



THE BULLETIN



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

March 2015
President: Denise Hartsough

www.lwvka.org

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President's Column

By Denise Hartsough

Does League run in families? Our geneticist friends will likely tell us that there is no identified League of Women Voters gene. Multi-generational League families probably result more from nurture than from nature. Assuming that is the case, let's celebrate and nurture League involvement across generations!

Locally, the Manley family is a shining example of multi-generational engagement. **Paula Manley** continues many years of commitment to the LWVKA as immediate past Board president. She has shouldered countless LWVKA responsibilities over the years—writing *Bulletin* articles, securing grants, participating in workshops and trainings, and attending state and national conventions. Her husband, **Ken Manley**, is a current Board member, and has moderated and otherwise helped with candidate forums. Their daughter, **Amy Sue Manley**, recently played the very important role of LWVKA Vice President for Program. In another multi-generational League family, the **Urbans**, both mom **Carol** and son **Sam** have been engaged members of the LWVKA Board.

My mother, **Dalyte Hartsough**, lives over 2,000 miles away in Bend, Oregon, but a common connection to League helps to bridge the distance. Each of us happens to be serving her local League as Board president this year. Besides talking about family, we check in with each other about League business. Recent conversations focused on program planning, Board nominations, and an exciting local study on affordable housing that the League of Women Voters of Deschutes County is undertaking.

In a couple of years, my daughter will find her first job after college and settle someplace. When she does, I plan to give her a one-year membership in her local League. My hope is that she will track that League's activities and find a way to participate when she can.

Do you have a multi-generational League story to share? Feel free to send it to me at denise.hartsough@gmail.com. Perhaps you would like to promote League involvement across genera-

Calendar

- Mar. 9 Kalamazoo Environmental Council**
Mon.
7:30 am
Legislative Breakfast
MLive Hub (*Kalamazoo Gazette*)
Kalamazoo Mall at South St.
(See program details on page 4)
- Mar. 17 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Tues.
5:30 pm
6:00 pm
The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase
Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org
- Mar. 31 Dr. Julia Brasher**
Tues.
6:30 pm
Program on food safety
Kalamazoo Public Library
(See program details on page 2)
- Apr. 21 LWVKA Annual Meeting**
Tues.
5:30 pm
6:00 pm
The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Social time
Dinner
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org
- May 15-17 LWVMI State Convention**
Fri.—Sun.
Kalamazoo

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

tions by giving a membership to a family member. All local Leagues welcome new members, no matter how they come to join and no matter how active the new members choose to be.

Celebrate and nurture a legacy of League!

Issue Study & Advocacy

Protect the Great Lakes from Products with Microbeads

Cosmetic products and toothpaste are important sources.

By Ruth Caputo

Microbeads in the Great Lakes are back in the news. A [Detroit Free Press article](#) this past fall, reviewed problems with microbeads from cosmetic products and toothpastes. Fish and other aquatic animals eat the microbeads raising concerns about nutrition. There are also questions about how microbeads will work up the food chain. Concentrations in the Great Lakes vary, with those in Lake Ontario of up to 1 million plastic particles per square kilometer being the highest.

Microbeads wash down the drain when products containing them are used. They are almost indestructible, and aren't removed by water treatment plants. Illinois

has banned the use of products containing microbeads. Michigan has similar legislation pending, but it hasn't been brought up for hearing in committee yet.

You can help by not using products containing microbeads. [Products to avoid](#) are listed on the website. Click on "Product Lists" and then download the red (dangerous) product list for the United States. Some but not all of the products have "polyethylene" in the list of ingredients. If you see this ingredient, the product contains microbeads.

We're not alone with this problem. Other countries are also working to remove microbeads from cosmetic products and toothpastes.

How Safe is Our Food?

Join us on March 31 to learn about this important topic.

By Ruth Caputo

Food Safety will be the topic of a LWVKA program on March 31. **Dr. Julia Bradsher**, President and CEO of the International Food Protection Training Institute in Battle Creek, will discuss sources of contamination in our food, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and what voters should know about food safety.

The International Food Protection Training Institute is dedicated to improving public health by building competency-based training and certification systems. Dr. Bradsher previously headed The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, an organization focused on awareness of and education regarding food allergies. Dr. Bradsher holds a PhD in medical sociology from the Univer-

sity of Miami and a Master's in business administration from the Sawyer School of Management.

The Food Safety Modernization Act, signed into law in 2010, aims to ensure our food supply is safe by shifting the focus of federal regulators from responding to contamination to preventing it. The FDA now has the authority to regulate the way foods are grown, harvested, and processed.

This free program will be held Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the Van Deusen Room of the Kalamazoo Public Library. The public is invited, so bring your friends and join us to learn about this important topic.

Issue Study & Advocacy

Kalamazoo Environmental Council Legislative Breakfast

Please join us as we talk with our lawmakers about environmental issues.

We're doing it a bit differently this year! We will meet at the MLive Hub downtown (Kalamazoo Mall at South St.). There will be a light breakfast, with no need to make advance reservations or pay a fee. However, seating is limited so be sure to arrive early.

Please join us as we talk with our Lansing and Washington lawmakers about our changing political and environmental landscape.

We have invited State Senator **Margaret O'Brien**, State Representatives **Dave Maturen**, **Jon Hoadley**, **Aric Nesbitt**, and **Brandt Iden** and legislative staff for U.S.

Representative **Fred Upton**, and U.S. Senators **Gary Peters** and **Debbie Stabenow**. *Kalamazoo Gazette* Editor **Mickey Ciokajlo** will moderate.

WHEN: Monday, March 9, Coffee/Tea/Bagels 7:30 a.m., Discussion 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Mlive Hub, Kalamazoo Mall at South Street, Kalamazoo, MI
For updates, please see the Kalamazoo Environmental Council Facebook page. If you have questions or do not have internet access, please call 269-207-9822 and leave your name and phone number.

Administration

Founders' Day Brunch Recap

Participants braved a blizzard to attend.

By Frances Eckenrode

The Founders' Day Brunch was held on Valentine's Day at the Park Club in spite of blizzard conditions. The program kicked off with a viewing of the video made to celebrate the LWVKA's 90th anniversary. Producer **Carol Urban** was on hand to introduce the video, which features discussions with League members and leaders, both past and present. **Connie Ferguson**, currently on the Board of Directors of

the National League, presented an update of League activities at the state and national levels. LWVKA current president **Denise Hartsough** provided a summary of the many accomplishments of the past year and plans for the upcoming year. Board member **KC Miller** concluded the presentations with comments regarding the work of the Nominating Committee.

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Administration

LWVKA Annual Meeting

We hope you can participate in this important League event.

Plan to attend the LWVKA Annual Meeting on April 21, 2015, at the Park Club in Kalamazoo. Social time begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Our speakers will be **Bruce Merchant**, consultant to the City of Kalamazoo for the Allied Site, and **Marc Hatton**, City of Kalamazoo Development Manager. They will present an "Update on the Allied Site Clean-up."

Members will also have the opportunity to vote on reopening for study the local position on education. The education position currently includes sections on curriculum and budget. The study would focus on adding a section on safety of children and adults in school environments.

Plan to participate in this important League event. You can catch up with fellow League members and be informed on this relevant topic.

2015 Nominating Committee Slate

Are you willing to serve?

The following LWVKA members have accepted nominations for Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee. Members will vote on the slate at the 2015 Annual Meeting on April 21, 2015.

Co-President (1 year)

Vice-President of Organization (2 years)

Secretary (2 years)

Board Member (2 years)

Nominating Committee (1 year)

open

Sabrina Pritchett-Evans

open

Ruth Caputo

Jennie Hill

Terry Hluchyj

Kay Anderson

Yolanda Mitts

Paula Presler

The current Nominating Committee consists of **Kay Anderson**, chair, off-board members **Yolanda Mitts** and **Paula Presler** and Board members **KC Miller** and **Sabrina Pritchett-Evans**.

Please contact **Kay Anderson** at 269-649-2461 or kander314@aol.com if you are willing to serve in the remaining open Board positions.

Annual Meeting Notice: Bylaws

The Board of Directors will not be recommending changes to our bylaws at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to review the bylaws, you can find them in the Handbook which is posted on the LWVKA website. Click on the LWVKA tab and see the Handbook on the left side of the page. The bylaws are on pages 11–16.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Kalamazoo Area
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Returned Service Requested

LWVKA Board for 2014-2015

Office

President
VP Organization
VP Program
Treasurer
Secretary
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Name

Denise Hartsough
Sabrina Pritchett-Evans
Fran Eckenrode
Susan Atkinson
Jackie Wylie
Ruth Caputo
Jennie Hill
Terry Hluchyj
Ken Manley
Georgiann McWilliams
K C Miller
Merrickay Oleen- Burkey

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aakcmiller@yahoo.com
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Donations Received

**The
Education
Fund
benefits
from
donations.**

By Susan Atkinson

We received Education Fund memorial donations honoring Richard Knapp from Tanya Potter and Paula Aldridge. We also received an Education Fund donation from Betsy Rice.