



## Calendar

### March 2020

- 2 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 5 Voter Registration**  
Creston Plaza 9-noon and  
Campau Commons 2-5, Grand Rapids
- 8 Fountain St. Church Annual Women's Day Service**  
10-2, Grand Rapids
- 9 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 10 Presidential Primary Election**
- 11 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting**, 10am, Gull Road Starbucks
- 22 GR Justice Choir Concert**  
"Your Vote. Your Voice 4pm
- 25 LWVKA DEICommittee Meeting**  
St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30
- 31 LWVKA Book Discussion Group**  
7pm, Kzoo Books, Parkview Ave.  
**Absentee Voting Presentation**  
Mt Mercy Senior Apts Grand Rapids, at 2:30pm

### April 2020

- 6 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 8 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting**  
10am, Gull Rd. Starbucks
- 13 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm
- 20 LWVKA DEICommittee Meeting**  
St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30
- 25 LWVMI Spring workshop**  
Mt. Pleasant, 9am-3pm
- 30 Voting Rights and Redistricting Workshop**  
Parchment Library, 6:30 -8pm

### May 2020

- 4 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm
- 5 Special Election**
- 11 LWVKA Annual Meeting**  
Fetzer Center

## President's Column

*MerriKay Oleen-Burkey, Co-President*

### New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

At the recommendation of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area (LWVKA) board voted at its February meeting to adopt the DEI Policy proposed for all levels of LWV by LWVUS and adopted by the LWVMI.

#### Our new policy reads as follows:

*LWVKA is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.*

*There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical experience, political perspective or affiliation, and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.*

*This new DEI policy and the term definitions will be posted on our website (lwvka.org) for your reference. Share any thoughts about this policy with me (moburkey30@gmail.com) or with Millie Lambert (millielambert3922@gmail.com), Chair of the DEI committee.*

#### Reminder: 2020 Census is Coming

This month Michigan households will begin receiving census questionnaires. Ten items such as name, gender, age, birthday, race/ethnicity, relationship to head-of-household, owner or renter and phone number are asked. The census questionnaire will not include a citizenship question, after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked an attempt to add one. Everyone in the household needs to be counted, including children.

In 2020, the census form is easier than ever to complete. You can respond online in one of thirteen languages using a unique Census ID that will be mailed to you. If you don't have Internet access, you can respond by phone in a language of choice. Telecommunications help will be available for the deaf. Mailed forms can be completed in English or Spanish. Forms will also be available in large print and in Braille. Beginning on May 13th, anyone who has not responded can expect a knock on the door from a census "enumerator" who will try to count them in person. That will continue into the summer to ensure that everyone is counted by July 31st.

How is the census information used? The number of people in a community determines the amount of money allotted for creating jobs, providing housing, funding K-12 education, preparing for emergencies and building schools, roads, hospitals and libraries. Census data also determine how many seats

## LWVUS UPDATE

By Paula Manley

The LWVUS Board has set legislative priorities for the 2020 session of Congress. They include:

1. Campaign for Making Democracy Work with special emphasis on redistricting campaign, voting rights protection, and promoting public financing under money in politics:
2. ERA and removal of the ratification deadline: and
3. Watchdog: Respond strategically on issues with LWV positions when needed related to climate change, gun safety, and immigration.



Check out the History Page on the [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) website which features a new interactive historical timeline of the League's achievements over the past 100 years.

The National Archives has issued the first video in a series about the women's suffrage movement which features LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase. [🔗](#)

## LWVMI Resources on Voting Rights

Denise Hartsough, VP Program

Check for yourself and share with others these great resources on voting rights that League volunteers around the state have identified or created:

**FAQ on the March 10 Presidential Primary** from the Bureau of Elections: [www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Voters\\_QA\\_MIPresPrim\\_pdf\\_674003\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Voters_QA_MIPresPrim_pdf_674003_7.pdf)

**Know Your Voting Rights** booklet from the ACLU of Michigan: [www.michiganvoting.org/](http://www.michiganvoting.org/)

**Two-page primer on voting rights from LWVMI:** <https://lwvmi.org/member/documents/2020VoterInfoflyerforMDWjan17.pdf>

**Remember, poll workers are needed!** Residence in the precinct is not required—just to be a registered voter. Contact your local city or township clerk for more information.

### 2020 Census: How You Can Help!

Census figures serve as the basis for federal funding to our state. For every person uncounted, Michigan stands to lose \$1800 for the next 10 years!

Census figures also affect the number of seats our state has in Congress, and the redistricting of our State Legislative House and Senate districts.

To help ensure that every person is counted, you can volunteer as an aide at organizations in the commu-

nity where residents may need assistance to complete the Census form online. Training is provided, and you can sign up for as many or as few shifts as will fit your schedule. Volunteers are needed from March 12th through April 3rd.

To sign up or learn more, please email [denise.hartsough@gmail.com](mailto:denise.hartsough@gmail.com) or call 269-599-1801. [🔗](#)

## 2020 LWVMI Spring Workshop

By Paula Manley

Spring is on its way and time to think about the 2020 LWVMI Spring Workshop. This year we are offering a day long Saturday Workshop at two different locations—Mt. Pleasant on April 25th and Escanaba on May 16th. Plan to attend to network with other Local Leagues and learn more about How to Make Democracy Work in your League and community with sessions on DEI, Local League Development/ Fundraising, Voter Service and Advocacy.

Registration will be open on the LWVMI Website in mid-March—watch for your opportunity to register to attend. Cost for the day which includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials will be \$25. [🔗](#)

## Annual Meeting Date Set

By Chris Kuthe

The LWVKA Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11th at the Fetzer Center at 6:00 pm. We will discuss and vote on important League matters. Our speaker will be Suzanne Dixon. Her presentation is entitled, "Great Lakes Challenges and Solutions." This program will discuss the value of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, citizen support and trending environmental issues in Michigan. Please join us. [🔗](#)



### Gifts in Memory

#### In Memory of...

#### Yolanda Mitts

Susan Atkinson  
Paula Aldridge  
Jessica Reiser  
Diane Worden  
Judy & Jeff Aisen



# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Meeting & Events:

The 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](http://www.lww.org/league-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-continued-learning).

The next meeting will be held at **6:30 P.M. on Wed., Mar. 25, 2020**, at St. Martin of Tours Church on Nichols Rd., Kalamazoo. Anyone, who is interested, is encouraged to attend the regular meetings.

## DEI March Events to Consider:

The DEI Committee compiles this list that may be of interest to the LWWKA membership. If you learn of information that should be included here, send it to [millielambert3922@gmail.com](mailto:millielambert3922@gmail.com).

**Africans in America: America's Journey through Slavery** – a four-part PBS program, available on YouTube, Amazon and on DVD at the WMU library Watch part 1 for valuable historical info. It is a meticulously researched narrative history of America from the 1607 landing in Jamestown to the brink of the Civil War. It tells the shared history of Africans and Europeans as seen through the lens of slavery told from the point of view of the Africans.

**Lovehasnolabels.com.** This site has an abundance of materials covering DEI in depth. It provides information, activities to address DEI issues, and illustrates what media campaigns and other efforts are underway.

### Ableism 101 – Everything You Know About Disability is (Probably) Wrong!

- Battle Creek, United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, 34 Jackson St., Suite 4 B, Battle Creek, Tues., Mar. 3, 2020, 9:00-11:30 am. See description below.
- Disability Network – Community Bldg., 517 E. Crosstown Pkwy., Kal., Wed., Mar. 4, 2020, 9:00-11:30 am. Free. This workshop introduces the basic concepts of ableism and explores how the language we use can either support equality or perpetuate stigma. Learn how to support the disability rights and the disability justice community of SWMI. Pre-register on line or contact Miranda at (269) 345-1516 x120.

**Ableism 102 – Next Steps in Dismantling Ableism** – Kalamazoo, Disability Network Community Building-Kalamazoo, 517 E. Crosstown Pkwy., Thurs., March 5, 2020, 4:30-8:00 pm. Free This workshop builds on what you learned in Ableism 101. *Prereq-*

*uisite Ableism 101.* Pre-register on line or contact Miranda at (269)345-1516 x120.

### Condors, Eagles, and Allies: A Conversation About Movement, Ecology, and Immigrant Rights –

March 12, 2020, 7 p.m., 2452 Knauss Hall, WMU.

NellyFuentes and Sergio Cira-Reyes, volunteer organizers for Movimiento Cosecha, and Susan E. Reed, attorney at the MI Immigrant Rights Center, will present a conversation reflecting on local victories for immigrant rights.



**ARTbreak** – Tues., Mar. 17, 2020, noon, Free, video *Women Art Revolution*, (KIA). To celebrate Women's History Month, see an entertaining and revelatory secret history of feminist art. The documentary also touches on the gender politics of the art world. Includes adult content.

**ARTbreak** – Tues., Mar. 24, 2020, noon, Free, video *Women Art Revolution*, part 2, KIA.

**The Peanut Butter Falcon** – Disability Network Community Building, 517 E. Crosstown Pkwy, Wed., Mar. 18, 2020, 2-4:00 pm. Free. The story of a man who has Down Syndrome and who, after running away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler, befriends an outlaw who becomes his coach and ally. Please pre-register on line or contact Miranda at (269)345-1516x120.

**The Peanut Butter Falcon** – St. Joseph, Disability Network – St. Joseph Office, 2900 Lakeview Ave., St. Joseph, Thurs., Mar. 19, 2020, 2:00-4:00 pm. See details above.

**Who Cares About Kelsey** – VanBuren ISD Conf. Ctr., 490 S. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, Tues., Mar. 24, 2020, 9:30-11:00 am. Free. Documents the lives of students with emotional/behavioral challenges; shows innovative educational approaches that help these students to succeed – while improving the overall school culture and climate. Please pre-register on line or contact Miranda at (269)345-1516x120.

### 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.*

Patrisse Kahn-Cullors and AshaBande (2018), *When They Call You A Terrorist, A Black Lives Matter Memoir.*

“  
The next DEI meeting  
will be held at 6:30 P.M.  
on Wed., Mar. 25, 2020  
”



## Grand Rapids Unit

By Courtney Winell

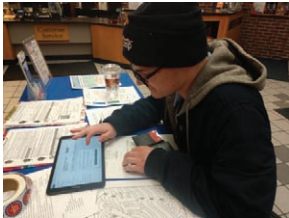
On February 14th, the Grand Rapids Unit joined League's across the country in the National Day of Action to commemorate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters. KDL library branches throughout Kent County hosted LWV members who offered library patrons an opportunity to register to vote and have all of their voting related questions answered. Thank you to KDL for your willingness to host LWV once again!




The Grand Rapids Unit is working to raise funds to be able to support the activities of the League throughout this busy year and beyond. On February 25, the Grand Rapids Unit held a fundraiser at Panera. A portion of sales during the specified period were donated to the Grand Rapids Unit when customers presented the fundraising flyer. Thank you to everyone who shared this event to increase awareness and those that came out to support LWV.



On March 8, the Grand Rapids Unit has been invited to participate in the International Women's Day Service and Expo at Fountain Street Church. This event will take place from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm. Join us and other organizations for a festive Worship Service in the Sanctuary featuring an International Welcome of Women's Voices, a Native Tribal Drumming Group, Women Spiritual Leaders, the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus, a Global Teen Activists Presentation, and more.



We are pleased to announce that the Grand Rapids Unit has been selected as the featured partner for the Grand Rapids Justice Choir's Annual Concert titled "Your Vote. Your Voice." Join us for a multimedia community concert on the importance of exercising our right to vote. This concert will take place on March 22 at 4:00 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church (1100 Lake Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506) This concert is free, however there will be a freewill offering to benefit the League of Women Voters. 

## 2020 Membership Directories

By Kym Mulhern, Membership Chair

If we have an email address on file with the LWV-KA, you should have received a digital copy of the 2020 Membership Directory in your inbox. (If we don't have an email address for you, you'll receive a printed copy in the mail within the next few weeks.) Please check your listing in the directory and forward any changes to Kym Mulhern, Membership Chair, [kym.mulhern@gmail.com](mailto:kym.mulhern@gmail.com). 

Empowering Voters.  
Defending Democracy.

## Welcome New Members!

By Kym Mulhern, Membership Chair

Please extend a hearty welcome to the following new members of the League of Women Voters - Kalamazoo:

Katrina Allemang  
Virgie Ammerman  
Jennifer Aniano  
Denise and Eric Ashman  
Barbara David  
Michael Fedewa  
Laura Jaeger  
Karen Kalnins  
Lori Kline-Closson  
Debra Lagasse  
Kathleen Lambrix  
Lora LeMaire  
Carol McGlenn  
Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki  
Christine Morse  
Megan Mullins  
Katherine O'Bryan  
Patricia Olsen  
Magdalena Rivera (GR unit)  
Madeleine Socia

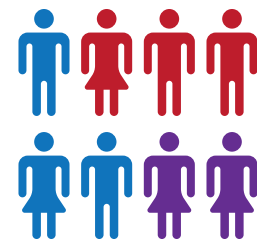
**WELCOME**  
*New Members!*

**MICHIGAN'S  
PRIMARY ELECTION:**

**MARCH 10**

Polls are open from 7am-8pm  
*You can also vote early/absentee now*

**Make your voice heard. Vote.**





# Nominating Committee Slate

By Kay Anderson

The following LWVKA members have accepted nominations for Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee for the 2020-2021 LWVKA Board. Voting occurs at the Annual Meeting on May 11, 2020.

Co-President (1yr) Merrikay Oleen-Burkey

Co-President (1yr) Fran Eckenrode

V.P. Program (2yr) Denise Hartsough

Treasurer (2yr) Paula Aldridge

Board Members (2yr) Millie Lambert

Jules Isenberg-Wedel

Jennifer Snyder

Open

Board Members (1yr) Barbara Dircks

Open

Nominating (1yr) Kay Anderson

KC Miller

Regena Nelson

Current Nominating Committee members are Kay Anderson (269-649-2461 or kander314@aol.com), off-board members Janet Jones, Jackie Wylie and Board members Denise Hartsough and KC Miller. 




**...at the Annual Meeting  
on May 11, 2020.**

# Book Group reads a Michigan book.

By Aedin Clements

The current book club selection, *The Women of the Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell, is a novel of the Calumet mining strike of 1913. We will gather to discuss the book in Kazoo Books on Parkview, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 31.

Copies of the book can be ordered from Kazoo Books — call them at 269-553-6506. Questions? Contact Aedin Clements: [aedinclements@gmail.com](mailto:aedinclements@gmail.com) 



## Advertise in The Voter!

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 Voter* during the year. Not only will you reach over 200 highly engaged, community-oriented League members in the Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids area, your advertising dollars also help support the League's important work!

YOUR COMPANY  
AD  
HERE

Grand Rapids  
**JUSTICE CHOIR**

PRESENTS

# YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE:

This is what democracy looks like!

March 22, 2020 ▪ 4:00pm  
 1100 Lake Dr SE, 49506

**FREE ENTRY**

Freewill offering to benefit

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
 OF THE GREATER GRAND RAPIDS AREA

FACEBOOK.COM/JUSTICECHOIRGR  
 JUSTICECHOIRGR@GMAIL.COM  
 JUSTICECHOIRGR.COM

BUDGET PROPOSAL  
LWV KALAMAZOO AREA  
**GENERAL FUND**

PROPOSED BUDGET YEAR JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021			
<b>REVENUES</b>			
	Individual, Business Contributions		3,000.00
	Education Fd donations (PayPal)		600.00
	Endowment Fd donations (PayPal)		600.00
	Membership Dues		12,000.00
	Meetings Income		3,500.00
	Wares Sales		300.00
	Advertising in Bulletin		50.00
	Interest Income		250.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>			<b>\$ 20,300.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
	Website		185.00
	Office Supplies		100.00
	Postage, PO Box		500.00
	Printing and copying		800.00
	Telephone		450.00
	The Voter Expenses		1,500.00
	Donations		100.00
	National PMP		6,400.00
	Michigan PMP		4,800.00
	PayPal fees		40.00
	Transfer to Education Fund		1,200.00
	Membership and dues		50.00
	Membership Recruitment		1,350.00
	Insurance (Directors & Officers)		100.00
	Sponsorship		50.00
	DEI Committee		30.00
	Development Committee		700.00
	Promotion Committee		100.00
	Meeting costs		5,000.00
	Grand Rapids Unit		500.00
	National/State Convention		2,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>			<b>\$ 26,455.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES</b>			<b>\$ (6,155.00)</b>
<b>BUDGETED DRAW FROM GENERAL FUND RESERVES</b>			<b>\$ 6,155.00</b>

## 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**, *Director*  
rebekah.fennell@gmail.com

**Dennis Elmer**, *Director*  
dgelmer@comcast.net

**Tanya Potter**, *Director*  
lepottter1224@gmail.com

## President's Column, Continued

each state will have in Congress. By law, individual-level census data cannot be shared with other agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Homeland Security Department. Before census data are published, they are stripped of all personal identifiable information. Census records are kept private for 72 years after which the National Archives releases them to the public to be used for genealogy.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to complete the census in 2020! 



Join us monthly for  
informative programs  
and legislative  
updates on issues  
facing older adults in  
our community.

Visit our website or Facebook page for  
meeting details and membership information:  
[www.kcasi.net](http://www.kcasi.net)

 [facebook.com/KalamazooCountyAdvocatesForSeniorIssues](https://facebook.com/KalamazooCountyAdvocatesForSeniorIssues)

## Officers:

**Fran Eckenrode**  
*Co-President*  
feckenr@gmail.com

**MerriKay Oleen-Burkey**  
*Co-President*  
miburkey30@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**  
debbiephillips001@gmail.com

**Millie Lambert**  
millielambert3922@gmail.com

**Jules Isenberg-Wedel**  
julesisenbergwedel@gmail.com

**KC Miller**  
aakcmiller@yahoo.com

**Paula Manley**  
pjmanley@hotmail.com

**Terry Hluchyj**  
hluchyberg@aol.com