



## League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

September 2012

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

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Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Michele McGowen

League Phone: 269-544-0303

### Human Trafficking

By Michele McGowen and Paula Manley

The Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition is offering an awareness and training event on Saturday, September 29, from 1-5 pm at the New Day Community Church, 3600 Nichols Road. The event will include information on human trafficking and 30- minute training on how to recognize human trafficking and what to do when you suspect human trafficking.

Human Trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. It is occurring in the United States as well. Trafficked girls and women are forced to work as sex slaves in massage parlors which offer commercial sex across the United States. The LWV of New Jersey brought this issue to the LWV National Convention in June as a proposed program study. There were many recommendations for study or review and this issue was not passed. It is possible that we will see this issue appear for consideration at the next convention. In the meantime we have an opportunity to learn more about human trafficking in our community through the local coalition.

For further information on this community event, contact Sara Morley LaCroix of the Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition at 269-303-0725.

**Taxes cost  
A little each day,  
Enriching our lives  
In so many ways.**

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

### Calendar

- Sept 4 KVCC Texas Township Campus—Cougar Connection**  
Tues. 10 am-5 pm LWVKA registering voters
- Sept 7 Bronco Bash, WMU**  
Fri. 3-7 pm LWVKA registering voters
- Sept 11 Transportation Community Forum**  
Tues. 6-8 pm Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
346 W. Michigan, Ste 100
- Sept 13 K Fest, Kalamazoo College**  
Thurs. 3:30-7 pm LWVKA registering voters
- Sept 17 KCASI - LWVKA presenting "Voting Rights & 2012 Ballots"**  
Mon. 1:15 pm Coover Center  
918 Jasper St, Kalamazoo
- Sept 18 LWVKA Board Meeting**  
Tues. 5:30 pm The Park Club  
219 W. South St, Kalamazoo  
Food available for purchase  
6 pm Meeting  
Questions? Call 269-544-0303 or email [president@lwvka.org](mailto:president@lwvka.org) for more information
- Sept 25 National Voter Registration Day**  
Tues.
- Sept 27 Patriocracy**  
Thurs. 6:30 pm-8:30pm Documentary film showing  
Kalamazoo Public Library  
315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo

Continued on page 2

## Texas Township Candidate Forum

**The League process facilitated an orderly meeting.**

**By Barbara Huber**

Townships in Michigan have traditionally been sleepy forms of local government—low population, part-time officers and trustees and limited office hours, if there was an office. Those were the days when the League of Women Voters of Michigan favored eliminating this form of government before abandoning that position. How times have changed!

For the third time since my move to Texas Township in 1972 a candidate forum was conducted by LWVKA. This time the forum was in response to the 2012 August primary election with only Republican candidates on the ballot and challengers for all positions on the Board of Trustees except the treasurer. This was the setting on July 25 where eleven candidates faced an audience of nearly 125 residents and responded to questions posed by the League as well as township residents.

As one might expect even in an unusual controversial election, the League process facilitated an orderly meeting and all candidates were given an opportunity to present themselves and their positions by answering many questions over the planned two-hour event. Kalamazoo Valley Community College graciously permitted the League to use the Groves Center facility for the forum.

Thanks are due to township League members, **Holly Hartwig, John Speier, Tracie Draznin, Janet Hansen**, and to LWVKA members **KC Miller** for contacting candidates, to **Paula Manley** moderator, to **Ken Manley** timer, and to **Connie Ferguson, Terry Hluchyj** and **Paula Aldridge** who collected and reviewed audience questions. By their overwhelming response, Texas Township residents echoed **Barbara Jordan's** sentiment that "The stakes...are too high for government to be a spectator sport."

### Calendar continued

**Sept 28 2012 Summit on**

**Fri. Racism**  
8:30 am - Fetzer Center  
4:40 pm Western Michigan University

**Sept 29 Human Trafficking**

**Sat. Awareness and Training Event**  
1-5 pm  
New Day Community Church  
3600 Nichols Road

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

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### Resource for Young LWV Members

LWVUS has just started a [Facebook group for Young Professionals](#) in the League. It is designed for members who are 45 years and younger. If that is you, please consider joining the group!

## You are Invited to a Community Forum on Transportation Funding

**By Michele McGowen**

**L**WVKA is a co-sponsor for an important community conversation on the future of transportation funding in Michigan. Forums such as this are being held around the state, and we need a diverse range of community input.

The way we fund transportation projects (building, repairing, maintaining roads and bridges, public transit that includes buses, rail, and bike trails) does not meet our current needs, and fall far short of meeting the needs for the future. The Forum will provide informa-

tion about the current funding structure of transportation and give attendees the chance to create a vision for a different future. The results will be sent to **Governor Snyder** and legislative leaders to guide decision making.

The Community Forum will be held on September 11, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce offices, 346 W. Michigan Ave, Suite 100, Kalamazoo. More information can be found at [www.trans4m.org](http://www.trans4m.org) or by calling **Michele McGowen** at (269) 345-1516 x116.

## 2012 Summit on Racism

**By Paula Manley**

**T**he Kalamazoo YWCA is hosting a Summit on Racism on Friday, September 28, from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. at the Fetzer Center on the WMU campus. The LWVKA is a co-sponsor of this event. The purpose of the summit is to bring together community members to develop action driven results to combat racism areas of housing, education and employment.

The keynote speaker is **Betty Ramirez Swiners**. She is the owner and CEO of Diversity Speakers, a company established to promote minority public speakers and trainers. *Texas Hispanic Magazine* recognized her as one of Texas' most influential women.

For further information or to make a reservation, contact **Che'ree Thomas** at 269-345-5595 or [cthomas@ywcakalamazoo.org](mailto:cthomas@ywcakalamazoo.org).

## National Voter Registration Day

**By Paula Manley**

**L**WVKA will be participating in National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 25, 2012. This is a nationwide nonpartisan effort to register thousands of voters on a single day. The League of Women Voters is one of many organizations joining this effort. We will be registering voters at Borgess Medical Center and the Department of Human Services.

The League is dedicated to making sure that every eligible voter has a chance to participate. Voter registration is key to that process so that all Americans, especially young people, new citizens, and those living in traditionally under-represented communities, have a voice in November.

## News From National and State

### The Assault on Voting Continues – This Time in Michigan

Early this year the Michigan Legislature passed a law requiring all voters to affirm their citizenship at the polls before they could receive a ballot (this is already done when one registers to vote). **Governor Rick Snyder** (R) vetoed the bill because he was concerned it would cause confusion for voters. Even though the law was vetoed, an initiative by **Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's** office seeking to affirm voters' U.S. citizenship led to confusion at the polls which resulted in some registered voters being denied ballots. [Read more on this subject online.](#)

### League Submits Comments on Hydraulic Fracking

The [League submitted comments](#) regarding EPA guidance for the use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) activities.

### League, Coalition Partners Sends Letter to EPA on Air Toxics Standards

The League joined coalition partners in the environment and public health areas in sending a [letter to the Environmental Protection Agency](#) regarding the future of air toxics standards for Portland cement kilns.

### League Asks House Members to Honor New Ethics Rules Regarding National Conventions

The League joined coalition partners in asking members of the U.S. House to honor [new congressional ethics rules](#) prohibiting members from participating in parties at the national nominating conventions that are paid for by lobbyists or lobbying organizations and are held to “honor” the members.

### League Joins in Supporting Lower Court Campaign Finance Disclosure Ruling

The League joined an [amicus brief](#) on an appeal to the DC Court of Appeals in the case of *Van Hollen vs. FEC*. The friend-of-the-court brief supports a lower court ruling that upheld strict disclosure requirements for the funding for electioneering communications.

### LWVUS Agriculture Position Review and Update

Delegates to Convention 2012 passed a motion to review and update the LWVUS Agriculture position, which was originally approved in 1988. The motion calls for a review that will investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling. In late 2012, the LWVUS Board will discuss the proposed study, define the scope and solicit committee members. Look for information later this year.

### 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@lwwka.org](mailto:president@lwwka.org).

# Patriocracy!—Film Showing

## By Amy Sue Manley

The League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area proudly presents a free showing of the film *Patriocracy!* at the Kalamazoo Public Library on Thursday, September 27, 2012 from 6:30—8:30 in the Van Deusen room.

*Patriocracy* explores the extreme polarization in America that cripples the country from

tackling its most serious problems. For more information on this film, please visit <http://www.patriocracymovie.com>.

Please join us for this free program. Refreshments will be provided.

# Welcome New Member

**Marie Rogers**  
895 Treasure Island Drive  
Mattawan, MI 49071  
269-352-2107  
merog@comcast.net

### 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.

# 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



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## Meet New Member Michele Momotiuck

**LWVKA  
welcomes  
new  
members.**

**By Frances Eckenrode**

**T**he LWV welcomes **Michele Momotiuck**, a recent new member. Michele grew up in the Midwest and also lived in California's Silicon Valley for seven years, working as a computer engineer. Michele moved to Kalamazoo a few years ago along with her husband and two small children in order to be close to family. Her parents live in Lake Orion, north of Detroit, and her husband's parents live in Goshen, Indiana. Michele works part time at Arcadia Institute, which helps people with disabilities who want to be included in community activities not related to disabilities.

Michele is interested in learning more about politics, and joined LWV based on input from friends who are LWV members. She is also a member of the Junior League where she serves on the State Political Affairs Committee. In this role she meets with women across the state and has helped pass human trafficking legislation. Michele is also active in child nutrition issues.

In addition to family, work, and volunteer activities, Michele enjoys reading and playing the euphonium in the Kalamazoo Concert Band.