

## Calendar

### May 2020

- 4 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
*Via Zoom, 7pm*
- 5 Special Election**
- 11 LWVKA Annual Business Meeting**  
*CANCELED due to Covid-19. Voting will take place through mail and email*
- 13 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting**  
*Via Zoom, 10am*
- 27 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**  
*St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30*

### June 2020

- 1 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
*St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm*
- 5 Centennial Display**  
*Ladies Library Association during Art Hop*
- 6 Do Dah Parade**  
*March with Ladies Library Association to celebrate 19th amendment — **Date Changed to Aug. 15***
- 8 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
*Walden Woods Clubhouse, 6pm*
- 10 LWVKA Development Committee**  
*Gull Rd. Starbucks, 10am*
- 15 LWVKA DEI Committee Meeting**  
*St Martin of Tours, Nichols Rd., 6:30-8:30*
- 25 National LWV Convention**
- 28** *Now a virtual convention due to Covid-19*

### July 2020

- 6 Grand Rapids Unit Monthly Meeting**  
*St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7pm*
- 9 Black Arts Festival**
- 14 Various locations throughout Kalamazoo**
- 8 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting**  
*Gull Rd. Starbucks, 10am*
- 13 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
*Walden Woods Condominium Clubhouse, 6pm*
- 28 LWVKA Book Discussion Group**  
*Kazoo Books, Parkview Ave, 7pm*



## President's Column

*Fran Eckenrode*

### Annual Meeting Business by Email & Ground Mail

COVID-19 has disrupted our lives but it will not stop our League from conducting business. At the April meeting the Board voted to suspend rules of order for the 2020 Annual Meeting and handle the annual business via email & regular mail instead of face-to-face. Local Leagues around the state are making similar arrangements to conduct annual meeting requirements of voting for candidates, and approving the budget and program.

Business will be conducted by two emails to membership. Those members without email will be addressed via regular mail.

The first email/ mailing will seek input from members and will include the following:

- Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Proposed Budget for 2020-2021
- Slate of Candidates
- List of Continuing Board Members, Budget Committee Members, and Nominating Committee Members

The proposed budget and slate of officers were published in the March and April issues of *The Voter* to allow member input. Members will have the additional opportunity to provide input before the second email/ mailing is sent.

The second email/ mailing will ask for everyone to vote to accept the minutes, the proposed budget, the slate of candidates, and to adopt the local program without changes. It will also include the following:

- Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (with corrections, if any) Vote
- Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 (with changes/clarifications if any) Vote
- Final Slate of Officers (including additional nominations if any) Vote
- Adoption of Local Program Without Changes Vote
- Education Fund Budget Report (Ed Fund Board approves this budget)

Please look for the first email/ mailing in early May and respond promptly with input you may have by the included date requested in each email/ mailing. The second email/ mailing will be sent later in May and ask everyone to respond with their vote. Voting instructions will be provided.

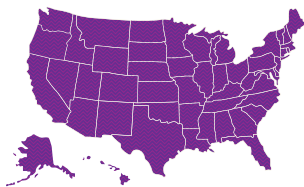
Thank you in advance for participating in this important activity. 

## 06.01.2020

**June 1** is the deadline to submit a notarized application for Citizens Redistricting Commission. All applicants are able to apply entirely online, including free online notary services and email submission of their application. Apply at: <https://redistrictingapplication.sos.state.mi.us>

## LWVUS UPDATE


By Paula Manley



LWVUS has announced that the National Convention scheduled for June 25-27 in Washington, DC will be a virtual event. Delegates will be receiving information regarding registration in early May.

*Advocacy Guidance for Virtual Transparency of Government Bodies* may be found at [lww.org/league-management](http://lww.org/league-management). This guidance will help Leagues advocate for open, transparent and accessible processes when working with government bodies during the COVID-19 and any future emergency situations requiring limited in-person contact.

LWVUS has joined with the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Democracy Initiative and more that 150 other organizations to support H. Res 908 and denouncing increased racist attacks and discrimination against the Asian American community.

Go to the League Management site at [lww.org](http://lww.org) for information about how to conduct virtual voter registration campaigns, host virtual meetings and other League activities during this challenging time. Information is being added and updated as new developments occur. 



## LWVMI Updates

Denise Hartsough, VP Program

### Court Victory!

A federal appeals court upheld denial of an injunction to halt the work of our state's new Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). Fifteen individuals challenged the constitutionality of the CRC's eligibility requirements for Commission members. A US District Court denied the request for an injunction in November 2019. On April 15th the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the denial, so the CRC moves ahead. Your State League filed an amicus brief in support of the CRC.

**Apply by June 1, 2020** to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission! Go to [RedistrictingMichigan.org](http://RedistrictingMichigan.org) for the form and a list of free notarization sites.


### Census 3 C's

Confidential, convenient and crucial — if you've completed the Census, you know the 3 C's describe it well. We Michiganders have made our state the 3rd most responsive in the US.

Let's strive for #1! Urge your networks of family and friends to fill out the Census form online. We now have until **October 1**, but the sooner, the better!

## Vote Absentee!

Remember to return your absentee ballot for the **May 5th** election! All voting is by mail.

Looking ahead to the August 4th primary election, check out the voting rights resources at: [michiganvoting.org](http://michiganvoting.org). The site features the helpful booklet, *Know Your Voting Rights*—in English, Spanish and Arabic. 

## New Members

By Kym Mullern

Please welcome the following new members to the League of Women Voters Kalamazoo:

Christine Babiasz

Mary Jo Byrne

Nancy & James Cracraft

C. Jeanie Hall

Sarah Joshi

Janice Lazar


Darlene Neidlinger

Cherie Riser

## GR Unit Updates

By Courtney Winell

How do you adapt the work of LWV and events that you have planned to this time of social distancing? This is been the question on everyone's mind as of late. There is so much important work to do this year with important elections, the Census, and so much more, and we can't afford to distance ourselves from this critical work while we remain physically distanced from other people.

Springtime is typically the time we visit area high schools to register students to vote and speak with them about the voting process. We have come up with a way to register voters in high schools while buildings are closed and students are doing distance learning. The Grand Rapids Unit members have been working with principals and teachers on this project. The goal is to encourage students to register to vote online as part of their distance learning curriculum. When the student finishes registering to vote online, they then send a screen shot to the GR Unit to prove success. All successfully registered students will receive a personalized certificate emailed from our unit, and an entry in the drawing for a Bigby gift card. For students who attempt to register but are too young to register at this time (they need to be 17.5 yrs. or older), and they send a screen shot of the message indicating that they are too young to register, they will also be entered in the drawing and be added to an e-mail list reminding them to register when old enough. 




# Kalamazoo County Climate Collaborative Meeting Quarterly

By *Connie Ferguson*

Kalamazoo County and several cities and townships within the county have adopted climate emergency resolutions that include calls for local responses. They have begun meeting quarterly under the umbrella of MSU Extension to learn what is happening elsewhere and to begin to develop local plans. Their second meeting, held online on April 21, featured a presentation from the Marquette Area.

**Emily Leach** is Chair of the Marquette Area's Climate Adaptation Task Force (CATF), which was established in 2013 "to help local leaders and the general public think proactively about the effects of climate change and to develop strategies that will make the Upper Peninsula more resilient and effective when dealing with the consequences of extreme weather events." She explained that CATF includes elected officials, local government staff, and representatives from non-profits, the community foundation, and higher education. MSU Extension has played a key role throughout. The full group meets quarterly, with various workgroups meeting throughout the year. Their workplan includes community resilience planning and implementation, seeking external funding, and providing education and outreach on climate resiliency.

**Brad Neumann**, Senior MSU Extension Educator, described the Marquette Area Climate and Health Adaptation Project, part of a nationwide effort. They are working to connect planning with public health in order to reduce the negative public health effects of climate change. Their Marquette Area Climate and Health Adaptation Guidebook documents community visions and concerns, recommends policies for adapting the built environment, and provides guidance for implementation. Areas of concern include disease-carrying vectors (ticks), air quality, emergency response capability, and extremes in drought and precipitation.

The Collaborative's meetings (whether in-person or virtual) are open to the public. To get on their email list, contact **Tyler Augst**, MSU Extension, [augsttyl@msu.edu](mailto:augsttyl@msu.edu). 

## DEI Meetings & Events:

By *Millie Lambert*

The DEI Committee invites members to explore resources from the LWVUS: [www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-continued-learning](http://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-continued-learning)

The March meeting was held via Zoom on April 20.

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 6:30pm.**

### DEI May Events to Consider:

Have an event or resource that should be included? Send it to [millielambert3922@gmail.com](mailto:millielambert3922@gmail.com).

**Due to current restrictions regarding gatherings, many events have been cancelled or postponed.**

**Advocacy Academy** – A six-week, paid summer program for individuals with disabilities who are between the age of 16–29. Provides training in advanced advocacy, leadership skills and job experience. Applications being accepted now. For more information see the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan newsletter *The Link*, March 2020.

**Assistance Animals** – Webinar, May 7, 1–2:30pm and May 28, 9–10:30am: learn the difference between Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals. For more information and to register, contact Disability Network Southwest Michigan 269-345-1516.

**Disability & Employment** – Webinar, May 13, 9:30–11:30am and May 21, 2–3:30pm: *How, When, and Why to Talk About Your Disability*. FREE. For more information contact the Disability Network: 269-345-1516

**Patient No More** – An exhibit curated by *The Institute on Disability*, now at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, focusing on the 504 Sit-in of 1977. A public reception celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be May 7, 3–5pm at the Museum.


**Peanut Butter Falcon** – Web Event, May 12, 1–3pm: online movie & discussion. Story of a man with Down syndrome who runs away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler. For more information and to register contact the Disability Network: 269-345-1516.

**Ableism 101** – Kalamazoo: June 3, 9–11:30am, Disability Network, 517 E. Crosstown Parkway. *Everything you know about Disability is (probably) wrong!* This workshop introduces the basic concepts of ableism and explores how the language we use can support equality, or perpetuate stigma. To pre-register contact Miranda 269-345-1516 x 120.

### Resources/Books/Videos etc.

**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.

**YWCA Advocacy** – check out [standagainstracism.org](http://standagainstracism.org) for their social-media tool kit, calls-to-action, and to listen to their podcast miniseries.

**Society for History, and Racial Equity – SHARE:** You are encouraged to explore the many resources available on this site. 



CATF includes elected officials, local government staff, and representatives from non-profits, the community foundation, and higher education



## 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*  
lepotter1224@gmail.com



**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)

## Congratulations

LWVKA member **Amy Sue Manley** was recently chosen 2019-20 Parchment Education Association Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. Amy Sue is the Parchment District Librarian.

## Gifts in Memory

**In Memory of...  
Yolanda Mitts**

Heather Sisto  
Sue Nelmes  
Paula Presler

**In Memory of...  
Jean Jones**

Diane Worden  
Sue Nelmes



## 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**  
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