



## League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

May 2014

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

Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Denise Hartsough

Vol. 59 No. 8

League Phone: 269-544-0303

### Annual Meeting Information

The League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area Annual Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at The Park Club in downtown Kalamazoo. **Grace Lubwama**, CEO of the YWCA of Kalamazoo, is the featured speaker. Dinner costs \$35 per person. Checks should be made out to LWVKA, and mailed to **Amy Sue Manley**, 1833 Lakeway Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49001, by May 5, 2014.

### Recommendations for Vote at the Annual Meeting

By Terry Hluchyj

#### Local Program

Based on members' discussion at the February program planning meeting, the Board of Directors recommends that members vote to reopen the existing LWVKA Natural Resources Land Use Planning position for the purpose of considering whether to add "light pollution" to the list of physical environmental concerns in section A.2.b.

The current position is:

- A. Planning Development
  - 2. Land use plans and zoning ordinances should reflect:
    - b. Physical environmental concerns, e.g. noise, air, water and land pollution, provisions for open space and waste disposal, aesthetic standards and balanced transportation systems.

#### Bylaws

The Board of Directors recommends no changes to the bylaws.

### Calendar

**May 20 LWVKA Annual Meeting**  
 Tues. 6:00 pm  
 The Park Club  
 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo  
 RSVP by May 5.

**May 29 YWCA Women of Achievement Dinner**  
 Thurs.  
 Watch for your invitation.

**June 6-10 LWVUS Convention**  
 Dallas, TX

**June 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](mailto:president@lwvka.org)

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

### 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

## Agricultural Study Consensus Meeting

**Thanks to all who worked on this important issue.**

**By Paula Manley**

The LWVUS Agriculture Study Update Consensus meeting was held on April 2. Ten League members attended the meeting and the results of the discussion will be submitted to the LWVUS Board. After the LWVUS Board reviews the data from Leagues around the country, they will determine if there should be an

update to the Agriculture position, and is so, what should be included in an updated position statement.

I wish to thank the committee members who read and studied volumes of material to help guide the discussion: **Kay and Rick Anderson, Ruth Caputo, Martha Dahlinger, Fran Eckenrode, and Janet Jones.**

## Welcome New Member Martha Dahlinger

**League bipartisan attracts new member.**

**By Frances Eckenrode**

Please welcome **Martha Dahlinger** to the LWVKA. Throughout her life, Martha has been politically active in many ways and at many levels, including involvement with political candidates, campaign committees, civil rights, and many other causes. Currently, Martha has numerous interests including child poverty and agricultural issues.

Martha is a Florida native but attended school in Harrison, MI, and graduated from Michigan State University. She also earned

a Master's degree from Western Michigan University. During her career of more than 30 years, Martha taught grades four through nine in various school districts including Vicksburg, Traverse City, and Kalamazoo. She also taught in Japan. In addition to her long career, she is a proud mom to two daughters and two sons.

Martha is drawn to the League for its bipartisan efforts to get information out to the public, especially in the current climate of political division.

## LWVMI Education Study

**Consensus response submitted.**

**By Denise Hartsough**

The LWVKA's consensus response to the Education Study for the League of Women Voters of Michigan was composed at the consensus meeting on March 27, approved by the LWVKA

Board on April 15, and submitted to the LWVMI before the May 1 deadline. Thanks to Education Study Committee members **Betty Lee Ongley, Martha Dahlinger, and Kay Anderson**, and to five other LWVKA members who participated!

## News From National and State

### from LWVUS

#### **LWVUS Coalition List**

The LWVUS Board met in April and approved the updated version of the League of Women Voters Coalition List. You can view the entire [list of the League's official partnerships and coalition memberships online](#).

#### **Message from LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara re: *McCutcheon v. FEC***

By now, we are all aware that the Supreme Court struck down aggregate contribution limits in *McCutcheon v. FEC*. It came as no surprise that the Roberts Court continued its systematic dismantling of the protections against corruption that limits on money in politics provide. Significantly, the decision embraces multiple aspects of the First Amendment, from freedom of speech to freedom of association in reaching its conclusion.

The temptation to stage protests and demand action to reverse this line of decisions is great. But in the cold light of day, there are no clear or easy answers. The law and the Constitution mean whatever the Supreme

Court says they mean. The problem of money in politics has been with us since the Constitution was ratified and it will be with us so long as people with money see elected officials as a source of power. Just as the law protecting political rights, from speech to association to petitioning the government, is complicated and interwoven, so the solution to the problem of money in elections will be complex and never final.

Now more than ever, the thoughtful approach of the League of Women Voters is needed to help voters understand the issues at stake. Now more than ever, we need to fight to make every vote count and give every eligible voter free and fair access to the polls. In the end, the only reliable response to a flood of money in our elections is a flood of voters at the polls, each voter armed with the kind of reliable, unbiased information that the League provides.

For articles on a **variety of topics**, check out the LWVUS blog Voices of the League on the [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) website.

**LWVMI News** is posted on [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org) and on the League of Women Voters of Michigan Facebook page.

## Welcome New Members

**Elizabeth Amidon**  
7174 Hickory Point Drive  
Portage, MI 49024  
323-0949  
[amidon@wmich.edu](mailto:amidon@wmich.edu)

**Susan Atkinson**  
6080 Baywood Dr  
Portage, MI 49024  
501-5669  
[sls.atkinson@gmail.com](mailto:sls.atkinson@gmail.com)

## League of Women Voters General Fund Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Budget Year July 2014—June 2015

### Income

Membership Dues	\$8,400.00
Members Contributions	1,500.00
Non-Member Contributions	500.00
<i>Bulletin</i> Sponsors	75.00
Fund Raising Sales	150.00
Annual Meeting Income	1,800.00
Founder's Day Brunch	600.00
Interest Income	<u>110.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,135.00</b>

### Expenses

Office Expense	\$125.00
Postage, Bulk Mail, PO Box	800.00
Telephone	620.00
Advertising/Website	190.00
<i>Bulletin</i> Expense	1,000.00
Finance Drive Expense	250.00
External Organizational Dues	100.00
National PMP	4,200.00
State PMP	3,200.00
Sponsorship	400.00
Meeting Costs	50.00
Annual Meeting Expense	1,800.00
Advocacy	500.00
National/State Convention	900.00
Membership Recruitment	<u>700.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$14,835.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$(1,700.00)</b>

### LWVUS National Convention

The LWVUS 51<sup>st</sup> 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 [lwvk.org](http://lwvk.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](mailto:kander314@aol.com), if you are interested in the open Board position listed above.