

League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

April 2014

www.lwvka.org

Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Denise Hartsough

Vol. 59 No. 7

League Phone: 269-544-0303

Looking Ahead

By Terry Hluchyj

There's no end of possibilities for League study, education, and advocacy. Selecting from among the many options is always a challenge. With that in mind, the Board of Directors decided it's time to write a new roadmap – a strategic plan to guide our choices over the next few years.

In making this decision, the Board confirmed that our vision and goal frameworks, created in 2007, are still relevant. The frameworks serve as an excellent foundation for developing future strategies, just as they have since the initial plan was adopted. Our work now is to commit ourselves to actions that will bring the vision to life for the next few years.

The Board outlined two phases, leading to adoption of a three- to five-year plan:

Phase 1

- Small teams of members brainstorm and research potential strategies for the focus areas.

Phase 2

- Those teams, with others, gather to review the possibilities, consider refinements to the vision and focus areas, and select strategies over a three- to five-year timeline.

Vision

The League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area will be the premier catalyst to invigorate the democratic process, advocating for open and responsive government which is accountable to all and acts with responsibility to the future.

Focus Areas & Goals

- Election administration processes

Continued on page 2

Calendar

- Mar. 27 LWVMI Education Consensus Meetings**
Thurs.
7:00 pm
American Red Cross
5640 Venture Court
(north of Stadium Drive, west of 11th Street)
- April 2 Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting**
Wed.
7:00 pm
Paula & Ken Manley's home
5652 E. Brenda Ln, Parchment
- April 5 LWVMI Workshops**
Sat.
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Davenport University, Holland
Register at lwvmi.org \$15
- April 15 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
- May 20 LWVKA Annual Meeting**
Tues.
The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
See article for details.

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

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Connie Ferguson**. **Connie will be** on the slate for the LWVUS Board. The election takes place at the National Convention in Dallas, June 6-10.

Looking Ahead continued

Goal: Identify and address current problems with voting processes throughout Kalamazoo County

- Voter outreach and education

Goal: Increase voter registration and improve turnout of informed voters

- Issue study and advocacy

Goal: Advocate on key issues

- Candidates for elected offices

Goal: Increase the number and diversity of people who run for office

Are you ready to put passion to action? Please join us for Phase 1 by signing up for one of the focus area teams. We're looking for 3–5 members for each team – enough for diverse opinions while making it feasible to accommodate everyone's schedules. We anticipate that each group can do its work in two meetings. We'd like to complete Phase 1 by the end of May, so contact **Terry Hluchyj** soon at hluchyberg@aol.com to let me know which group you'd like to join.

LWVMI Education Study

Education Study wraps up.

By Denise Hartsough

The Education Study for the League of Women Voters of Michigan is wrapping up. The consensus meeting took place Thursday, March 27, at the American Red Cross, 5640 Venture Court in Kalamazoo.

Details about how to access the current position, proposed changes, and background appeared in the February *Bulletin*. If you have questions, please contact **Denise Hartsough**, 2690 Timberleaf Ln., Kalamazoo, MI 49006 or denise.hartsough@gmail.com.

Agricultural Study Consensus Meeting

Please join us.

By Paula Manley

The LWVUS Agricultural Study Update Consensus meeting is Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m. at **Paula and Ken Manley's** home 5652 East Brenda Lane in Parchment. This is your opportunity to discuss this timely issue. If you are

unable to attend the meeting, but would like to add your comments, please refer to the March *Bulletin* for the Consensus questions. You may send your responses to Paula Manley at 5652 E. Brenda Lane, Parchment, MI 49004. We hope you can join us on April 2!

LWVKA Annual Meeting

Save the date! The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at The Park Club. Our guest speaker will be **Grace Lubwama**, the new CEO of the YWCA. We will mail invitations the first week of April with all of the details including cost, and where to RSVP. See you in May!

News From National and State

LWVUS

U.S. District Court Rules in *Kobach v. Election Assistance Commission* On March 19, the U.S. District Court for Kansas issued a ruling in *Kobach v. U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)* that approves the documentary proof of citizenship requirement for voter registration by the states of Arizona and Kansas. In a press release (see lww.org), the League called the ruling “a harsh decision that will hurt voters for no real reason.”

League Urges Presidential Veto on H.R. 2019 The League joined a letter asking President Obama to veto H.R. 2019 which repeals public funding for party presidential nominating conventions. H.R. 2019 would repeal the public financing system for presidential candidates and party nominating conventions under the guise of providing funding for a 10-year pediatric cancer research initiative. In reality, the legislation authorizes the funds for the research initiative, but it does not appropriate the funds for use.

League Encourages Treasury Department, IRS to Move Forward with Proposed Regulations The League joined other organizations in sending a [letter to the U.S. Treasury Department](#) and the IRS, encouraging them to move forward with the rulemaking process to provide guidance for tax-exempt social welfare organizations on candidate related political activities. The League previously sent comments to the IRS regarding the proposed regulation.

Submit a Comment to the Environmental Protection Agency The EPA has extended the deadline for public

comments for the proposed federal carbon pollution standard for every new power plant built in America. **The new deadline is May 9, 2014.** Submit a public comment to the EPA in support of the standard and [your voice will be part of the official record.](#)

For articles on a **variety of topics**, check out the LWVUS blog Voices of the League on the lww.org website.

From LWVMI

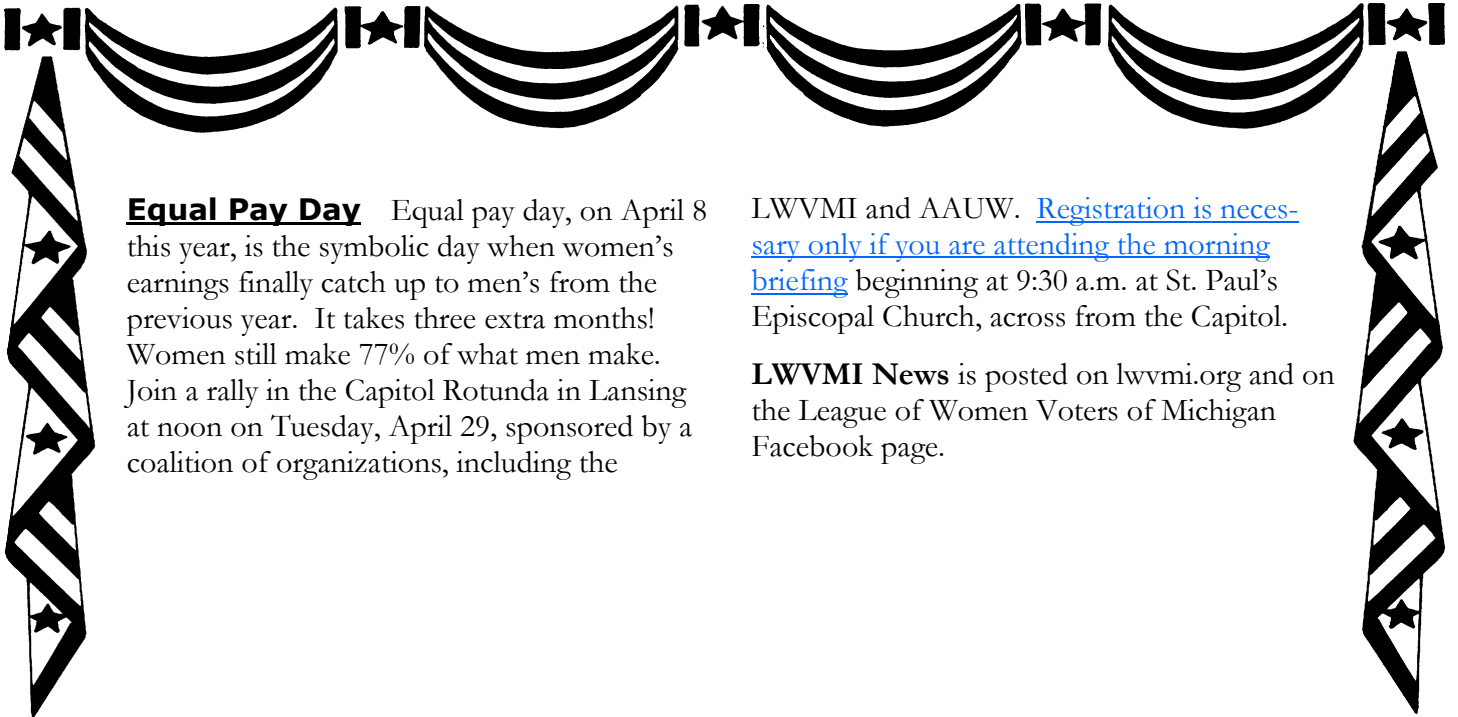
Spring Workshops The LWVMI Board is providing learning opportunities all around the state. There will be a workshop on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Davenport University, 643 S. Waverly, Holland, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The \$15 cost includes coffee and muffins and a box lunch. You may choose one of these interactive sessions for each time period.

- Voter Service Track:
 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Planning and Moderating a Candidate Forum
 - 1-2 p.m. VOTE411 Voter Guide Roundtable
- Leadership Development Track:
 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Recruiting and Retaining Members, Developing League Leaders
 - 1-2 p.m. President's Roundtable

Register by Monday, March 31 on LWVMI.org; pay online or download form and mail to the LWVMI office.

continued on page 4

News National continued



Equal Pay Day Equal pay day, on April 8 this year, is the symbolic day when women’s earnings finally catch up to men’s from the previous year. It takes three extra months! Women still make 77% of what men make. Join a rally in the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing at noon on Tuesday, April 29, sponsored by a coalition of organizations, including the

LWVMI and AAUW. [Registration is necessary only if you are attending the morning briefing](#) beginning at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, across from the Capitol.

LWVMI News is posted on lwvmi.org and on the League of Women Voters of Michigan Facebook page.

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
Dawn Haley, Treasurer
5098 Deep Point Drive
Portage, MI 49002

Regional Workshops

Learning opportunities organized across the state.

By Paula Manley

Once again, your state Board is taking learning opportunities to the four corners of the state. Each workshop will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the following locations and dates. Cost is \$15 which includes coffee and muffins for early arrivals and a box lunch.

Saturday, April 5, 2014: Davenport University, 643 S. Waverly, Holland

Saturday, April 12, 2014, Butnam-Fish Library, 1716 Hancock, Saginaw

Saturday, April 26, 2014, Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military, Dearborn

Saturday, May 3, 2014, Leland Public Library, 203 E. Cedar Street, Leland

The workshops will provide two tracks of two interactive sessions each. You may sign up for any two sessions. Register and pay on-line or download form and mail with your check to League office from the LWVMI.org website.

Deadline: Monday before the workshop you wish to attend.

Voter Service Track

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Planning and Moderating a Candidate Forum

- Organizing a successful candidate forum and
- Becoming an effective League moderator

Noon: box lunch provided

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

VOTE411 Voter Guide Roundtable

- A discussion for experienced users and insight for new users

Membership and Leadership Development Track

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Techniques from the Membership Leadership Development program on:

- Recruiting and retaining members
- Developing League leaders

Membership Directors/Chairs, Board Members and Nominating Committee members encouraged to attend

Noon: box lunch provided

1 p.m. -2 p.m.

President's Roundtable led by LWVMI President

- Tips for enjoying being a local League President
- Delegating, managing challenges and dealing with email

Local League Presidents, Board members and Nominating Committee members are invited to attend.

LWVUS National Convention

The LWVUS 51st National Convention will be held in Dallas, Texas, June 6-11, 2014. The theme is "Power: Our Voices, Our Votes." If you would like to join hundreds of local, state and national League leaders from around the country to learn about issues important to our organization and the nation, hear informative speakers, and attend interesting training sessions, consider being a delegate. Contact **Paula Manley** or **Denise Hartsough** at lwvka.org for further information.



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

2014 Nominating Committee Slate

The following members have accepted nominations for LWVKA Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee. Members will vote on the slate at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Co-President (1 year)	Denise Hartsough
Co-President (1 year)	(open)
Vice President of Program (2 years)	Fran Eckenrode
Secretary (1 year, due to reassignment)	Jacqueline Wylie
Treasurer (2 years)	Susan Atkinson
Board Member (1 year, due to reassignment)	Jennie Hill
Board Member (2 years)	Ken Manley
	Georgiann McWilliams
	KC Miller
	Merrikay Oleen-Burkey
Nominating Committee (1 year)	Kay Anderson, chair
	Yolanda Mitts
	Paula Presler

The current Nominating Committee consists of **Kay Anderson**, chair, off-Board members **Yolanda Mitts** and **Paula Presler** and Board members **Amy Sue Manley** and **KC Miller**. Please contact Kay Anderson at 269-649-2461 or kander314@aol.com, if you are interested in the open Board position listed above.