



League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

May 2013

www.lwvka.org

Vol. 58 No. 8

Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Michele McGowen

League Phone: 269-544-0303

Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

By Amy Sue Manley

On March 25, 2013, the LWVKA and the Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition paired up to host a program on Human Trafficking at the Kalamazoo Public Library. Our speaker was **Carmen Kucinich**, a victim specialist for the FBI. She talked about both labor and sexual trafficking involving minors and adults. We learned that minors are often recruited by neighbors, family members, at school, and via social media. Cases often cross state lines and involve many agencies. Twenty people attended this program.

LWVMI Rejects Request to Advocate for GPI

By Kay Perry

The LWVKA Board recently asked the LWVMI to begin advocating for the development of a genuine progress indicator (GPI) for the State. The GPI would measure the health of our society by looking at progress related to factors such as life expectancy, poverty rates, unemployment rates, disposable income, distribution of wealth, education levels, the state of our natural resources, environmental pollution, human health, and satisfaction with life.

That measurement would be in addition to existing progress indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that focuses on the economy by measuring the market value of all final goods and services produced in the State over a given period of time.

The LWVMI is not willing to adopt the project at this time. It is not consistent with their strategic plan. The LWVMI's Advocacy Committee is also concerned about adding to the workload of the state and local Leagues.

Calendar

Apr. 29 LWVKA Annual Meeting

Mon. Fetzer Center, WMU
5:30 pm

May 7 Election Day

Tues. Vote!
7 am-8 pm

May 9 YWCA Women of Achievement Dinner

Thurs. Make your reservation

May 17-19 State Convention in Lansing

Fri.-Sun. Radisson Hotel, Lansing

May 21 LWVKA Board Meeting

Tues. The Park Club
5:30 pm 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo
Food available for purchase

6 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.

**Taxes are good.
Taxes are fun.
Taxes take care
of everyone.**

New Members—Welcome!

New members are interested in positive political action and voter education.

By Frances Eckenrode

Mary Baggerman recently joined the League after attending the annual Brunch as a guest of Paula Manley. She is interested in positive political action and a moderate, balanced view in a world that isn't always balanced.

Mary grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and then came to Kalamazoo where she graduated from Kalamazoo College with a major in religion. She also earned a Masters in Counseling from WMU and is employed with Family and Childrens' Services of Kalamazoo. One of Mary's hobbies is art quilting, where the maker designs quilts for artistic appearance rather than function. She also enjoys gardening and keeping a few chickens. Mary and her husband have a daughter and a son.

Kris Dieterman is a new member to the Kalamazoo League of Women Voters. Kris is from the Kalamazoo area, attended school in Climax. He studied out-of-state, received training in HVAC repair and maintenance, and then returned to the Kalama-

zoo area where he is employed in building maintenance. Kris is a big outdoors fan, and enjoys hunting as well as fixing and building things.

Jon Hoadley is originally from South Dakota and attended Michigan State University where he earned degrees in Social Relations and Women's Studies. He moved to Kalamazoo three years ago to work on the defense of Kalamazoo's non-discrimination ordinance.

Jon is president of Badlands Strategies, a Kalamazoo-based consulting firm which has core strengths managing coalitions, fundraising, and political campaigns. One of the firm's current projects is with the Michigan Election Coalition (the LWVMI is a member).

Jon is a runner and also loves cooking and finding new things to do in the kitchen. He enjoys being out in the community looking for volunteer projects. Kris and Jon are generally interested in voter education and also have specific interests including advocacy for no-reason absentee voting.

Got Any News?

LWVKA Board Members and active committee members do their best to keep current on local government developments. Help is always appreciated. If you are aware of activities that may be of interest to other League members or if there are developments that you feel the League should be monitoring, let us know. Share that information with the League by calling 544-0303 or emailing president@lwvka.org.

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LWVKA Supports Countywide Transit Millage

Public transit provides a valuable community service.

By Michele McGowen

On the May 7, 2013 ballot, voters in Kalamazoo County will have the opportunity to vote on a 0.4 mills renewal question supporting public transit services. The question reads:

“The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority, County of Kalamazoo, Michigan was formed to operate and provide public transportation within the County of Kalamazoo and seeks renewal of previous authorization from the electors to levy up to 0.4 mills for this purpose. Accordingly, for the purpose of providing public transportation services within Kalamazoo County, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in Kalamazoo County be continued at 0.4 mills, being 40 cents (\$0.40) per thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value on all taxable property in Kalamazoo County for a period of four (4) years, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. It is estimated that 0.4 mills would raise \$3,089,900 in the first year.”

The LWVKA Board voted at its March meeting to support the countywide transit millage question. The League of Women Voters supports public service delivery systems that are in the best interests of the community as a whole, feasible to implement and accountable to residents, includ-

ing transportation systems that afford better access to housing and jobs.

Relevant facts about public transportation in Kalamazoo County include:

- This millage will raise 18% of the operating budget for public transit
- 73% of riders have no other means of transportation
- 65% of trips are taking passengers to or from work and school
- Ridership is up 9% over the previous year
- 2.9 million trips were taken on fixed route service in urbanized area of county in 2012
- 133,456 trips on Metro County Connect, the countywide demand/response service in 2012

The LWVKA urges you to vote YES on May 7, 2013 to support the renewal of the countywide public transit millage. Information about public transportation services in Kalamazoo County can be found at www.kalcountytransit.com.

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* 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.

News From National and State

LWVMI

The April 2013 *Michigan Voter* includes convention information. LWVKA's **Paula Aldridge** has been nominated for state treasurer! LWVMI Advocacy VP, **Judy Karandjeff**, provides a summary of LWVMI legislative action--elections, firearms, health care, biodiversity, taxes, drug testing, reproductive choice, education. LWVMI speaks out on a broad range of issues--and we know what we're talking about. See the [Michigan Voter](#) on line.

LWVUS

LWVUS Board Outlines Approach to Proposals Regarding Money in Politics

The LWVUS, at its Board meeting on April 7, [adopted a statement](#) regarding forthcoming proposals for work on issues related to money in politics. This statement is intended to clarify the stance the League is taking on such proposals going forward. In addition, LWVUS is establishing a Campaign Finance Task Force. Over the next few months, the task force will be developing a discussion guide and evaluating constitutional and legislative proposals.

League Expresses Support for Wind Energy

The League joined members of the environmental community by [sending a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives](#) expressing strong support for H.R. 924. This bill extends the Investment Tax Credit for offshore wind and encourages investment in the growing industry.

League Comments on Contraceptive Coverage under Affordable Care Act

The League joined with other organizations concerned about women's reproductive health in submitting comments on regulations proposed by the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) regarding preventive services under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The comments urge HHS to keep the religious exemption narrow in order to protect access to preventative care such as contraceptive coverage. The comments note that under the ACA, the regulations must provide seamless contraceptive coverage with no cost sharing for women.

League Joins "All Risk, No Reward Coalition" on Keystone XL Pipeline

LWVUS and LWV Nebraska joined the "All Risk, No Reward Coalition" on the Keystone XL (KXL) Pipeline. The coalition will be working in the coming weeks to encourage President Obama and the State Department to reject the permit for the proposed KXL Pipeline. For more information about the coalition, [check out the press release](#) and the first ad that the coalition launched.

LWVUS sends letter to U.S. Senate on Immigration Reform

The League sent a letter to the U. S. Senate on April 18 regarding immigration reform and citizenship in a democracy. The League is urging Senators to ensure that a path to citizenship is available to all who remain le-

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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News National continued

gally in the United States. Members of the Grassroots Lobby Corps will also be holding meetings with Senators on this issue.

League Expresses Disappointment in Senate Gun Safety Vote

The League issued a [press statement](#) on April 18, expressing our disappointment in those

Senators who voted against improved background checks, a common sense solution to gun violence. These Senators have failed in their fundamental duty to protect Americans from wanton violence. (Michigan's Senators voted for the background checks.)

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