



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

February 2013

www.lwvka.org

Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Michele McGowen

Vol. 58 No. 5

League Phone: 269-544-0303

2012 LWVKA Voter Registration Campaign Report

By Karen Eddy

The dry facts of the League's voter registration activity in 2012 are as follows:

Twenty League members assisted about 250 potential voters in accurately filling out applications at 17 different sites. Also five members shared a rotating schedule of two-hour voter registration shifts each Tuesday at the Department of Human Services in Kalamazoo.

Here's what made achieving the above fun, interesting and worthwhile:

- Answering questions and correcting misinformation.
- Sharing the interest and excitement of young and more mature citizens planning to vote for the first time.
- Cooperating with and providing a needed service with the organizers of each event.
- Meeting with and interacting with all who wanted to register or who wanted to check current registration. Interacting with some who didn't want to be bothered was also interesting.
- Conveying to each possible voter that we, the women and men representing the LWV, think each of them should take advantage of their right to vote.
- Reminding people to check out the *Voter Guides*.

What we need: more volunteers! We provide on the job training. Call 269-599-6399 or email karen.eddy336@gmail.com to be on the list to receive voter registration opportunities.

Calendar

Feb. 9 Founder's Day Brunch

Sat. The Park Club
10 am - 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
12 pm Reservations are required

Feb. 12 Discussion on the Governor's Proposed Changes to Public Education

Tues. LWVMI office in Lansing
1 pm

Feb. 19 LWVKA Board Meeting

Tues. The Park Club
5:30 pm 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
6 pm Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org

Mar. 19 LWVKA Board Meeting

Tues. The Park Club
5:30 pm 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
6 pm Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org

Mar. 25 Program on Human Trafficking

Mon. Kalamazoo Public Library
6pm

May 17-19 State Convention in Lansing

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

Opportunity to Learn about Proposed Changes to Public Education

Join the discussion and consider League advocacy.

Do you have questions about the Governor's proposed changes to public education? The League of Women Voters of Michigan Advocacy Committee invites you to attend a presentation and discussion on the proposed changes, and possible League advocacy. This meeting will take place on Tuesday,

February 12, 2013, at 1p.m. at the LWVMI office 600 West St. Joseph Street, Lansing.

If you are interested in attending, please contact **Michele McGowan** and **Paula Manley** at president@lwvka.org.

You may read more about the education issues on the LWVMI website.

LWVMI State Convention

The League of Women Voters of Michigan will hold the 31st Biennial State Convention May 17-19, 2013 (Friday through Sunday) at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing. This is an opportunity to meet Leaguers from around the state and to learn more about what the League is doing at the state level.

The Kalamazoo League is looking for interested people to be a part of our delegation. If you are interested in attending, please contact either **Michele McGowan** or **Paula Manley** at president@lwvka.org

Welcome New Members

Shelby Moss
10105 Rosemary Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-501-5714 (H)
269-337-8168 (W)
mosss@KalamazooCity.org

Jim & Mary Heaton
2328 Sheffield Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-327-0387
djames.heaton@sbcglobal.net

Memorials

David Isaacson - In Memory of Rosalie Isaacson.

Bob Wallis & Beth Gregory Wallis - In Memory of Mary K Bell.

Founder's Day Brunch

Please invite potential new Members.

Our Founder's Day Brunch will be held on Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Park Club. The Brunch will include Vanilla French toast, sliced fruit, bacon, sausage, fried potatoes, and your choice of juice, coffee, or tea. The cost of the Brunch will be \$14.

Please invite people who may be interested in joining the League. There will be no charge for potential members or for those who have joined the Kalamazoo League in 2012. Please make your reservation today at feckenrode@sbcglobal.net or call (269) 544-0303.

Advertise in the Bulletin!

Interested in reaching a discerning local audience with your advertising message? For only \$50, your business card-sized announcement will appear in the *Bulletin* at least 6 times in one year. The *Bulletin* reaches approximately 150 highly engaged, community-oriented League members in the Kalamazoo area. For more information please contact **Cheryl Lyon-Jenness** at 269-344-6523 or cheryl.lyon-jenness@wmich.edu.

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
 Paula Aldridge, Treasurer
 8035 Glenwynd Drive
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009

News From National and State

New League Online Forums

The League's discussion list system will be closing in early February 2013. In its place, we have the League Forums, a new online community exclusively for League members and leaders.

Take the time today to login in and join the discussions on the League Forums.

1. Like the discussion lists, the League Forums provide an opportunity to interact with fellow League members on specific topics and to share experiences and tools.
2. The Forums' notifications system allows you to decide if you want to follow a group (topic), a single discussion within a group, or even just a single person.
3. All messages are archived online for future reference.
4. You can easily build and manage your own personal profile.

Go to www.lwv.org, click on LOGIN in the top red bar. Once logged in, use the **Forums link** in the left navigation bar. Members interested in learning more are welcome to view a recorded webinar introducing the new Forums. At this time, there are forums on Government, International Relations, Social Policy, League organization, and Convention.

League Urges Obama Action on Climate Change

On Saturday, January 5, 2013, the League ran a full page, color ad in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, urging **President Obama** to set tough standards for new and existing power plants under the Clean Air Act. The ad is part of a broader push by LWV for executive action on climate change and is a follow up to a letter sent to the White House in December. The full text and image of the ad can be seen on our website.

League Urges Senate to Ratify CEDAW

The League joined over 100 organizations in sending a letter to the U.S. Senate urging ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.

League Sends Letter to VP Biden Regarding Gun Control

On January 10, the League sent a letter to **Vice President Biden** urging him to propose common sense solutions to the gun violence plaguing our nation. The League advocates for measures that will ban assault weapons, place limits on magazine size, close the gun show loophole, and mandate annual reporting on gun violence in America. The

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News National continued

White House presented a proposal to Congress that includes many of the League's proposed reforms. [Read our blog](#) urging Congress to tackle this critical national issue now.

League Calls for Reform of U.S. Senate Rules

The League sent a letter to the U.S. Senate urging reform of the rules related to cloture and filibuster procedures. The League calls upon the Senate to rise above partisanship and reform the Senate rules to achieve openness, accountability, decision-making capability and effective performance.

US Supreme Court to Hear NVRA Sec. 5 case on February 27, 2013

The US Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on February 27, 2013, in a lawsuit that challenges a central provision of the Voting Rights Act – Section 5. The case, [Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder](#), is one of the highest-profile voting rights cases in decades.

League Asks Senators to Oppose Changes to Contribution Limits

The League joined coalition partners in sending a letter to the U.S. Senate. The letter calls on the Senate to oppose efforts to restore the party soft money system. It also asks the Senate to oppose increasing the limits on the aggregate amounts that an individual can give to parties or candidates.

Voter Registration Modernization in the Spotlight

The Brennan Center for Justice held a panel discussion on voter registration modernization this week in Washington, DC. with Secretaries of State from MN, ND, NV and OR who discussed the need for on-line voter registration modernization. In conjunction with the panel discussion the Brennan Center also released a new publication – [The Case for Voter Registration Modernization](#). Registration modernization is one of the four pro-voter reform issues the League has identified as priorities this year at the state and federal level.

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**Education's important
For the future of each kid.
It is way too important
To put up for bid.**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106

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Meet Two New Members

New members bring diverse talents and interests to LWVKA.

By Frances Eckenrode

Louise Berdahl is a new member of LWVKA. Originally from the Maryland area, Louise has lived in Lawton since 1994. She is a registered nurse, although she is not currently working in that role. She was active in the Lawton school system while her four children were in school, and served on the Lawton School Board for eight years. Louise enjoys reading and book clubs, and is an enthusiastic keeper of honey bees. She currently volunteers in the English as a Second Language Program at her church. For many years she has been an active participant in local political campaigns and is particularly interested in voter registration, especially in VanBuren County. Please welcome Louise to the League.

Also, we extend a welcome to new LWVKA member **Shelby Moss**. Shelby is the Deputy City Clerk in Kalamazoo and was extremely helpful this year in putting together the mock election. She grew up in Kalamazoo, graduated from Schoolcraft High School, and then Western Michigan University with a Bachelors in Business Administration. She began her career (2003) in Schoolcraft township, and became Deputy City Clerk for Schoolcraft in 2006. In March of this year, Shelby became the Deputy Clerk for the City of Kalamazoo. Shelby enjoys hanging out with family, which is very important to her. She also likes to downhill ski and shop. Shelby is especially interested in voter education.