



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

April 2015
President: Denise Hartsough

www.lwvka.org

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President's Column

By Denise Hartsough

Shortly before the last election, I checked the LWVKA phone and found a question from a librarian about the *Voter Guide*. I left a return message for her and gave her my cell phone number, in case she had further questions. She called and expressed her surprise that I had been working so late, because I had left her the message around 10 p.m. "Oh," I said, "We're all volunteers!" The work that the LWVKA does looks so professional and is so reliable, that not everyone realizes that this is an all-volunteer operation.

I invite you to put on your LWVKA volunteer hat for two major League events. First is our local League's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 p.m. at the Park Club in downtown Kalamazoo. The Annual Meeting this year features a pair of speakers on the Allied Site Landfill clean-up, a crucial environmental and economic development topic. The meeting is also a good time to see old friends and to make the acquaintance of members new to you. The second event is the biennial gathering of Leagues from around Michigan for the League of Women Voters State Convention. State Convention will be right here in Kalamazoo the weekend of May 15-17 at the Four Points by Sheraton, 3600 East Cork Street Court. The State Convention offers the opportunity to participate in helpful workshops, and to meet interesting League members from other communities and regions. Please see articles elsewhere in the *Bulletin* for details about our local Annual Meeting and the State Convention.

Hope to see you at a League event soon!

"The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join us in making democracy work!"

Calendar

- Apr. 21 LWVKA Annual Meeting**
Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
5:30 pm Social time
6:00 pm Dinner
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org
- May 15-17 LWVMI State Convention**
Fri.—Sun. Kalamazoo
- May 19 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
5:30 pm Food available for purchase
6:00 pm Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org
- June 13 Voter Registration**
Sat. Kalamazoo Pride 2015
Arcadia Creek Festival Place
- June 16 LWVKA Board Meeting**
Tues. The Park Club
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
5:30 pm Food available for purchase
6:00 pm Meeting
Questions? Call 269-544-0303
or email president@lwvka.org

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

Issue Study & Advocacy

Money in Politics

Consider joining this important League study.

By Paula Manley

Last June at the LWVUS National Convention, delegates voted to review and update the League position on money in politics. A national study committee has been compiling a background reading list which is available on the LWVUS website. In the fall, study guides and consensus questions will be posted with a February 1, 2016 deadline for submitting consensus reports.

If you have an interest in learning more about money in politics, consider joining

our League study committee. League studies are always informative and a great way to engage in dialogue with other League members. You would be committing to reading background material and meeting several times before the first of next year. If you have questions or wish to join the committee to learn more about First Amendment issues involved with political speech, contact **Paula Manley** at pjmanley@hotmail.com.

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.

Administration

The LWVKA Annual Meeting in April

Please join us for this important event.

By Frances Eckenrode

The LWVKA Annual Meeting will be held on April 21, 2015, at the Park Club in downtown Kalamazoo. Please plan to attend this important event. You are also encouraged to invite a guest(s). 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.

Invitations have been sent by US mail and email. The Park Club has planned a tempting menu for us so mark your entree choice and return your reservation by April 13.

LWVKA Recently Lost Two Longtime Members

Both contributed to the community in many ways.

By Paula Manley

Long time member **Virginia (Jo) Carpenter** passed away January 31. She was always in attendance at our Annual Meetings and many other League events. Jo was retired from Kalamazoo Public Schools and was an active community volunteer for groups including ISAAC, Habitat for Humanity, and the Metro Transit local advisory committee.

Richard (Dick) Knapp, who died February 7, was involved in the League for many years. He most recently served on the Education Fund Board. Dick had a variety of volunteer interests, including the local chapter of the United Nations. **Governor Snyder** and former **Representative Sean McCann** recognized his volunteer efforts last year.

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Administration

LWVMI Convention in Kalamazoo May 15-17

This is a great opportunity to meet League members from across the state.

By Ruth Caputo

The 2015 LWVMI Convention will be held right here in Kalamazoo! It will run from the evening of Friday, May 15 through noon Sunday, May 17 at Four Points by Sheraton near the Sprinkle and I-94 interchange. The theme for this year is "Giving Voice to Democracy". There will be pre-convention workshops Friday afternoon on "Growing the League" and "Speaking Out for the Environment." A reception will be held Friday evening at the Park Club, followed by a dine-around to introduce participants to some of Kalamazoo's wonderful restaurants. After a full day of business on Saturday, there will be another reception before a banquet at Four Points. Kalamazoo's own **Carla Campbell-Jackson** (Kalamazoo NAACP) will be the featured speaker.

This is a wonderful opportunity for local members to experience a convention and to get to know members from across the state. We are allowed 8 delegates. Please let [Denise Hartsough](#) know if you are interested in representing LWVKA. The cost of registration (\$160) is covered for delegates. If you aren't able to attend for the whole convention but would still like to come, a special rate of \$50 is offered for those attending Saturday only. Those wishing to come to the banquet and hear Carla Campbell-Jackson speak can do so for \$35. (This is included in the registration cost of \$160 for those coming to the whole convention.) For registration materials please contact Denise at denise.hartsough@gmail.com or go on-line to the LWVMI website. The deadline for registration is April 17.

Address—Phone—Email Updates

An updated member list is on the way.

By Chris Kuthe

Does the Kalamazoo League of Women Voters have your current home address, phone number, and email? If not, please contact [Chris Kuthe](#) at ckuthe57@yahoo.com with your current

information. We are in the process of preparing an updated member list and want to be sure we are able to contact everyone. Thank you for your help.

Congratulations to Member!

LWVKA congratulates member Amy Smendik on her recent election as president of the Michigan Pharmacists' Association.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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