



## League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

April 2012

[www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org)

Co-Presidents: Connie Ferguson and Paula Manley

Vol. 57 No. 7

League Phone: 269-544-0303

### TAG Update

By Diane Worden

Members in the Tax Attitude Group (TAG) and the LWVKA Board have begun conducting face-to-face interviews with potential ally organizations. Many of their representatives have suggested additional ways and other organizations to approach in conveying the message that every community's paid taxes provide essential services used by all and that none of us can afford individually.

You can volunteer to help implement these follow-up ideas. Please call or email **Diane Worden** (349-3624, [WordenDex@aol.com](mailto:WordenDex@aol.com)) with your willingness to serve.

### LWVKA Annual Meeting

Join us at the Park Club on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 5:30 pm for our Annual Meeting. Our guest speaker **Ron Fuller**, Superintendent of Kalamazoo RESA, will present a program titled "The Future of Public Schools in Kalamazoo County." Watch your mailbox for your invitation, and consider inviting a friend to attend with you. It will be a beautiful spring evening of catching up with friends and catching up on the League's activities during this past year. Your presence is welcome and important!

### Two Opportunities for Registering Voters

By Karen Eddy

Voter registration volunteers are needed on Wednesday, May 16, 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. for "Project Connect" at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center. If you can join us for a two-hour shift we will provide on-the-job training.

Volunteers are also needed every Tuesday 9 - 11 a.m. at the Department of Human Services, 322 Stockbridge. Since this is an on-going service, we always welcome League volunteers to fill in.

Call **Karen Eddy** at 269-599-6399 or [kседdy2@yahoo.com](mailto:kседdy2@yahoo.com) if you can help with this important service.

### Calendar

#### Apr. 12 Privatization Consensus Meeting

Thurs. Disability Network offices  
6:00 pm 517 E. Crosstown Parkway  
Kalamazoo

#### Apr. 17 Lansing Lobby Day (Equal Pay Day)

Tues. Training & legislative visits  
9:00 am Register at [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org)  
Noon Capitol Rotunda event

#### Apr. 17 Annual Meeting

Tues. Park Club  
5:30 pm 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo  
Watch for your invitation!

#### Apr. 19 Poverty Reduction Initiative Banquet

Thurs. WMU, Bernhard Center  
6:00 pm Ballroom  
See article for details.

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

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

### Find us on Facebook!

If you have a Facebook page, be sure to "like" the [League of Women Voters/ Kalamazoo Area](#). It's a simple way to stay connected between *Bulletin* issues.

## News From National and State

### LWVMI News

#### **President Sue Smith Advocates for LWVMI Positions--**

President **Sue Smith** testified in February at Senate committee hearings on Secretary of State **Ruth Johnson's** Election Law bills. Sue spoke against SB 751 and SB 754. LWVMI is opposing these bills which would suppress voter participation in the state. Sue and VP for Advocacy **Judy Karandjeff** met with Representative **Peter Lund**, Chair of the House Committee on Redistricting and Elections, to explain our opposition to these Senate bills which will be coming to the House. LWVMI invited a number of organizations, including AAUW, AARP and NAACP to join us in forming a Voting Rights Coalition to oppose these bills. On March 13, Sue testified in opposition to HB 5061 which, among other things, would require showing ID to obtain an absentee ballot in person at a clerk's office.

#### **LWVMI Legislative Priorities for 2012 --**

The LWVMI Board, upon recommendation of the Advocacy Committee, adopted the following as Legislative Priorities for 2012: campaign finance, election law, judicial selection (based on LWVMI's strategic plan); natural resources, pay equity and public school finance (based on member interest). These priorities will be reviewed throughout the year and changes will be made if necessary.

#### **Equal Pay Day April 17--**

Equal Pay Day will be held Tuesday, April 17 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the Capitol Rotunda, with training starting at 9 am. Equal Pay Day was originated in Michigan by the Pay Equity Network and adopted by the National Committee on Pay Equity in 1996. It symbolizes how far into 2012 women must work to earn what men earned in 2011. Participants are urged to wear red. LWVMI is an Equal Pay Day Coalition partner and President **Sue Smith** will be in attendance. AAUW is sponsoring lobbying training for those desiring to

meet with Michigan Legislators after the noon rally. A link to the lobbying training registration form is on LWVMI's web site. No registration is required to attend the noon rally.

#### **Redistricting Campaign Update--**

LWVMI is part of the Michigan Redistricting Collaborative. Last spring, as part of the Collaborative, LWVMI testified on the Legislature's redistricting plans. The Collaborative is continuing to meet and is waiting for the League to complete its study of the redistricting process. Once the League's new Position on Redistricting has been approved by the LWVMI Board, the Collaborative will begin its work of advocating for change in how redistricting is done in Michigan. In the meantime, the Collaborative is helping to publicize League redistricting meetings as a way to keep the issue before the public. A good example is Midland Area League's recent Redistricting Forum which received good media coverage in the *Midland Daily News*.

### LWVUS News

#### **Amendment on Limiting Access to Contraceptive Services for Women Defeated!--**

The U.S. Senate voted down (51-48) an amendment to an upcoming Transportation bill that would limit access to contraceptive services for women if any employer or insurance plan has a "religious or moral objection" to it. The League had sent out an action alert as well as a letter to Senators, urging opposition to this amendment.

#### **League Asks President Obama to Respond to FEC Petition--**

The League and coalition partners sent this [letter to the President](#) to follow up on the WhiteHouse.gov "We the People" petition. The petition was signed by over 25,000 individuals from around the country and called on the President to nominate new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) prior to the 2012 elections.

## News From National and State

### League Opposes S.J. Res. 37--

The League and Coalition partners sent this [letter urging the Senate](#) to oppose S.J. Res. 37, the Congressional Review Act disapproval resolution sponsored by Senator Inhofe. It would eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) life-saving Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants. This resolution puts the health of our children and families at risk and threatens the quality of our air and water.

### League Opposes Keystone XL Pipeline Legislation--

The League joined groups from the environmental community in opposing legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. The letter said pending legislation would effectively turn Congress into a permitting authority, bypassing a robust environmental and safety review and approving a project for which a route has not even been determined, and called for the rejection of such actions.

### Elections: The Link Behind the Wave of Voter Suppression Laws--

*The New York Times* ran an informative editorial this week that links the

influence of big money on the wave of voter suppression laws sweeping the country, specifically connecting these efforts with the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and their billionaire backers. [Read the editorial.](#)

### Global Democracy: LWV to Serve as U.S. NGO Partner in G-8 BMENA Initiative--

The League has accepted an invitation to work with the United States government as its 2012 BMENA Initiative nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner. The League will organize 10 preparatory meetings that will take place in eight different countries in the Middle East and North Africa between April and October. These meetings will culminate in December with the ministerial meeting (the 9th Forum for the Future for North Africa, Levant and Gulf Countries) in Tunisia. Global Democracy Senior Director Zaida Arguedas is leading LWV efforts. The League's Global Democracy Program worked in Egypt and Tunisia in 2011 and has strong ties with local organizations.

## Needed

10'x10' canopy to keep papers and volunteers dry while registering voters. If you have one or see one for sale, please contact Karen Eddy at [kseddy2@yahoo.com](mailto:kseddy2@yahoo.com) or 269-599-6399.

**Words  
by Design**

editing • indexing • layout • design

Diane Worden Dale Abbott  
269.341.9207 269.532.2255  
[WordenDex@aol.com](mailto:WordenDex@aol.com) [dale@ten8ious.com](mailto:dale@ten8ious.com)

[www.wordsdesign.net](http://www.wordsdesign.net)

*Flegal & Tibbitts*

*Certified Public Accountants*

2750 Old Centre, Suite 150  
Portage, Michigan 49024  
Phone (269) 383-1900

202 Trowbridge Street  
Allegan, Michigan 49010  
Phone (269) 673-2222

# LWVMI Redistricting Study

**See consensus questions on page 5.**

**By Paula Manley**

The LWVMI Redistricting Study is to be completed by June 1. Our local League will hold a consensus meeting in May (date and location to be announced). You may read background material on the LWVMI website. We are including the consensus questions in this *Bulletin*

as you may choose to use them to guide your study as you review the material on the website. If you wish to complete the questionnaire prior to the May consensus meeting, you may email your responses to **Paula Manley** @pjmanley@hotmail.com.

# Privatization Consensus Meeting

**Please join us to consider this important issue.**

**By Michele McGowan**

All League members are invited to attend the April 12, 2012, consensus meeting on Privatizing Government Services. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Disability Network Southwest Michigan, 517 E. Crosstown Parkway, Kalamazoo. An RSVP to **Michele McGowan** at mcgowenm@dnswm.org or

call (269) 553-9699 (evenings/weekends) would be appreciated but is not necessary.

A link to the [LWVUS privatization study materials](#) can provide more information.

The link to [Privatization Watch](#), a daily blog covering privatization issues in the news may also be helpful. Privatization Watch is a joint project of Essential Information and The Center for Study of Responsive Law.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE HOME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

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.



Make check payable and mail to:  
The League of Women Voters  
Paula Aldridge, Treasurer  
8035 Glenwynd Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

## League of Woman Voters of Michigan Redistricting Consensus Questions

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. The LWVUS position on redistricting is that the process should be transparent and have citizen input. What specific requirements to facilitate transparency and citizen participation should be included in this position? (check all that apply)
  - A. \_\_\_ A requirement that meetings of the redistricting body be subject to the Open Meetings Act.
  - B. \_\_\_ Timely publication of proposed maps in print, online, and on television with an explanation of the rationale for them.
  - C. \_\_\_ A minimum period of 30 days after such publication of public review and comment.
  - D. \_\_\_ Public hearings held at different locations throughout the state
  - E. \_\_\_ Census data and software made available online.
  - F. \_\_\_ Other (please specify)

### REDISTRICTING BODY

2. Prioritize the following options for developers of the redistricting plans with (1) being the most preferred and (5) the least.
  - A. \_\_\_ State Legislature
  - B. \_\_\_ Advisory commission—a group that recommends district plans to the legislature with the legislature having the final say
  - C. \_\_\_ Backup commission- a group that draws plans only if the legislature cannot agree on a districting plan in a timely fashion.
  - D. \_\_\_ Politician commission – a sub group of legislators and/or other elected officials who form the commission.
  - E. \_\_\_ Independent commission – a group of individuals who are not legislators or other public other public officials.
3. If you selected one of the commissions, what factor (s) should be considered in the selection process? (check all that apply)
  - A. \_\_\_ Equal representation for the major parties
  - B. \_\_\_ Independent representation
  - C. \_\_\_ Minority representation
  - D. \_\_\_ Other (please specify)
4. What restrictions should apply? (check all that apply)
  - A. \_\_\_ No current public officials
  - B. \_\_\_ No officials who have held office within 5 years before or after serving on the commission
  - C. \_\_\_ No current lobbyists
  - D. \_\_\_ No members who have been lobbyists within 5 years before or after serving on the Commission.
  - E. \_\_\_ Other (please specify)

5. Should there be an odd number of commissioners to avoid a tie?  
\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
6. Should there be a requirement for a supermajority of commissioners to approve the plan?  
\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

### REDISTRICTING CRITERIA

7. Prioritize the following criteria, with (1) being the most important and (7) being the least.
  - A. \_\_\_ Communities of interest
  - B. \_\_\_ Compactness
  - C. \_\_\_ Competiveness
  - D. \_\_\_ Contiguity
  - E. \_\_\_ Equal population
  - F. \_\_\_ Minority representation
  - G. \_\_\_ Political and geographic boundaries
8. Should any of the following influence the process? (Mark Yes or No)
  - A. \_\_\_ Preferential treatment for one party
  - B. \_\_\_ Protecting incumbents
  - C. \_\_\_ Other (please specify)

### FOLLOW UP PROCEDURE

9. If the redistricting body cannot reach agreement, who should resolve the deadlock?
  - A. \_\_\_ A backup commission
  - B. \_\_\_ The governor
  - C. \_\_\_ The state supreme court
  - D. \_\_\_ The legislature
  - E. \_\_\_ Other (please specify)
10. If the plan is drawn by a commission, should it be subject to approval by an elected body or official?  
\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
11. If so, by whom?
  - A. \_\_\_ The governor
  - B. \_\_\_ The state supreme court
  - C. \_\_\_ The legislature
  - D. \_\_\_ Other (please specify)

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

12. How should desired reforms be implemented?
  - A. \_\_\_ By Legislation
  - B. \_\_\_ By Constitutional Amendment
  - C. \_\_\_ If you checked both, which is preferred? \_\_\_
13. Should redistricting occur only once a decade?  
\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No  
If no, how often should it be allowed? \_\_\_\_\_



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of the Kalamazoo Area  
P.O. Box 2106  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kalamazoo, Michigan  
Permit No. 1107

**Returned Service Requested**

## Come Help Celebrate

Your company is requested at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative Thursday, April 19, 2012, at the Bernhard Center on the WMU campus. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner and the program follow at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 person or \$250 per table of eight.

The LWVKA has been a member of the PRI for years. A large turnout of League members would emphasize our support.

Several people will be honored that evening including **David Artley**, Kalamazoo County Director of Resource Development and **Don Cooney**, Kalamazoo City Commissioner. David will be receiving the PRI Courage of Your Convictions Award and Don will be receiving the PRI Founders Award.

The Banquet also marks the conclusion of the PRI's "We Can Do Better Together" campaign. The Gun Lake Tribe will present a generous matching check (up to \$25,000) in support of a redesigned poverty immersion workshop curriculum.

Please RSVP by April 10:

on-line: <http://bitty.com/priRSVP>

e-mail: [povertysimulation@haltpoverty.org](mailto:povertysimulation@haltpoverty.org)

phone: 269-615-1383

Hope to see you there.

### 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* for 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](mailto:cheryl.lyon-jenness@wmich.edu).