



Calendar

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,**
Gull Road Starbucks, 10am
- 16 LWVKA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Committee Meeting**
CANCELLED THIS MONTH

January 2020

- 13 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 22 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**
St Martin Le Tours on Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30
- 25 Annual Program Planning Meeting**
Parchment Community Library, 10:30-12:30

February 2020

- 15 Founders Day Brunch**
Fetzer Center, 10-Noon
- 17 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**
St Martin Le Tours on Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30

March 2020

- 10 Presidential Primary Election**
- 25 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**
St Martin Le Tours on Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30

Give a Gift

Need a gift idea this holiday season? Consider the gift of a LWVKA membership. Contact Kym Mulhern, membership chair, at kym.mulhern@gmail.com or send a check with the gift recipient's information to LWVKA Treasurer P.O. Box 2106 Kalamazoo, MI 49003.



President's Column

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, Co-President

'Tis the Season of Giving

#GivingTuesday is **December 3rd!** It's the day that nonprofits, like LWVKA and LWVMI, come together to raise awareness and encourage support for our mission and work.

LWVKA and LWVMI serve Kalamazoo and the state of Michigan by *Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.*

In 2020 our volunteers and donors will be supporting our work through various voter service activities including high school student voter education and registration as well as mock elections, sponsorship and hosting of candidate forums, publishing of print voter guides and online Vote411.org, and educating voters about the importance of a complete count census and participation in the independent redistricting commission as well as the ways that the new voting rights (no excuse absentee ballots, early voting, and election day voter registration) passed by voters in 2018 will make voting in 2020 that much easier.

Volunteers and donors will also be supporting the LWVKA's active Natural Resources Committee that is setting goals to help address and advocate for climate change at the local level, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee that is helping raise our awareness of issues that will help us build stronger relationships with organizations in our community we should be reaching to meet our mission, and our Promotion Committee that helps us extend our reach.

As you can see, from a complete count census to the independent redistricting commission to voting rights, climate change, and extending our mission to underserved areas of our community your support will make a difference on absolutely essential issues that will impact people in Kalamazoo and throughout the state of Michigan.

On December 3rd or anytime before year-end you can donate to our local League work at the lwvka.org website or send a check to LWVKA Treasurer P.O. Box 2106, Kalamazoo, MI 49003. If you wish to support the work of LWVMI as well, visit www.lwvmi.org and click on the Donate button.

On behalf of the board of the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area I thank you for considering a year-end gift to the LWVKA and LWVMI.

Very Best Wishes for the Holidays! 🎁



LWVUS Update

By Paula Manley


LWVUS is partnering with the American Library Association. The ALA prepares a tip sheet Preparing My Library for the 2020 Census for the libraries. They specifically name the LWV as a reliable community group.

The US Census Bureau for the 2020 Census has named LWVUS is an official partner organization. The League is listed as one of 750 national companies, corporations and non-profits.

The LWVUS Policy and Advocacy Team will host a webinar on lobbying tips and techniques on December 12, 2019 from 3-4 pm. Go to lwv.org League Management site to register.

Tune in to the Rose Parade on January 1, 2020 to see the League featured on the Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float. League President Chris Carson, League CEO Virginia Kase and direct line descendants of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony and Fredrick Douglas will ride on the float "A Bouquet of Suffrage Descendants".

The theme of the 100th Anniversary of the LWV is Women Power the Vote. Watch for more information about celebrating this milestone event in coming months.

SAVE THE DATE: The 54th National Convention of the LWVUS will be held June 25-28, 2020 in Washington, D.C. 


Program Planning

By Denise Hartsough, VP for Program

All LWVKA members are invited to plan our local League's 2020 program of study:

Saturday, January 25, 2020
10:30am-12:30pm
Parchment Community Library
401 S. Riverview Dr., Parchment 49004

Members will review our local positions and LWVUS positions. If attendees believe that League advocacy locally would be possible only with revision or addition of a position, attendees will recommend such a program of study to the LWVKA Board.

Coffee and tea provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share! 

Welcome New Members!

Sonya Barnard-Hollins

Nancy and Michael Dodge - GR Unit


Do you have information that needs to be updated? Please contact Membership Chair Kym Mulhern at kym.mulhern@gmail.com

Voting Rights and Redistricting Workshop

By Denise Hartsough, VP for Program

On November 14 over 60 people heard Assistant Secretary of State Heaster Wheeler highlight our enhanced voting rights in the wake of Proposal 3. Staff from the Secretary of State's office explained the importance and logistics of the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) put in place by Proposal 2. At least 15 audience members completed applications to serve on the CRC.

Thanks to the organizations that helped with this event:

Dougllass Community Association, El Concilio, Delta Sigma Theta, Disability Network SW Michigan, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives—Kalamazoo Chapter), Tendaji, Voters Not Politicians, Western Michigan University's WeVote. 

Your State League in Action!

By Denise Hartsough, VP for Program

- LWVMI will create a trained team to monitor implementation of the Citizens Redistricting Commission created by passage of Proposal 2. The team will attend CRC hearings, testify, utilize experts' evaluation of proposed maps, and, as needed, lobby and initiate legal action.
- The LWVMI Education Fund will again cover the \$6000 cost for VOTE411.org for all local Leagues in Michigan! We are fortunate, because not all State Leagues ensure availability of VOTE411.org to their state's local Leagues.
- LWVMI will hold regional workshops next spring—watch for details early in 2020!



WELCOME
New Members!

DEI Committee: December Highlights

By Millie Lambert

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee invites LWWKA members to explore resources from the LWWUS website: www.lww.org/league-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-continued-learning

Committee members are devoting time each meeting to reviewing and discussing articles, books, audio, and other resources at their monthly meeting. *The self assessment from the National League sent to the LWWKA Board, the LWWKA Education Fund and the DEI Committee* was due December 1. Your responses matter. Please send your self-assessment to Millie Lambert.

The next DEI Committee meeting is 6:30pm, **January 22**, at St. Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd. *The regular December meeting is cancelled.* Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend the regular meetings.

DEIC Events to Consider:

The DEI Committee compiles a list of community events that may be of interest to LWWKA members. If you learn of an event that should be included here, send the information to Millie Lambert at 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 the KIA

Inside Our Minds: Hidden Biases

Dec. 6 8:30am-3:30pm YMCA of Kalamazoo \$15 fee

Paul Solomon on Paul Robeson

Talk by WMU art professor Paul Solomon Dec. 10 KIA, at Noon. FREE

The i Series and Other Shorts by Darius

Short films by Darius including his i Series. Stephen Cole will be showcasing his film *Please Breathe*. Dec. 12 6:30pm KIA

I Finally Saw the Italian Renaissance Theatres (and Their Silent Ghost Audiences)

Talk by Kalamazoo College Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts Ed Mentaller Dec. 17 KIA. Noon. Free

Conversations with White People: Talking about Race

A Facebook site where conversations are shared.

DEIC Events to Consider - January

Reading Race Book Group - January 14, 6:30 pm, Downtown Central Library. Book group cosponsored by the **Society for History and Racial Equity** (SHARE) and KPL's Antiracism Transformation Team, focuses on race and racism in American society. In January they will discuss *Kindred* by Octavia Butler.

MLK Celebration: Public School Visitation - WMU Bernhard Center Ballroom January 18, 8:45 a.m. registration, community organization tables, and MLK memorabilia display. For accommodations and further information contact Scott Hennessy at scott.hennessy@wmich.edu

National Day of Racial Healing January 21, 2020
2pm Healing Circles 6pm Truth Talks & Community Celebration more details at kalfound.org

Race in America - A 400 Year Journey: Pulling Back the Curtain - What They Didn't Teach Us in School: Two-day workshop by SHARE. Bronson Gilmore Center for Health; Friday, January 24, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm and Saturday, January 25, 2020, 8:30am - 1:00 pm, cost \$35 (includes Friday dinner, Saturday continental breakfast, lunch and all materials), limited scholarships available, registration deadline January 10, 2020.

Jazz Speaks for Life: Remembering MLK & The Civil Rights Movement. All ages, family event. January 25, 2:00 pm, Central Library Rotunda. The Jazz and Creative Institute performs big band jazz tunes composed by Black musicians during a time of great protest and change to honor the struggles and triumphs of Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists of the day.

WMU and Kalamazoo Public School District Social Justice Art and Social Justice Book Bowl Competitions, January 27, 2020

- Art Competition featuring original artwork. Top ten finalists will be part of traveling exhibit.
- Social Justice Book Bowl Elimination Competition. 4:30pm at Linden Grove Middle School. For further information, contact Lauren Carney (Lauren. carney@wmich.edu, 387-2129).



LWVKA Education Fund Board of Directors

Jessica Reiser, *Chairperson*
jcreiser@comcast.net

Susan Atkinson, *Vice Chair*
sls.atkinson@gmail.com

Paula Aldridge, *Treasurer*
paula.mae.aldridge@gmail.com

Eileen Schoenfield, *Secretary*
benziedoc1@gmail.com

Rebekah Fennell, *Secretary*
rsfennell@sbcglobal.net

Dennis Elmer, *Director*
dgelmer@comcast.net

Tanya Potter, *Director*
lepottter1224@gmail.com


Get Ready to Celebrate!

By Fran Eckenrode

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of voting rights for women in the United States as well as the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. In honor of the centennial celebration, a League-sponsored exhibit at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will open in mid-December and run through March. Plan to attend and learn more about the fight for women's voting rights, and the founding and first 100 years of the League of Women Voters. Museum hours are Monday thru Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 1-5. A special reception for Leaguers is being planned. The date will be announced in the near future.

Look for the article introducing our exhibit in the next Kalamazoo Valley Museum publication "museON". 

Year End Donations

As you make your year end charitable donations, remember LWVKA. With your gift to LWVKA, you are helping to support our efforts to Make Democracy Work in our community. You may choose to donate to the General Fund, tax deductible Education Fund or tax-deductible Endowment Fund either online at lwvka.org or by sending a check to LWVKA Treasurer P.O. Box 2106 Kalamazoo, MI 49003. 

Officers:

Fran Eckenrode
Co-President
feckenr@gmail.com

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
Co-President
moburkey30@gmail.com

Chris Kuthe
VP Organization
ckuthe57@yahoo.com

Denise Hartsough
VP Program
denise.hartsough@gmail.com

Paula Aldridge
Treasurer
paula.mae.aldridge@gmail.com

Aedin Clements
Secretary
aedinclements@gmail.com

Kym Mulhern
Membership Chair
kym.mulhern@gmail.com

Board Members:

Courtney Winell
winell22@hotmail.com

Sabrina Pritchett-Evans
sabrina.pritchett-evans.gh1k@statefarm.com

Debbie Phillips
dphillips@siriusco.com

Millie Lambert
millielambert3922@gmail.com

Alison Parsons
alisonparsonsmi@gmail.com

Jules Isenberg-Wedel
julesisenbergwedel@gmail.com

KC Miller
aakcmiller@yahoo.com

Paula Manley
pjmanley@hotmail.com

Terry Hluchyj
hluchyberg@aol.com