

President's Column

by Denise Hartsough

As we head toward Valentine's Day 2017, decide how you want to express love for your country, your state and your local community — as well as

“Outpourings of love, care and concern were evident on Saturday, January 21st all over the United States”

for those loved ones to whom you'll send cards and candy hearts!

When you call or email Representative Upton, Senator Stabenow or Senator Peters about your views on pending bills in Congress, you are expressing your care for our country. When you sign an online petition to your State Representative and State Senator, you show your concern for our state. When you attend a meeting of the Kalamazoo County Commission, of your city, village or township, or of your local school board, you show your commitment to the local community.

Outpourings of love, care and concern were evident on Saturday, January 21st all over the United States. I stood with sister League members and many others in Lansing at the State Capitol. I heard from friends and relatives who stood and marched in large crowds in Oakland (California), Denver, Washington DC, and right here in Kalamazoo.

Leagues around the country report increased membership and volunteering. The Democracy Agenda resonates! More and more people understand that politicians should not choose their voters, that voters should know who pays for campaigns and advertising, and that we must fight for voting rights.

Pick the League activity that moves your heartstrings — and act now!



KVCC Volunteers

by MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

I would like to thank the volunteers who hosted our voter registration table at KVCC on January 9th:

- ♥ Paula Aldrich
- ♥ Karen Sanborn
- ♥ Elizabeth Amidon
- ♥ Deb Dunstone

Thank
YOU

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2017

7 LWVKA Board Meeting
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Dine
6:00 pm Meeting

14 LWV's 97th birthday

18 Founder's Day Brunch
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
10am-12pm

MARCH 2017

1 Consensus due on
Michigan Taxation and
Budgeting Position Update

7 LWVKA Board Meeting
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Dine
6:00 pm Meeting

APRIL 2017

4 LWVKA Board Meeting
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Dine
6:00 pm Meeting

MAY 2017

2 LWVKA Board Meeting
The Park Club, 219 W. South St.
5:30 pm Dine
6:00 pm Meeting

6 Meet & Greet
Ford Museum, Grand Rapids

19-20 LWV State Convention
Lansing

Note: Board meets on 1st Tuesday. Members are welcome to attend all Board Meetings. Contact 269-599-1801 and denise.hartsough@gmail.com



Find upcoming events, alerts and other announcements!

IN MEMORIAM: Lois Jackson, LWVKA Board of Directors 2004-2008



Photo from Mlive obituary

I still have the wristband that was distributed when **Lois Jackson** retired from her position as Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Department of Recreation. It is printed with WWLD. What Would Lois Do?

Lois was the quintessential public servant, and community leader. Her positive and quiet strength through her 27 years with the Recreation Department, helped expand the youth programming offered by the City of Kalamazoo and established the Youth Development Center.

Lois had a knack for finding funding for every worthy project and worked with any organization that would offer opportunities for youth. She helped establish the NAACP's ACT-SO program and she was one of the founding members of the Concerned Black Women's Roundtable as well as the Kalamazoo Coalition for Youth Violence Prevention. After leaving the City's employ, Lois worked as a

grant maker with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and continued to be involved in programs that help youth and families.

Lois was also devoted to the arts and helped found the Black Arts and Cultural Center as well as the Kalamazoo Jazz Festival (in the 1990s). She served on the Board of Directors of the Arts Council and helped establish the Education for the Arts Program now offered throughout the County through KRESA.

In 2008, Lois was named the YWCA's Woman of Achievement.

I knew Lois through nearly 25 years of interesting projects and learned so much about how to be involved in my community. What Would Lois Do? I think about that often when confronted with decisions demanding input from different factions and strive to emulate the thoughtful, balanced and compassionate problem-solving of Lois Jackson. I will miss her.

—Janet Jones

“Lois was the quintessential public servant and community leader.”

Upcoming Events from the Grand Rapids Local Geographical Unit

by Elianna Bootzin

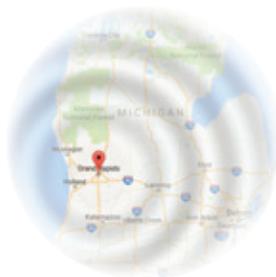
As 2017 is now upon us, we are pleased to begin offering local activities. In addition to encouraging our members to attend major events in Kalamazoo, we will be hosting two presentations early this year:

- **Judy Karandjeff**, President of LWVMI, will cover Redistricting on Wednesday March 15 at 6 pm, and
- **Suzanne Dixon**, Board Member of LWV Lake Michigan Region, will share Great Lakes Challenges and Solutions on Wednesday June 14, also at 6 pm.

Both presentations will take place in the Good Room at the Cascade Township/Library's Wisner Center (2870 Jack Smith Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546). Kalamazoo members may attend as well, but space is

limited, regardless of your location please let us know that you plan to come to either or both presentations by contacting vote411@grlrv.org, 616-536-1920 or www.facebook.com/grlrv.

We will also be hosting a social/self-paced learning event! We would particularly encourage Kalamazoo members to join us for a leisurely exploration of the Gerald R. Ford Museum's exhibits at 303 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids 49504 on Saturday May 6 at 1 pm. The museum has requested a head count, so again an RSVP to vote411@grlrv.org, 616-536-1920 or www.facebook.com/grlrv would be appreciated. We do expect to secure several free passes; if the quantity is insufficient, you may need to purchase admission to the museum (\$8 adults/\$7 seniors).



LWVKA Receives Grant for Youth Voter Registration Project

by MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

The LWV Education Fund has awarded the LWVKA a \$500 grant in response to a proposal for a 2017 Youth Voter Registration Project. Grants for these projects are intended to engage high school and community college students in the electoral process and work to mitigate the widespread disparities in youth voting among African American, Latinos and young people with no college experience. In addition to registering new voters, we are asked to develop a plan to follow up with new registrants about upcoming elections to remind them to vote, to direct them to resources at Vote411.org and our website, and to learn about their initial voting experiences.

Our proposal calls for implementing voter registration activities during the first six months of this year at three Kalamazoo Public High Schools, the KRESA Young Adult Program and KVCC. LWVEF will be providing conference calls/trainings as well as resources in the *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow* training manual to help us implement our local activities. Dates have not been confirmed but will be publicized in upcoming Bulletins and on our League website. Watch for a call for volunteers.

Government Finance Consensus Meeting

by Paula Manley

Six League members met on the evening of January 12th to discuss the consensus questions for the LWVMI Government Finance Study Update. We also had input from seven members who had sent their responses prior to the meeting. Thanks to all members who took the time to read the materials and complete the consensus questions.

The responses, as a result of this meeting, will be submitted to the LWVMI office prior to MARCH 1. The LWVMI study committee then will tabulate the consensus results from all participating Leagues in the state and revise the current position. At the March 11 LWVMI Board meeting the recommended, revised position will be discussed and adopted. The revised position on government finance then can be used as a basis for advocacy.

Later this spring LWVKA will offer a community program examining the relationship between local and state government finances. Watch for future notices about that timely event.

“ LWVEF will be providing conference calls/trainings as well as resources in the *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow* training manual ”



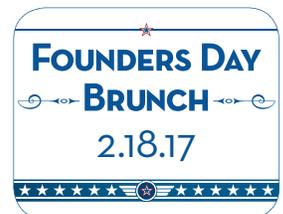
Founders Day Brunch Reminder

By Fran Eckenrode

Plan to attend the Founders Day Brunch to be held at the Park Club in Kalamazoo on **February 18, 2017**, from 10am to 12pm. Members are encouraged to bring guests who might be interested in joining the League. There is no charge for potential members or new members who joined the League in 2016.

The cost is \$16 (tax and gratuity included). Please RSVP to:
 Fran Eckenrode
 2929 Bronson Blvd,
 Kalamazoo MI 49008,
 with checks payable to LWVKA. (feckenr@gmail.com or 269-903-9372)

Brunch will include: vanilla french toast, bacon, sausage, fried potatoes, sliced fruit, and your choice of coffee, tea, or juice. (Please communicate any dietary concerns when registering).



“ Members are encouraged to bring guests who might be interested in joining the League. ”



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