. The federal government also granted money, such as distributions of surplus federal revenue and reimbursements for war expenses, to states. Though Congress rarely prescribed that such funds be used only for schools, education continued to be one of the largest expenses of state and local governments so the states used federal funds whenever possible for education.

Two of our constitutional amendments played an important role in public education. In 1791, the 10th Amendment stated, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Public education was not mentioned as one of those federal powers, and so historically has been delegated to the local and state governments.

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Calendar

Aug 16 Board Meeting

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

Note: Board meets on 3rd Tuesdays.

Aug 26 Women's Equality Day Luncheon

Fri. YWCA
11 am - 353 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo
1 pm Watch for your invitation!
Note: Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

By Paula Manley

At the National Convention last year, the League of Women Voters of the US voted last year at the national convention to launch a study of the role of the federal government in public education. The national committee has done its homework and the study materials are now available to local Leagues. Consensus is due by November 30, 2011.

LWVKA needs volunteers to form a study committee to review the materials. This is a short term project and an excellent opportunity to learn more about an important issue. If you have an interest in joining, please contact **Paula Manley** at 345-7623 or pjmanley@hotmail.com.

History of Federal Government in Public Education continued

In 1868, the 14th Amendment guaranteed rights to all citizens by stating, “all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens in the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor

shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

Included below is a brief historical overview of federal involvement in public education.

History of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Timeline

Event	Date	Explanation
Land Ordinance & Northwest Ordinance	1785/1787	Requirement of a system of public education to be established in each township formed under a specified formula. Regulated monies raised via taxes and selling or renting land.
Land Grants	1841/1848	Congress granted 77+ million acres of land in the public domain as endowments for support of schools. Federal government also granted surplus money to states for public education.
Early philosophy – first six presidents		Discussion of a national university and urging of federal involvement in public education. Seen as critical to preparation for citizenship in a republican form of government.
First Morrill Act otherwise known as the Land Grant Act	1862	Donated public lands to states to be used for the endowment to support and maintain at least one college with specific purpose of teaching branches of agriculture, mechanic arts and industrial education.
The original Department (Office) of Education established	1867	Began to collect data – information on schools and teaching that would help states establish effective school systems.
Second Morrill Act	1890	Gave the Office of Education responsibility for administering support for the original system of land-grant colleges.
Smith-Hughes Act	1917	Promoted vocational schools
Lanham Act	1941	Eased the burden on communities affected by presence of military and federal installations:
Impact Aid laws	1950	payments to school districts.

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History of Federal Government in Public Education continued

History of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Timeline

Event	Date	Explanation
GI Bill	1944	Provided post secondary education assistance to GIs returning from World War II
George-Barden Act	1946	Provided funding for agricultural, industrial and home economics training for high school students
National Defense Education Act	1958	In response to Soviet Sputnik. NDEA included support for loans to college students in science, mathematics and foreign languages.
Elementary and Secondary Education Act	1965	Established comprehensive set of programs including Title I of federal aid to disadvantaged.
Title IX	1972	Prohibited discrimination in education based on gender.
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	1973	Prohibited discrimination based on disability.
Department of Education cabinet level agency	1980	Recognized the important role of public education in our country.
Educational Testing Service (ETS) and NAEP	1983	Federal government transferred responsibility for administering the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to ETS: the nation's report card.
Nation at Risk	1983	Report indicating that the USA was falling behind in education achievement.
President G.H. Bush	1989-1992	"Indian Education Bill of Rights" K-12 Drug awareness model Advisory committee on Hispanic education America 2000 education reform program Work began on national standards
President W. Clinton	1993-1999	Academics 2000 offered grant to states / local school districts for innovation. Teach for America.
President G.W. Bush	2001-2008	Reauthorization of ESEA -No Child Left Behind.
President Barack Obama	2009 -	President Obama's Blueprint for Reform - Reauthorization of ESEA. Race to the Top: Grants awarded to states with innovative ideas that accepted the Common Core Standards.

News From National and State

LeaguE-Voice Online

This monthly electronic newsletter summarizes League-related items of general interest to members. You can subscribe through the website at <https://member.lwv.org/Subscribe.asp>. The newsletter also is available online at lwv.org, Library, LeaguE-Voice Newsletter.

Money in Politics (from LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara)

The Supreme Court once again ruled that speech in this country is not free, at least not during elections. The majority opinion in *McComish v. Bennett* follows a tortured route to the conclusion that provisions in the Arizona Clean Elections Law that trigger matching funds for candidates facing opponents with bags of private money were unconstitutional. Rather than adopting an approach which upheld the triggers as a means of expanding electoral speech, the majority opinion held that the matching funds unfairly penalized the candidate with the most bucks. The only good news is that public financing itself was not an issue in the case and is still a means to protect our elections from the corrupting influence of special interest money. League President MacNamara declared, "...we see another poorly reasoned decision by the Supreme Court on campaign finance, one that is untethered to the Constitution. While the *McComish* decision is another blow by this Court against clean elections, public financing itself has not been put in jeopardy." Earlier this year, the League (with seven other public interest groups) filed an *amicus* brief, basing its arguments primarily on the legal principles set forth in *Buckley v. Valeo*.

Election Assistance Commission Report Available

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) recently published this report: 2009-2010 Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office (NVRA) (<http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Documents/2010%20NVRA%20FINAL%20REPORT.pdf>). According to survey responses and population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 85.9% of American citizens of voting age (18 years or older) were registered to vote in the 2010 elections. The survey shows that the number of registered voters decreased during the two years leading up to the 2010 elections after the strong surge in voter registration that occurred prior to the 2008 Presidential election. There were approximately 186.9 million total eligible and registered voters reported for the November 2010 elections, a decrease of nearly 3.6 million registered voters from the 2008 elections.

Nationwide Assault on Voting Rights

President MacNamara's letter to the editor on voting rights and redistricting was published in *The Washington Post* over the weekend of June 11-12. It followed the "Just Say No" email sent by the League to supporters, urging them to join the fight to make the redistricting process public and fair.

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News From National and State



League Sends Clean Air Message to White House Chief of Staff

The League's message thanked White House Chief of Staff William M. Daley for declaring the Administration is "not going to allow any legislation that impedes the need to improve our health and safety" in response to questions about the Administration's position on legislation to block or delay EPA climate standards. The League expressed its hope that the White House will support EPA's establishment of a health-based air quality standard for ozone at the lower end of the range of 60-70 parts per billion recommended by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The EPA estimates that setting such a protective standard

would save thousands of lives every year.

Moving Planet: A Global Day of Climate Action on September 24, 2011

In 2010, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere was just shy of 390 parts per million (ppm) – well beyond the 350 ppm that leading climate scientists say is the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere. However, despite evidence that burning fossil fuels is the chief culprit, efforts to curb CO₂ emissions are at a standstill. To change the political dynamic, people across the globe will mobilize on September 24, calling attention to the need to get off fossil fuels and move towards a sustainable, renewably-powered future. Find more information by clicking the link on the lwv.org homepage.

Voter Registration is continuing!

Can you help?

By Karen Eddy

Thanks to Carol Urban for joining Sara Wick, Fran Eckenrode, Margaret McAllister and Diane Worden in their continued weekly service at the Department of Human Services on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. Also thanks Connie Ferguson and Terry Hluchyj for being at the Arcadia Festival site for Kalamazoo Pride on June 11 registering 14 people and encouraging them to vote.

In August and September we are committed to register voters at five different sites and volunteers are needed for each. I would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved. Karen Eddy 269-599-6399 or ksedy2@yahoo.com.

Women's Equality Day August 26, 2011

By Paula Aldridge

Plan to attend Women's Equality Day on Friday, August 26, 2011, at the YWCA, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. LWVKA and YWCA will sponsor the event. As a member of the League, the cost is \$15 per individual. The speakers will be Judy Karandjeff, new LWVMI Advocacy VP, former director of MI Women's Commission and of Planned Parenthood Association of MI, and Jean Doss, an experienced Lansing lobbyist. Their topic will be the status of women in Michigan today. Check your invitation for more information.

Annual Report

LWVKA has had a busy and productive year made possible by the active involvement of many members and friends.

By Kay Perry and Connie Ferguson

It has been another busy year for the LWVKA, as is evident in the summary of activities that follows.

Voter Service

This year our voter registration efforts were led by **Karen Eddy**. We registered voters in the typical venues – KVCC, WMU and community events. However, this year, for the first time, we have had a regular presence at the Department of Human Services. Once a week, with the blessing of DHS, members are in the lobby registering voters. We have had much success there, registering more new voters than in any other setting.

Our primary and general election *Voter Guides* were edited by **Terry Hluchyj** and **Diane Worden**. **Tamara Carpenter** did the design and website work. Neighborhood Association partners recruited by **Ann Perry** along with more than 30 members, helped to distribute them.

Yolanda Mitts, Louise Robeck, Lyda Stilwell, and Sara Wick assisted the LWVMI with legislative candidate interviews that were taped in Kalamazoo and posted online.

Diane Worden organized a very successful forum on the Constitutional Convention ballot proposal. The audio from that forum was posted on our website – a first for us.

KC Miller, assisted by **Norma Clack, Terry Hluchyj, Ken Manley, Paula Manley** and **Michele McGowen**, worked very hard to coordinate candidate forums in cooperation with other non-profits. Partnering with KRESA, we held an event for the six candidates for the three House districts in our county. This featured two-minute introductory statements, followed by opportunities for candidates and constituents to talk one-on-one. The untimely death of Representative **Robert Jones** resulted in the cancellation of the forum planned for the 20th Senate district.

Paula Manley made a presentation to the Greater Kalamazoo Area Association of Insurance Women on election issues. **Karen Eddy** met with the St. Joseph County Great Start Collaborative to answer their questions about election issues.

KC Miller worked with local videographer **Ben Jones** to interview candidates for the Kalamazoo and Portage School Boards. Those interviews were posted on our website prior to the May election.

Issue Study and Advocacy

We currently have a LWVKA committee working to identify ways to promote the value of government and the concept that government is an investment that provides all citizens with the services they cannot provide as individuals. **Barbara Havira, Barbara Huber, Paula Manley, KC Miller, Ann Perry, Kay Perry, and Diane Worden** have developed a series of messages patterned after the Burma Shave signs that lined many highways years ago. The committee is still working to determine the best ways to publish those signs.

We are active with the HOMES Coalition, a group that is working to explore the possibility of placing a millage proposal on the county-wide ballot to provide long-term funding for the county's Local Housing Assistance Fund. **Ann Perry, Sabrina Pritchett-Evans, Mary Brown, Janet Jones, and Kay Perry** have participated on subcommittees in support of the effort.

Paula Manley led us to a consensus during our participation in the LWVMI's Voting System Study.

Connie Ferguson wrote a letter to the editor supporting the KRESA millage request.

Kay Perry and Connie Ferguson sent a letter to the editor supporting the DISCLOSE Act, a federal campaign finance reform effort.

Annual Report continued

Ruth Caputo and Connie Ferguson represent us in the **Kalamazoo Environmental Council** where we continue to speak out on issues such as climate change and clean-up of the Kalamazoo River. **Ruth Caputo** represented us at the Lake Michigan League of Women Voters meeting and now serves as the LWVMI alternate on that organization's Board. **Ann Perry** continues to represent LWVKA on the **Poverty Reduction Initiative**. We also make donations or dues payments to support the work of each of these groups.

April Woodward-Slack, Michele McGowen, Sabrina Pritchett-Evans, and Kay Perry are pioneering our new electronic observer corps. They are monitoring the activities of the Kalamazoo Public Schools, Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo Township, and City of Kalamazoo.

Janet Lavasseur, Michele McGowen, and Kay Perry interviewed local clerks for the LWVMI's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project. That project is promoting early voting and no excuse absentee voting. **Paula Manley and Terry Hluchyj** organized a program on redistricting in cooperation with the LWVMI.

Sue Nelmes, Diane Worden, Karen Eddy and Connie Ferguson have been talking with local clerks and others to identify causes of problems with student voter registration. A number of students were unable to vote in the November election because they were not registered at their Kalamazoo addresses. We will work with people at Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University to get the word out to students when they return to campus next fall.

LWV Governance

At the Annual Meeting, members approved a bylaw change to remove the word "honorary" in the description of life membership, as in "honorary" life membership. The change was initiated at national level at the suggestion of a number of life members who felt that the word sounded as if it was an unearned honor.

We received a very generous contribution (\$10,000!) from **Julia and Bill Costello** for the Endowment Fund.

Sue Nelmes has been doing a terrific job of member retention. We don't want to lose any of us, so we appreciate the responsiveness to her phone calls. **Norma Clack** has been writing profiles of our newer members for the *Bulletin*.

At the Annual Meeting, delegates elected the following individuals to the Board:

- Co-Presidents (1-yr. term) **Connie Ferguson & Paula Manley**
- VP for Organization (2-yr. term) **Kay Perry**
- Secretary (2-yr. term) **KC Miller**

Board Members (2-yr. terms):

- **Michele McGowen**
- **Ruth Caputo**
- **Terry Hluchyj**

Nominating Committee (1-yr. term):

- **Yolanda Mitts (Chair)**
- **Rebekah Fennell**
- **Kay Anderson**

Recognition of Continuing Board Members:

- **Paula Aldridge, Treasurer**
- **Norma Clack**
- **April Woodward Slack**
- **Carol Urban**
- **Sabrina Pritchett-Evans**

Outgoing Board Members:

- **Kay Anderson**
- **Diane Worden**

LWV Public Relations

Carol Urban has worked with **Ben Jones** to tape a number of video interviews with League members discussing their experiences with the LWVKA. This continuing effort features both long-time and newer members.

Bulletin editor **Cheryl Lyon-Jenness**, assisted by **Kathy VanLeeuwen** and others, produced and distributed 10 issues of our newsletter, featuring articles contributed by a number of



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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Annual Report continued

members. We decided to begin electronic distribution of the *Bulletin*, starting with the September 2011 issue. This will be less costly and will allow more timely dissemination of information. Paper copies will be available to those who prefer them.

Conclusion

LWVKA has had a busy and productive year. Everyone's contributions through membership, time and financial support are greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Flegal & Tibbitts

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Someone you know
thinks she might
feel a lump.

Planned Parenthood
of South Central Michigan | WE'RE HERE.

Well-woman exams • Family planning • Breast health care
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269.372.1200 • www.ppscm.org

The advertisement features a black and white close-up photograph of a young woman's face. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, handwritten-style font. At the bottom, there is a logo for Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan and a list of services provided, along with a phone number and website.