



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

December 2014/January 2015
President: Denise Hartsough

www.lwvka.org

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President's Column

By Denise Hartsough

Introducing...your LWVKA Membership and Leadership Development Team! **Jackie Wylie, Norma Clack and Denise Hartsough** have volunteered to work with coaches from the League of Women Voters of Michigan to foster membership growth and engagement, leadership development, and community visibility.

The Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program offers handy tools, sage advice, and opportunity for reflection. This is a national effort with expert help to local Leagues from the state level.

Norma and Jackie bring decades of League experience to the team. Jackie has recently returned to the Board after some years off, serving this term as secretary. Before Norma moved to Kalamazoo, she was involved for decades with the Saginaw League and served for 8 years as its president. Norma has graciously agreed to help with the MLD effort as an LWVKA member who is not currently on the Board. I am the junior member of the team in terms of experience—I am a long-time League member who has become active only in the past half dozen years or so.

As your MLD Team, we will reach out to the Board and a variety of committees with ideas from the MLD Program that we think may help the LWVKA build on its strong foundation. We welcome your input about ways to recruit new members from the community and to increase the engagement of current members. You are also welcome to join the team! Please feel free to contact any of us.

Save the Date!

Founders' Brunch, Saturday, February 14, 2015.
Check the next *Bulletin* for more details.

Calendar

- Dec. 2** #Giving Tuesday
Tues. See article for details
- Dec. 14** Deadline for nominations to LWVMI Nominating Committee for the 2015-17 slate of state officers and directors
Sun.
- Dec. 16** LWVKA Board Meeting
Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
Meeting
5:30 pm
6:00 pm
Questions? Call 269-544-0303 or email president@lwvka.org
- Jan. 17** Program Planning/
Sun. State Positions
9-11 am Location TBA
- Jan. 20** LWVKA Board Meeting
Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
Meeting
5:30 pm
6:00 pm
Questions? Call 269-544-0303 or email president@lwvka.org
- Feb. 14** Founders' Day Brunch
Sat. Save the date

Note: Board meets on 3rd Tuesdays. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings.

#Giving Tuesday

The non-profit community comes together to raise awareness and support.

By Paula Manley

This year, the League will participate in the third annual #Giving Tuesday campaign on December 2, 2014. In the same way retail stores come together to offer deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #Giving Tuesday brings the nonprofit community together on a universal platform to raise awareness about the importance of supporting our valuable missions and work.

Our League was very active in 2014, providing a range of programs and services for the community especially around the election. These included:

- Young Adult Voter Education program at area high schools
- Candidate forums in partnership with Michigan United, YWCA and WKZO

- Voter registration at numerous community events
- Distribution of 28,000 *Voter Guides*, and online through our website and Vote411.org

In this time of heightened partisanship, gridlock between policy makers, and increased frustration among the public, there has never been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual, and civil voice the League of Women Voters brings to our community.

You, too, can make a difference. Your #Giving Tuesday gift to the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area will ensure that we can continue to provide these great services to our community in the coming year.

Program Planning for State Positions

You can help by reviewing a position.

By Frances Eckenrode

Join in! Program Planning for LWV State Positions will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015, from 9 - 11 a.m. The location is to be announced so watch for coming emails. This is your opportunity to review positions and make recommendations to the LWVMI Board. If you have an interest in areas such as government, natural

resources, or social policies, please consider choosing a position to read and review prior to the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to review a state or local position, please contact **Fran Eckenrode** at feckenr@gmail.com or call 269-903-9372. Positions can be found on the LWVMI website under the heading "LWVMI Positions."



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Public Advocacy and Voter Protection Project 2014

Thanks to those who helped with this important project.

By Paula Manley

LWVKA was awarded a Public Advocacy and Voter Protection Project Grant (PAVP) from the LWVMI through the LWVUS. The goals were: to implement election observer programs in up to 10 communities in Michigan to help ensure all votes count and to develop a voter information campaign for use throughout the area, particularly in targeting underrepresented voters.

A regional workshop was held in Kalamazoo in late September to train election observers and also train local Leagues in the use of social media for election education campaigns. Community members **Mary Ellen Glondeck** and **Margie Stinson** along with League members **Tamara Car-**

penter, Mary Gustas, Linda Havens, Janet Jones, Ken Manley, Paula Manley, and Merrikay Oleen-Burkey were trained. Six participated as nonpartisan poll observers on election day at several precincts around the area. They observed the voting process and recorded their observations.

Another part of the project was to educate the public about voting and Vote411.org. **Michele McGowan** posted the LWVKA Facebook messages encouraging people to vote and advertising Vote411.org as a voting information resource.

Thanks to those who volunteered to be part of this project and were part of seeing democracy in action!

REMEMBER—EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALONE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR VOICE.

- Yes! I want to Take Back the System. Please sign me up!
- I'm enclosing a check for \$60 for individual membership.
- I'm enclosing a check for \$30 for student membership.
- I'm enclosing a check for \$90 for household membership.

NAME OF SECOND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

- In addition to my membership, I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____

- Please send me more information on the League of Women Voters.

- I can't join right now, but I'm enclosing \$_____ to support League activities.

Because we lobby at the local, state and national levels, membership dues and other contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax-deductible.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PHONE HOME

PHONE OFFICE



Make check payable and mail to:
The League of Women Voters
PO Box 2106
Kalamazoo, MI 49003



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Opportunity to Serve on the LWVMI Board

**Please
consider
serving the
state
League.**

By Paula Manley

The LWVMI Board offers an opportunity to serve and learn more about how the League functions at the state level. The LWMI Nominating Committee for the 2015-17 slate of officers and directors is accepting nominations through December 15, 2014. Any LWVMI member may submit nominations for any office.

Offices to be filled are President, Vice President of Advocacy, Vice-President of Membership, Vice-President for Program,

Secretary, Treasurer, Directors (7) and Nominating Committee (chair and 2 members). Nominations forms are available from **Camilla Davis** at Cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact **Connie Ferguson** or **Jessica Reiser** former LWVMI Presidents or **Paula Aldridge** current LWVMI Treasurer to learn what it is like to be part of the LWVMI Board.

"The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join us in making democracy work!"