

Calendar

November 2019

- 4 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 5 General Election**
- 11 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 13 LWVKA Development/Fundraising Committee Meeting**, Paula & Ken Manley's Home, 10am
- 13 Redistricting Workshop**
Presented by Secretary of State's office, hosted by Kalamazoo Community Foundation, time and place not yet made public
- 14 Voting Rights Town Hall Meeting**
El Concilio, 930 Lake St., 7-8:30pm
- 18 LWVKA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Meeting**
St Martin's Church, Nichols Rd. 6:30-8:30pm
- 26 LWVKA Book Discussion Group**
Kazoo Books on Parkview, 7pm
"Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future"

December 2019

- 2 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 9 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 11 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting**,
10am, Gull Road Starbucks
- 16 LWVKA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Meeting**
St Martin's Church, Nichols Rd. 6:30-8:30pm



IN ALL THINGS GIVE Thanks

President's Column

By Fran Eckenrode, Co-president

League of Women Voters Non-partisanship

It was surely no coincidence that in 1920 our founding mothers had the wisdom to establish the League of Women Voters as an organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. On that topic Carrie Chapman Catt said: *"In the League of Women Voters we have an anomaly; we are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we are going to educate for citizenship. In that body we have got to be nonpartisan and all partisan. Democrats from Alabama and Republicans from New Hampshire must work for the same things."*



The League is a political organization and encourages members to participate fully in the political party of their choice. The League recommends that all citizens be involved in the public and political life of our country. However, Leaguers express their political preferences when acting as individual citizens. As a League member, it is important to protect the non-partisanship when representing the League.

LWVKA and its committees, including the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and Promotion Committee, are actively working to expand connections and partnerships with other organizations to enhance our role in voter education and other League activities.


As we work to form alliances with new organizations in the Kalamazoo Area and engage in public activities with our new partners, we must be diligent to protect our non-partisanship. If a potential new partner will focus on supporting or opposing candidates or parties, then the League should not partner with them.

The LWVKA Nonpartisan Policy Guideline may be found on page 6 of the LWVKA Member Handbook found on lwvk.org. This informative source can answer questions that you might have regarding your role in portraying the non-partisan nature of the League of Women Voters with respect to political activities, issues, and specific League work.

It is important to adhere to non-partisan policy in all League activities. Non-partisanship is a primary League strength and ensures the credibility and reputation of the League of Women Voters. It is a core value that causes the public to seek us out as a credible resource for information. 

LWVUS Update

By Paula Manley

- WWUS CEO Virginia Kase recently received the Hispanic Heritage Award for Leadership.
- People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign has been launched nationwide to achieve fair districts in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Mailers labeled “2019 Congressional District Census” have been sent allegedly by the RNC to residents in at least seven states recently. There are concerns this mailing is confusing. Go to the lwv.org League Management section to view Census Talking Points and Census Action Kit.
- A one-page guide How to Get Out the Count: Mapping Out a Plan is available at lwv.org.
- LWVUS Governance Committee is offering a webinar on Creating a Nonpartisan Policy on Tuesday November 12th at 5pm. Sign up at lwv.org in the League Management section. 




Know Your Voting Rights!

By Denise Hartsough

Come hear about your voting rights from the Michigan Secretary of State's Office on Thursday, November 14, 7:00-8:30pm at El Concilio (St. Joseph Church gymnasium), 930 Lake Street.


Passage of Proposal 3 last November has made a difference! Learn about no-excuse absentee voting, voter registration up to and on Election Day, and more!

Know your rights, so you can exercise those rights! 

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at LWVMI

By Denise Hartsough


Your State League has adopted a plan to increase its diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). This year LWVMI will review its publications and nominating process through a DEI lens. Next year LWVMI will collect information to help it understand the demographic groups well represented and those not so well represented in the League in Michigan.

You can read the LWVMI DEI policy at www.lwvmi.org. Local Leagues are encouraged to consider adopting a DEI policy, as well. 



19th Amendment Centennial Celebration

By Barb Dircks

The LWVKA is partnering with area libraries and the Kalamazoo Museum to showcase the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment. The first display has been arranged for the Parchment Library by League member, Barb Dircks. The exhibit presents our “Votes For Women” activities along with pictures and information centered on the many Michigan personalities who are currently, and have historically, been advancing our mission. Take the opportunity to visit the Parchment library and see the showcase anytime in October and November. Future displays planned for other community libraries, and the Kalamazoo Museum begin at the end of 2019 and will run through the first part of 2020. 


#GivingTuesday

By Paula Manley

GivingTuesday is December 3rd this year. The same way retail stores come together to offer deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday brings the nonprofit community together on a universal platform to raise awareness about the importance of supporting our valuable missions and work.

In this time of heightened partisanship, gridlock between policy makers and increased frustration among the public, there has never been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual and civil voice that the LWVKA brings to our community.

You, too, can make a difference to ensure that we can continue to offer the voter information, candidate forums, high school voter registration and mock elections and programs that our community values.

Consider giving your support to the LWVKA on Tuesday December 3rd. You may donate on the lwvka.org website or send a check to LWVKA Treasurer P.O. Box 2106 Kalamazoo, MI 49003. 

#GIVING TUESDAY™

LWVKA Book Discussion Group

By Aedin Clements

The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 26, 7 p.m. at Kazoo Books on Parkview.

On our way to solving the world's most pressing problems, we will discuss *Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future* by Mary Robinson.

The author, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, heads a foundation on climate justice.

For more information on the book discussion group which meets every other month, contact Aedin

Clements: aedinclements@gmail.com. 📧

Kalamazoo City Commission and Mayoral Forum

By KC Miller

Approximately 150 people attended the Forum on October 2, 2019 at the First Congregational Church. Our promotions and 12 partners helped make it a well attended event.

Regena Nelson was the moderator and Linda Mah did time. Karen and Stuart Eddy collected questions. Terry Hluchyj and Denise Hartsough screened them. Fran Eckenrode ran the League table.

We had all 8 City Commission Candidates attend, but one was feeling ill and left before we started. We had one of the write in Mayoral Candidates and 3 of the other Mayoral Candidates.

Thanks to all who attended. 📧

Recent Supreme Court Ruling and Gerrymandering in Michigan

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, October 21st, officially overturned the Michigan gerrymandering ruling that would have created redrawn districts for the 2020 election.

The U.S. Supreme Court officially overturned the Michigan ruling which had called for nearly three dozen congressional and legislative districts in Michigan to be redrawn because they unfairly helped one political party.

In response the LWVMI issued the following press statement--

"The U.S. Supreme Court decision was expected and is a follow-up to last summer's decision in the Rucho v.

Common Cause case, which stated federal courts didn't have jurisdiction in partisan gerrymandering. The Supreme Court vacated the decision and remanded it back to the federal district court. The Michigan League of Women Voters continues to support efforts to fully implement the Michigan Redistricting Commission and the voter-approved election reforms that passed in November 2018." 📧

DEIC Kalamazoo

By Millie Lambert

The next meeting of the DEI Committee will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, November 18, 2019, at St. Martin of Tours. The regular December meeting is cancelled. A work group session is yet to be determined. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend the regular meetings.

Community Events to Consider:

If you learn of an event that should be included here, email: millielambert3922@gmail.com.

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA)

Exhibits in ceramics, sculpture, painting, photography and printmaking from Black Artists. These exhibits continue until Dec. 8, 2019, at KIA

Art Hop

Nov.1 5-8pm "Creative Stands for Justice, a Multimedia Curation of the Work of Southwest Michigan Black Artists" with Michelle Johnson, PhD, aka, DJ Disobedience

Michigan Festival of Sacred Music

Connecting Chords Music Festival Talk by Elizabeth C. Teviotdale, PhD, assistant director of WMU's Medieval Institute and music to be performed by vocal ensemble Schola Antiqua Nov.5 noon Free

Tim Wise

"Beyond Diversity: Challenging Racism in an Age of Backlash" Nov.6 at 5:30 pm WMU S. Ballroom, Bernhard Center

Vision and Visibility's:

Diversity, Inclusion, Contemporary Art and Culture symposium at the KIA Nov. 9, 9:30-5 pm, for more information email michelles@kiarts.org, fees increase after Nov. 4

Co-Building a Creative Justice Movement:

Fire's First Decade Talk by Michelle S. Johnson, PhD, co-founder and former Executive Director of Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative Nov.12 noon. Free

"Where We Stand: Black Artists in SW Mich."

Nov. 14 6:30pm a documentary film premiere by Maya Wanner KIA, cost of admission to KIA

Summit on Racism

Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) November 15, 9am-4pm at Ascension Borgess Hospital, Lawrence Ed. Center, 1521 Gull Rd.

"How to be an Antiracist"

Dr. Ibram Kendi Nov. 15 at 4pm 2000 Schneider Hall, WMU. Find event and ticket information at Eventbrite - Bookbug.

Welcome New Members

By Kym Mulhern

Mary Bellinger
Kristin Brace - GR Unit
Patricia Cowden - GR Unit
Kathy Garland
Susan Kiser
Laura & Steve Sniderman - GR Unit
Jennifer Snyder
Ann Wright-Parsons
Linda Zellers

Welcome
NEW
MEMBERS!

LWVKA Education Fund Board of Directors

Jessica Reiser, *Chairperson*
jcreiser@comcast.net

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Thank you volunteers!

This year's LWVKA Voter Guide team would like to thank Elizabeth Amidon, Kay & Rick Anderson, Bob Brown, Martha Cohen, Karen & Stu Eddy, Connie & Steve Ferguson, Lee Fevig, Marti Fritz, Rochelle Habeck, Denise Hartsough, Janet & Keith Jones, Cheryl Lyon-Jenness, Linda Mah, Ken & Paula Manley, Kym Mulhern, Betty Ongley, Alison Parsons, Marie Rogers, Judy Sivak, Mabel & Jochanan Stenesh, Gail Walker, Karl Westra, Sara Wick, and Holly Wingard for their assistance in distributing printed copies of the 2019 General Election Voter Guide to various businesses and organizations in Kalamazoo, Parchment, and Portage. The distribution of Voter Guides is a massive undertaking and we couldn't have done it without the generous donation of your time and effort.

Jules Isenberg-Wedel & Terry Hluchyj
Voter Guide Co-Editors

Thank
you

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