

THE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area

January 2016 • Vol. 61 № 5

President's Column

By Denise Hartsough

The new calendar year brings to mind the image of Janus, the two-headed Roman god of beginnings and transitions. One of his heads looks toward the future, while the other looks back at the past. Looking back, I am grateful for LWVKA's past year. I look ahead with enthusiasm to the new year!

When I think of this past year, I realize that a local League flourishes due to its committed, creative members. I am grateful that LWVKA counts among its active volunteers a range of members. We benefit from the wisdom

“ Let's continue our efforts to register and educate voters, vigorously protecting and encouraging exercise of everyone's right to vote. ”

and experience of a cadre of wise veteran leaders, some of whom now hold or once held League office

at the national or state level. We can count on the high-quality work of other dedicated, seasoned members. We joyously welcome the energy and new ideas of more recently engaged members. Collectively, we serve our community well!

Looking ahead to 2016, let's make some New Year's resolutions as a local League. Let's continue our efforts to register and educate voters, vigorously protecting and encouraging exercise of everyone's right to vote. Did you receive email alerts in December from the League of Women Voters of Michigan, asking you to urge the governor to veto harmful legislation on campaign finance and voting? If not, please sign up on the State League's website, www.lwvmi.org or visit its Facebook page, and take action in response to alerts. In 2016, let's continue to learn about and engage in advocacy on local issues. We'll have an opportunity in March to examine school safety and "green water," as well. Let's also continue to feed our local League, financially through our generous donations to the 3-year fund drive, and personally by getting acquainted at our events. We have Founders Day coming up in February, and more League socials in the works.

Happy New Year!



Calendar

JANUARY 2016

- 5 LWVKA Board Meeting**
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Food available for purchase
6:00 pm Meeting
269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com
- 9 Program Planning Meeting**
Disability Network — 10am-12pm
- 11 Voter Registration**
KVCC Winter Welcome

FEBRUARY 2016

- 1 Consensus reports to LWVUS for Money & Politics**
- 2 LWVKA Board Meeting**
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Food available for purchase
6:00 pm Meeting
269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com
- 13 Founder's Day Brunch**
Henderson Castle, Kalamazoo
10am to noon

MARCH 2016

- 1 LWVKA Board Meeting**
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Food available for purchase
6:00 pm Meeting
269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com
- Program Planning submission deadline**
- 22 Green Water presentation**
Kalamazoo Public Library 6:30pm
- TBD — **School Safety Discussion**

Note: Board meets on 1st Tuesday. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.

Results From Member Survey

By Chris Kuthe

Thank you to all who completed our LWVKA member survey. The information we collected will help us organize programs and volunteers for those programs in the future. (If you received a paper copy of this survey it means we do not have an email address for you. Please contact Chris Kuthe at ckuthe57@yahoo.com to give us your current email.) If you would like to see the results of the survey please click the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/sm-8m2FWJWJ>

Updated Membership List — Do We Have Your Correct Information?

You will be receiving an updated member list in early 2016. We would like to make sure all addresses, phone numbers and emails are as accurate as possible. If you need to update your information please contact Chris Kuthe at ckuthe57@yahoo.com or 269-501-3305.

Volunteers Needed

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

Our first Voter Registration event of 2016 will be held on Monday, January 11 at KVCC's "Winter Welcome" on the Texas Township Campus. As at past events, we will be located in the Student Commons, and parking passes will be available.

Two volunteers are needed for each of three shifts:

11:00 am–1:00 pm; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; and 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. If you would be available to help register new voters at this event, please contact MerriKay at 269-270-3302 or email moburkey30@gmail.com.

Thank You Respondents & Attendees!

By Paula Manley

Thank you to all who submitted consensus question responses or attended the recent consensus meetings on the LWVUS studies of the Constitutional Amendment and Money in Politics. These two studies are part of the Structure of Democracy program adopted at the 2014 National Convention. You have participated in a process which involves Leagues all around the country. Each local league submits consensus responses to LWVUS. The LWVUS Board then will review responses from all Leagues. Based on our responses, the LWVUS Board will then develop position statements which may be used to advocate for future legislation.

LWVMI Taxation and Budgeting Update Study

At the LWVMI State Convention last May delegates voted to conduct a study to update the LWVMI taxation and budgeting position. A committee has been formed to determine the scope of the study update. Beginning in June the consensus questions and background information will be distributed to local leagues for study. Updating our State position allows LWVMI to take action on future legislation involving taxation and budgeting. Watch for further information in future Bulletins on how you can be involved in this study.

Save the Date

By Fran Eckenrode

The upcoming Founder's Day Brunch will be Saturday, February 13, 2016, at Henderson Castle from 10:00 am until noon. Be on the lookout for your invitation arriving in early January by email and US Post. As in the past, members are encouraged to bring guests who might be interested in joining the League. There is no charge for potential members and for new members who joined the League in 2015. **Please RSVP by January 29, 2016.**

Program Planning: January 9

It's time to review the League's Public Policy Positions.

By Fran Eckenrode

The program planning process is one of the important ways in which the League focuses its grassroots work to align all parts of the organization with the League's mission. This year Leagues across the country will meet to review our positions on issues and make recommendations as to whether a particular position needs updating. This year we will be discussing our National and Local Positions. Please plan to attend the meeting and consider volunteering to review a position. You don't have to be an expert, just read the background information at LWV.org (LWVUS positions in Impact on Issues, 2014-2016) or LWVKA.org.

“ You don't have to be an expert! ”

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about important issues. The position categories and their volunteer leaders are listed below.

Please respond to Fran Eckenrode (feckenr@gmail.com) if you plan to attend and if you are willing to review a particular position. Tea and coffee will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring treats.

Saturday, January 9, 2016

9 am - noon

Disability Network, Kalamazoo Office

517 E Crosstown Parkway

US LWV Public Policy Positions

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

(Leader: KC Miller)

- Voting Rights
- The Election Process
- Citizens Rights
- Congress and the Presidency

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Leader: Fran Eckenrode)

- United Nation
- Trade
- U.S. Relations with Developing Countries
- Arms Control
- Military Policy and Defense Spending

NATURAL RESOURCES

(Leader: Ruth Caputo)

- Resource Management
- Protection and Pollution Control
- Public Participation
- Agriculture Policies

SOCIAL POLICY

Equality of Opportunity (Leader: Chris Kuthe)

- Federal Role in Public Education Position
- Fiscal Policy
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Meeting Basic Human Needs

Child Care (Leader Denise Hartsough)

- Early Intervention for Children at Risk
- Violence Prevention
- Gun Control
- Urban Policy
- Death Penalty
- Sentencing Policy
- Human Trafficking

LWVKA Public Policy Positions

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

(Leader: KC Miller)

- Providing Gov't Services in Kalamazoo County
- Financing Local Government Services
- Library Service & Governance
- Local Government Election Process

NATURAL RESOURCES (Leader: Ruth Caputo)

- Land Use Planning
- Parks & Recreation
- Management of the Kalamazoo River
- Preservation of Natural Areas

SOCIAL POLICY

(Leaders: Denise Hartsough & Chris Kuthe)

- Housing
- Education

“This year Leagues across the country will meet to review our positions on issues”



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Kalamazoo Area

P.O. Box 2106
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106

Returned Service Requested

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Do you use a check-writing service to renew your LWVKA membership?

If yes, please make sure it is updated with the correct address:

**LWVKA, PO Box 2106
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106**

Paula Aldridge is no longer the treasurer for LWVKA and no longer lives at the address where dues were sent in the past. Please have your dues renewals sent to the League's PO Box.

Thank you!

LWVKA Board for 2015-2016

Officers:

Denise Hartsough,
President
denise.hartsough@gmail.com

Sabrina Pritchett-Evans,
VP Organization
Sabrina.pritchett-evans.ghk@statefarm.com

Fran Eckenrode,
VP Program
feckenr@gmail.com

Susan Atkinson, Treasurer
sls.atkinson@gmail.com

Janet Jones, Secretary
janetmjones848@gmail.com

Chris Kuthe,
Membership Chair
ckuthe57@yahoo.com

Paula Manley,
Past President
pjmanley@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Ruth Caputo
ruth1281@att.net

Jennie Hill
Jahill1231@yahoo.com

Terry Hluchyj
hluchyberg@aol.com

Ken Manley
Kenmanley@hotmail.com

Georgiann McWilliams
georgiann@charter.net

KC Miller
aakcmiller@yahoo.com

Merrickay Oleen-Burkey
moburkey30@gmail.com

Are you on Facebook?



Liking LWVKA on Facebook is a great way to stay informed about upcoming events, alerts from LWVMI and LWVUS, and other announcements!

*THE BULLETIN is published monthly by
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