

## Calendar

### February 2020

- 3 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 13 Promotion Committee**  
Biggby Coffee on Stadium Dr., 7pm
- 10 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 15 Founders Day Brunch**  
Fetzer Center, 10-Noon
- 17 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**  
St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30

### March 2020

- 2 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 9 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 10 Presidential Primary Election**
- 25 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**  
St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30
- 31 LWVKA Book Discussion Group**  
7pm, Kzoo Books, Parkview Ave.

### April 2020

- 6 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 13 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 20 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**  
St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30

### May 2020

- 4 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 11 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 26 LWVKA Book Discussion Group**  
7pm, Kzoo Books, Parkview Ave.
- 27 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**  
St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30

## President's Column

*Fran Eckenrode, Co-President*

### Happy 100th Birthday League of Women Voters!

In 2020 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the US and the founding of the League of Women Voters. This is an occasion to reflect on why the League was founded, what the League has accomplished in 100 years, and what lies ahead.

Our League recently sponsored a display at the Parchment Community Library featuring LWVKA history and artifacts. And, at the Portage District Library, a video display tells of women's struggle for the vote and the founding of the League of Women Voters.

On January 18, a reception was held at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum to mark the opening of our display "The League of Women Voters: First 100 Years". In this display a timeline traces the history of the women's suffrage movement and the milestones of the League from 1920-2020. Museum visitors viewed a short film titled "Fighting for the Vote – Women's Suffrage in America" and enjoyed a narrated photo documentary of the women's suffrage movement. The Museum's online magazine museON included an article in the winter edition: *League of Women Voters: First 100 Years* "EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY."

Do you know the relationship between the abolitionist movement and the suffragist movement? Did you know that passage of the 15th amendment granting black men the right to vote caused a rift in women's suffrage organizations? Did you know that black women and other **citizens of color were effectively disenfranchised until the 1965 Voting Rights Act**? Visit our LWVKA displays and learn more.

This year the **Founders Day Brunch** will be **February 15** at the Fetzer Center. It is a very special occasion to celebrate the founding of our League. Participants will have the opportunity to hear about current LWVKA program activities and volunteer opportunities. **Plan to join in and help build on the future and strengthen our democracy in the next 100 years!** 🗳️



The LWV 100 Years display at the Portage Public Library

# LWVUS UPDATE


By Paula Manley

Virginia recently became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. LWVUS has sent letters the U.S. Senate and House urging passage of **SJ Res 6** and **HJ Res 79** to remove the ratification deadline. The LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices to discuss passage of SJ Res 6. **LWVUS has joined the ERA Coalition as a partner.**



To celebrate the League's 100 years on February 14th, LWVUS is calling for a Day of Action with the theme **Women Power the Vote**. Leagues around the country are planning activities to highlight our 100th Anniversary.

The 2020 Presidential Candidate guides will be available on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). The League of Women Voters **Education Fund has created a unique guide for all 50 states and D.C.** Voters will be able to read candidate biographical information as well as questions and responses.

**Save The Date!** The 54th National Convention will be **June 25-28, 2020 in Washington, D.C.** Attending National Convention is a wonderful opportunity to network with League members from around the country. 

## Making Democracy Work in Michigan!

Denise Hartsough, VP Program

### Citizens Redistricting Commission

**You can apply to serve!** Retrieve the application at [www.redistrictingapplication.sos.state.mi.us](http://www.redistrictingapplication.sos.state.mi.us). It takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Commissioners will be compensated over \$40,000 for their service. No special expertise is required. The State Constitution does require that you sign the application in the presence of a notary. All Michigan SOS offices offer free notary services for this application. Your local city, county, or township clerk offers free notary services or will provide you with information about where to find free notarization.


### Online Voter Registration

We can now register to vote or update our voter registration online at [www.michigan.gov/voterregistration](http://www.michigan.gov/voterregistration). The secure online voter registration tool is available to citizens with a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID card. **Michigan residents without these documents can learn how to register by visiting the site.** All other methods of voter registration, including registration by mail, remain available. **To check your voter registration, visit:** [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).



### 2020 Census


Questions about the upcoming Census? Check out this PSA, *Census Made Simple* at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tunMBo2GifQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tunMBo2GifQ) or review this flyer, *Census 101: The Basics* at [www.nonprofitvote.org/nonprofit/census-101-basics](http://www.nonprofitvote.org/nonprofit/census-101-basics)

**The Census Bureau is hiring!** It offers pay rates of up to **\$24/hour**, flexible hours and paid training. Positions include: Census taker, recruiting assistance, office staff and supervisory staff. To apply, see <https://2020census.gov/jobs>. For more information, call 1-855-JOB-2020. 

## LWV Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting

By Ruth Caputo

The annual meeting for LWV Lake Michigan Region was hosted by Michigan in 2019 with **Chris Zilke** (LWV Berrien/Cass Counties) and **Ruth Caputo** (LWVKA) serving as co-chairs. The meeting was held October 25-26 with the theme "*The Great Lakes and Groundwater*" at the historic Lakeside Inn in Lakeside, Michigan. Attendees from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan numbering 70, filled the inn to capacity and set a record for recent LWVLMR annual meetings. Members from LWVKA attending included **Kay** and **Rick Anderson** and **Georgiann McWilliams**.

Keynote speaker **Liz Kirkwood** representing *For Love of Water (FLOW)* spoke on "*Groundwater: The Sixth Great Lake*". She spoke about the challenges currently facing Lake Michigan emphasizing contamination of groundwater. The theme was continued by **Suzanne Dixon** (former LWVMI NR chair) and **David Mueller** (environmental lawyer, Guscott Mueller Law, LLC in Chicago) speaking on "*PFAS and the Michigan Response*". Field trips included a presentation by the Pokagon band of Potawatomi on their environmental programs and trips to the Galien River County Park and Galien River Sanitary District. Next year's LWVLMR annual meeting will be held in Indiana. 

*Gifts in Honor*

**Millie Lambert**  
in honor of

**Debbie Phillips**

# DEI Committee Meeting

## January Highlights

By Millie Lambert

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

Committee members are devoting time each meeting to reviewing and discussing these articles, books and audio as well as other resources at their monthly meetings. The DEI self-assessment of LWWKA was completed by 45.7 % of 35. The results were reviewed and discussed at our last meeting. The results and committee recommendations will be presented to the LWWKA Board.

The next meeting of the DEI Committee will be held at **6:30pm** on **February 17** at St. Martin Church on Nichols Rd. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend the regular meetings.

## DEI Events to Consider: FEBRUARY

The DEIC compiles this list of community events that may be of interest to the LWWKA membership. If you learn of an event that should be included here, send the information to Millie Lambert at [millielambert3922@gmail.com](mailto:millielambert3922@gmail.com).

**Conversations with White People: Talking about Race.** This is a public Facebook site where conversations are shared. Facebook also has similar sites for other groups.

**"Beyond the Dream III"**, a deeper look at the perspectives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Free. Feb. 4, 10am – 1:30pm. Pre-event networking from 10–11am, KVCC, Texas Township Campus, Rm. 4240. For more information, contact Trice Batson, [tbatson@kvcc.edu](mailto:tbatson@kvcc.edu) or Kevin Lavender, Jr. at [klavender@kvcc.edu](mailto:klavender@kvcc.edu).

**Intelligent Lives (film)** Feb. 4, 9:30-11am, Van Buren ISD Conference Center, 430 S.Paw Paw St. Free. From award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib comes the film *Intel-*

*ligent Lives*, a catalyst to transform the label of "intellectual disability" from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systemically segregated people in America. Pre-register on line or contact Miranda at (269)345-1516 x120; this is a fragrance free environment, so do NOT wear scented products to this event.

**Patient No More: People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights.** Feb. 9–June 7, Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Uncover the stories behind a moment in history when people with disabilities successfully held protests to get Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 signed into law.

**Civil Rights for People with Disabilities.** Feb 9, 1:30-2:30 pm, KVM; part of the KVM Sunday Series to kick-off a new exhibition about disability rights. Disability Network of Southwest Michigan will provide an insightful look at the history of activism by people with disabilities and allies to secure the civil rights guaranteed to all Americans.

**Body Diversity (Dialogue).** Feb. 12, noon to 1:30pm Multicultural Center in the Adrian Trimpe Building, WMU. This participatory dialogue will feature the critical topic of body diversity, which centers the historically marginalized, and is distinguished from 'body positivity'. As described by Evette Dionne, "Body positivity used to be a means of celebrating bodies that have been maligned, but now excludes the very people who built momentum for the movement."

*The Green Book: Guide to Freedom*, KIA Feb. 13, 6:30pm admission cost to museum. This Smithsonian Channel documentary tells the real story of the Green Book, which helped African-Americans navigate safe passage across America from the 1930s-1960s. Discussion after the screening. Co-organized with the Black Arts and Cultural Center and the Arbus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College.

**Immigration and Human Rights: 2020 Asylum Update.** Feb. 24, 6pm, KPL Oshtemo Branch. "Migrant Protection Protocols, Asylum Bans" Credible Fear Interviews, Third Country Transit restrictions." Since June 2018, there have been many new attempts to limit asylum protections in the United States. Why? What do these changes mean

and what do they imply for individuals seeking protection in the United States from violence and persecution on account of race, religion, political opinion and other protected grounds? This presentation will go beyond the headlines and soundbites to explore the law and regulations regarding asylum, highlight trends in U.S. asylum policy, and provide an overview of the asylum process. This presentation does not presuppose any knowledge of immigration law and all are welcome. Presented by Kathy Purcell, Justice for Our Neighbors-Michigan, Kalamazoo Office.

**Far From the Tree** – Feb. 25 2-4pm, Disability Network – Community Building, 517 E. Crosstown Parkway. *Far from the Tree* examines the experiences of families in which parents and children are profoundly different from one another in a variety of ways. (NOTE: This film contains adult themes.) This event is part of the 2020 Winter Movie & Discussion Series. Please pre-register on line or contact Miranda (269)345-1516 x120. These are fragrance-free events, please do not wear scented products.

**Untold Civil Rights Stories (Dialogue)** Feb. 25, 5:30-7:30pm, Multicultural Center in the Adrian Trimpe Building, WMU. This dialogue will be centered on civil rights activists (and groups of activists) who are traditionally not centered in historical accounts or popular culture. Join them to learn and share your knowledge about individuals who have contributed greatly to our history!

## BOOKS

Danielle M. McGuire (2010), *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Race and Resistance –A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power.*





# Centennial Celebration Update

By Chris Kuthe, Linda Timm, and Fran Eckenrode



January was a month for celebration. In addition to the Women's March and Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we celebrated the beginning of 2020, the centennial year of ratification of the 19th amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters

A formal reception was held on January 18th to mark the opening of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum display, "League of Women Voters – The First 100 Years". Touring the 2nd floor display, refreshments, and viewing the short film "Fighting for the Vote, Women's Suffrage in America" were highlights of the reception. The Museum will screen the 30-minute film, "Fighting for the Vote..." in the theater on **February 12 & 26 at 12:15pm**. A 3-minute film will loop every Sunday afternoon through the end of March in the Think Tank on the second floor. You can also take a selfie next to suffragettes posting meeting notices at the entrance to the local history area. Museum hours are 9 to 5 Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 on Sunday. **Admission is free.**

A LWVKA display commemorating the Centennial is also available **at the Portage District Library**. It includes a continuous PowerPoint video featuring the struggles and progress of women's suffrage and the history of the formation of the League of Women Voters and will be shown during the months of **January and February**.

Please plan to visit the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and Portage District Library to view these engaging displays and celebrate the first hundred years of the League. 📍

## Founders Day Brunch

By Chris Kuthe

You are cordially invited to our Founders Day Brunch, on **February 15th**, celebrating 100 years of the League of Women Voters. Please come and bring a friend who may want to join the League. There is **no charge for potential members or new members** who have joined in the last year. Cost for members is \$18. This event will be a time to socialize and discover new opportunities to get involved. By now you should have received an invitation by email and U.S. mail. **If you did not**, please contact Chris Kuthe at [ckuthe57@yahoo.com](mailto:ckuthe57@yahoo.com)

Please **RSVP** for the brunch **by February 10th**. 📍

## Let's Get Out The Vote — 2020!

By Debbie Phillips

Studies have shown that **voter turnout increases by 18% - 42% through civic engagement**, while same-day registration and no-reason absentee voting **further increase voter engagement**. The League is in a unique position to assist toward increasing turnout, through exposure and education, in a non-partisan manner.

To encourage voters to register to vote and cast their ballots under Michigan's expanded voting laws, the **Promotion Committee will be holding 2020 Voter Registration and Education tables throughout the county**. We are seeking volunteers to assist with 2 hour time slots during weekend and evening hours. Venues will range from Farmer's Markets to evening entertainment venues. All information needed to answer voter questions is provided, and schedules are flexible. A Promotion Committee member will be available at all tables. **If you are not currently engaging in League activities, this is a great way to get involved and make an impact toward voter turnout.**

The Promotion Committee is also **seeking volunteers to assist with phone calls** to local organizations to build our outreach program. If you have a few hours to volunteer this year, please contact **Debbie Phillips** [dphillips@siriusco.com](mailto:dphillips@siriusco.com) or Fran Eckenrode [feckenr@gmail.com](mailto:feckenr@gmail.com), or visit us during the Founder's Day brunch.

Members are welcome to **join us for our February 13 meeting** – 7pm at Biggby on Stadium Drive. 📍

# WELCOME New Members!

**Karen Legault**  
1347 Patterson Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-285-3249  
[dklegault@att.net](mailto:dklegault@att.net)

**The new Membership Directory is in the works!** Do you have information that needs to be updated? Please contact Membership Chair Kym Mulhern at [kym.mulhern@gmail.com](mailto:kym.mulhern@gmail.com). 📍



# 2020: A Busy Year for the Grand Rapids Unit!

By Courtney Winell

The Grand Rapids Public Library Main Branch has an extensive collection of historical documents related to the work of the League of Women Voters in Grand Rapids dating back to the formation of the League. There are also several other collections that contain documents related to the women's suffrage movement in Grand Rapids. On January 18, members of the Grand Rapids Unit met at the Grand Rapids Public Library to review information that will be helpful to compile the history document that is required as part of the paperwork needed to apply for MAL (Member at Large) status.

Throughout 2020 the Grand Rapids Unit will be working on education throughout the community to ensure that all voters understand the changes that occurred as a result of the passage of **Proposal 3 in 2018**. On January 23, members of the Grand Rapids Unit met with the Plainfield Township Clerk and Deputy Clerk to discuss **what is being done to educate voters on the changes, and how the League can assist with education**. The group devised a plan during the meeting to provide outreach and education during this important election year.

February 14 marks the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters, and local Leagues are being asked to **celebrate this monumental milestone with a Day of Action**. The Grand Rapids Unit will be partnering with KDL (Kent District Libraries) to provide voter registration and education in all KDL branches on this day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Courtney Winell** at winell22@hotmail.com or 616.430.6445. 📞



Members of the Grand Rapids Unit with the Plainfield Township Clerk and Deputy Clerk

# Thank You Volunteers!

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

I would like to include a thank you to those who hosted voter registration and education tables at KVCC and the WMU MLK event during January:

Debbie Phillips  
Cheryl Rodbard  
Fran Eckenrode  
Denise Hartsough  
Paula and Keith Aldridge  
Martha Cohen



# Do You Receive *The Voter* by Mail?

By Tamara L. Carpenter

If you are still receiving a printed copy of *The Voter* through the U.S. Mail, please consider opting into receiving it by emailed. There are benefits for you, and the League!

We do our best to get the LWVKA news you need formatted and printed in time for it to reach you through the U.S. mail. But sometimes there are factors that delay this process, and you may miss important time-sensitive news or events. It also saves the League money if we can print and stamp fewer paper issues.

If you'd like to start having *The Voter* come to your inbox instead of your mailbox, please send an email to Kym Mulhern, Membership Chair: [kym.mulhern@gmail.com](mailto:kym.mulhern@gmail.com). 📧



# 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 and Grand Rapids area, your advertising dollars also help support the League's important work! 📧

“  
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