



## League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area

August 2012

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

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Co-Presidents: Paula Manley and Michele McGowen

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### LWVKA Adopts Social Media Policy

By Michele McGowen

At the July 17, 2012 Board Meeting, the LWVKA adopted our first Social Media Policy. Social media tools, such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Youtube have changed the public presence of the League and of its members. This new policy addresses issues that may arise as the League and its members have an increased presence online.

Below is the policy that the Board has adopted. "The Facebook Posting Guidelines" come from LWVUS and will appear in the "about us" section of the LWVKA Facebook page.

#### LWVKA Social Media Policy

Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and Pinterest are tools that the League of Women Voters/Kalamazoo Area may utilize to communicate with our members and the general public. As much as our website and *Bulletins* contain information that speaks for and represents the LWVKA's positions, information posted on any LWVKA social media site should follow already established policies and practices for publications.

The non-partisan policies and guidelines we currently adhere to shall extend to our members' social media presence. For example, the League has a policy that "Board members who hold positions of high public visibility, including the President, *Voter Guide* Editor, and Voter Service Director may not take an active role in a campaign for a political candidate or for a non-League issue. Prohibited activities including hosting and sponsoring campaign events, serving on campaign committees, signing public endorsements, or otherwise publicly demonstrating support." LWVKA members in leadership positions should evaluate what they post on their personal Facebook, Twitter, Youtube or Pinterest pages using this guideline. **Actions such as "liking" a candidate on a Facebook page are equivalent to placing a candidate's yard sign in your property or to signing an endorsement petition; these actions become public and may not be reversible.**

### Calendar

**July 25 Texas Township Candidate Forum**

Wed. 7-9 pm Kalamazoo Valley Groves Center (M-TEC) 7107 Elm Valley Drive

**Aug 4 Mothers of Hope - Ultimate Family Reunion**

Sat. 11 am-7 pm LWVKA will be there!

**Aug 7 Primary Election Day VOTE!**

Tues. 7 am-8 pm

**Aug 20 KCASI Meeting: Status of Social Security & Medicare**

Mon. 1-3 pm Coover Center 918 Jasper St, Kalamazoo Info—Area Agency on Aging 373-5147

**Aug 21 LWVKA Board Meeting**

Tues. 5:30 pm The Park Club 219 W. South St, Kalamazoo Food available for purchase Meeting 6 pm Questions? Call 269-544-0303 or email [president@lwvka.org](mailto:president@lwvka.org) for more information

**Aug 27 Women's Equality Day Luncheon**

Mon. 11:30 am- 1:30pm YWCA, 353 E. Mich., Kalamazoo Watch for your invitation!

**Sept 27 Patriocracy**

Thurs. 6:30 pm- 8:30pm Documentary film showing Kalamazoo Public Library 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo

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

## LWVKA Adopts Social Media Policy continued

Each form of social media, including the LWVKA website, shall have two (2) administrators, of which one administrator must be a current Board member.

The administrators are responsible for monitoring and updating the social media presence of LWVKA, including responding to posts from the public. They are also responsible for deleting posts that do not adhere to posting guidelines (see below). Social media administrators should look to the “Facebook Posting Guide for Local and State Leagues,” published by the LWVUS in June 2012.

### “Facebook Posting Guidelines:” (to be posted on the LWVKA facebook page)

Before we get going, we need to just run through some quick guidelines with you, so we can make sure everyone is having a good time.

- We welcome a diversity of opinions and encourage discussion of the issues on this page. We will be posting news, stories from other Leagues, ways you can get involved and other great information.
- We want to keep our Facebook page an open forum and make sure everyone feels comfortable participating, so please keep comments and wall posts clean and relevant. We reserve the right to remove any posts or comments that fall into the following categories:
- We do not allow graphic, obscene, explicit or racial comments or submissions, nor do we allow comments that are abusive, hateful or intended to defame anyone or any

organization. We will not tolerate any harassment or bullying. In other words, be nice and respectful of others and their opinions.

- We do not allow third party solicitations or advertisements. This includes promotion or endorsements, in addition to attempts to defame or defraud any third-party organizations or groups.
- In order to maintain nonpartisanship, we do not allow endorsement or opposition of political candidates. Posts by others about a candidate are not endorsements or opposition by the League of Women Voters.
- We also do not allow spam. We encourage you to share material with us, but please remain relevant.
- We do not allow comments that suggest or encourage illegal activity.
- You participate at your own risk, taking personal responsibility for your comments, your username and any information provided.

Also, the appearance of external links on this page does not constitute official endorsement on behalf of the League of Women Voters, our chapters or our members.

Whew! Now that all THAT is out of the way, let's get to know each other. Post! Share! Comment! Discuss! Ready? GO!

Adopted 7/17/12

## Kalamazoo's Ecovillage Seeking Residents

**Are you interested in a greener, healthier community?**

**By Connie Ferguson**

Many League members have been following the progress at Manitou Arbor for a number of years. Now they're ready to talk with people who might be interested in joining the community. Here's their announcement:

“Smarter, smaller, greener and healthier community living in Manitou Arbor Ecovillage. You've heard about it before but NOW is the time to reserve your site in a community dedicated to sustainability. Help make it happen—pass on the information to others who might be interested too. Learn more on [their web site](#) or call 1-800-354-0382.”

## LWVMI Position on Redistricting for State Legislature and US House of Representatives

**The LWVMI reaffirms its support for the goals of transparency and citizen partnership in the redistricting process.**

**By Paula Manley**

Recently Leagues across the state participated in the LWVMI redistricting study. The results were sent to the State Board which adopted the following policy at the June 30 Board meeting.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) supports the formation of an independent redistricting commission in lieu of the legislature as the primary redistricting body. Such a commission should afford equal representative to the major parties and also provide for independent and diverse representation. This commission should be established through legislation and/or a constitutional amendment.

The LWVMI reaffirms its support for the LWVUS goals of transparency and citizen partnership in the redistricting process. To implement these goals the following procedures should be used:

1. Meetings of the redistricting body should be subject to the Open Meetings Act.
2. Proposed maps should be published in a timely manner, in print, online and on tele-

vision with an explanation of the rationale involved.

3. A period of least 30 days following publication of the proposed maps should be allowed for public review and comment.
4. Public hearings should be held at different locations throughout the state.
5. Census data and relevant census software should be made available online.

The list is open ended. Technological and other improvements should be employed as they become available.

The LWVMI supports population as the primary criterion for redistricting. Other factors of importance are contiguity, maintaining political and geographical boundaries and minority representation. Additional factors to be considered are communities of interest, competitiveness and compactness. There should be no preferential treatment for any party and no protection of incumbents. Redistricting should take place only once a decade following the decennial census.

## LWVKA Candidate Forums

**By KC Miller**

LWVKA will sponsor a candidate forum for the Texas Township offices of Supervisor, Clerk, and Trustee. The forum will be Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at the Kalamazoo Valley Groves Center, 7101 Elm Valley Drive, Kalamazoo, from 7- 9 p.m. The election for these candidates is August 7, 2012.

For the general election, we are planning two forums so far. One is for the Comstock offices

of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustee. The date, time, and location are TBA. The other forum is for the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor, and we will partner with the Kalamazoo County Bar Association. The date, time, and location are also TBA. League members who would like to assist should contact **KC Miller** at 269-385-1385 or one of the LWVKA co-presidents.

## News From National and State

### Elections: Wins for Voters in Michigan, Arizona and the Nation!

On the eve of the 4th of July, Michigan's governor vetoed voter suppression legislation that would have required ballot affirmation of citizenship, restricted voter registration drives and required photo ID to obtain an absentee ballot. LWVMI and its partners sent a [message of thanks](#) to Gov. Rick Snyder. Also, last week, the Supreme Court denied the state of Arizona's request for a stay to block implementation of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, holding that the documentary proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration applicants does violate the NVRA. In other words, we won, at least for now. For more than six years, the League has been fighting against an Arizona law that requires voter registration applicants to provide documentary proof of their citizenship.

### Elections: Voter Purge May Be Coming to Your State Soon

A number of states (including Michigan) have requested access to the federal government's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system which queries other databases for information. It is not clear at this point how up-to-date or accurate the SAVE system is. So its use for purging non-citizens from voter rolls could be problematic, and state systems for identifying and matching possible non-citizens in their databases have been full of errors, most recently in Florida. The League believes that all list maintenance/removals/purging must be TRANSPARENT, ACCURATE, and LEGAL. To learn more read the [recent synopsis from the Advancement Project](#).

### Supreme Court Upholds Affordable Care Act!

The League [issued a statement](#) and posted a blog welcoming the landmark Supreme Court decision

to uphold the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The statement notes that "Leagues throughout the country will continue to educate communities and Americans on the ACA and its pivotal impact on their lives. Health care for all must be the goal as we expand coverage to millions of Americans and preserve the ACA's transformational reforms."

### League Reaching out to Broader Audience on Huffington Post

Elisabeth MacNamara's inaugural *Huffington Post* piece, [Senate Refuses to Debate the DISCLOSE Act](#), was published on July 18. This is a new platform we'll be using to publish articles by Elisabeth on issues of the day and is a great step to sharing the work of the League with a broader audience. To ensure these posts get maximum exposure, please help us promote them by commenting on our posts at Huffington Post, sharing them widely with your colleagues and networks asking them to do the same and, of course, sharing them on social media. The more interactions an article gets, the higher it will be ranked and the more visibility it could receive on the *Huffington Post* website.

### Are you a young League member? Join our Facebook group!

LWVUS now has a [special Facebook group](#) just for young League members (45 years old or younger). We want to reach out to and engage younger members in all of our great work. The best way to do that is to hear from young League members! As part of the group, you'll be connected with other young League members from across the country and will help the national League develop a strategy and materials to bring in more young members, just like you!

### Bad Romance: Women's Suffrage Video to Share

Convention delegates loved this video, [Bad Romance: Women's Suffrage](#), so we are sharing it. Please

*continued on page 5*

## Reminder of LWVKA Nonpartisan Policy

**Members must consider the League's nonpartisan policy.**

**By Paula Manley**

As we approach the election season, it is important to review our Nonpartisan Policy and remember that when we are representing the League at various activities, we need to adhere to the policy.

### Nonpartisan Policy and Guidelines

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV is nonpartisan in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after member study and agreement, but does not support or oppose candidates for elective office (whether or not under a party designation), office holders, or political parties. While the LWV urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization. The Board of Directors of the LWV has established the following guidelines:

#### Members

Members shall not undertake any activity which may constitute a public statement of partisan position that could be attributed to the League.

Members representing the LWV in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in public as LWV representa-

tives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernible. These members should be fully aware of LWV positions.

Once the LWV (local, state, or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as LWV members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a LWV position.

Members may serve on any public board, commission, committee, or coalition; however, that member does not represent the LWV unless officially designated as an LWV representative by the LWV Board. If the appointment is LWV-related, the appointee should be fully aware of LWV positions as they relate to the body's responsibilities.

Members who lead studies should not have conflicts of interest or partisan biases which would affect the objective conduct of information gathering and analysis.

Members in leadership roles at public LWV meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment.

Only petitions approved by the Board of Directors may be circulated at LWV meetings.

The LWV member roster may not be made available for non-League use without Board consent.

## News From National and State continued

note that this is not a League video, and although it is a Lady Gaga song, it is not Lady Gaga performing.

### Fair Judiciary: "From Theory to Practice: A Grassroots Education Campaign"

A new LWVEF publication, ["From Theory to Practice: A Grassroots Education Campaign."](#) shares lessons learned by the Kansas and South Carolina state and local Leagues that partici-

pated in *Safeguarding Democracy: Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary* from 2009-2012.

### Advocacy Report 2011-2012: "Shining a Light"

[LWVUS Advocacy Chair Judy Duffy reported to Convention](#) on the League's work over the biennium on legislative issues, including Environmental Defense, Health Care Defense, Campaign Finance, and Voter Protection.

## Help Us "Capture the Election" for the Michigan Supreme

**Advertising by special interest groups is expected to reach an all time high this year.**

**By Michele McGowen**

A project sponsored by LWVMI, "Capture the Election" will monitor, analyze and publicize campaign advertising during this year's election cycle for the Michigan Supreme Court race. The goal of this initiative is to draw media attention to loopholes in campaign finance laws that allow special interests to sponsor election ads without having to disclose their financial supporters

Background: Long before the emergence of SuperPacs, Michigan had experienced an explosion of election spending that is not addressed by campaign finance laws. The Michigan Campaign Finance Network estimates that, from 2000 to 2010, \$70 million was spent that was "completely outside the state's campaign finance reporting system." Undisclosed spending is typically in the form of candidate-focused

television ads (i.e., "issue" ads) but also includes literature and robo-calls. In most of the state-wide races in 2010, less than half of the funds spent were subject to reporting requirements. Television and print advertising by special interest groups is expected to reach an all-time high during this year's election cycle.

Throughout the election cycle, volunteer team members will collect the campaign literature they receive and record television ads that they observe related to the Michigan Supreme Court election. After the November 6 election, the team will meet and analyze the information collected, using tools provided by the LWVMI.

If you are willing to help with this project, contact **Michele McGowen** by [email](#) or (269) 553-9699

### LWVKA Assists with MiVote Roadshow

The MiVote Roadshow came to Kalamazoo on July 10 to record video interviews with candidates for the Michigan Legislature. The interviews, covering selected House Districts, will be posted on MiVote.org and shared with mainstream media. This is a cooperative program involving Detroit Public TV, The Center for Michigan, The U of M-Dearborn's Institute for Local Government and LWV. **Sara Wick** read the questions, while **Connie Ferguson** timed the responses. Six candidates came to the Kalamazoo session, one of six locations.

## High School Voter Education Project

**By Paula Aldridge**

The High School Voter Education Project is moving forward. The committee has met with the City Clerk's office and the four schools that will be participating in the Mock Election.

The election will be held on October 23, 2012, at Loy Norrix, Kalamazoo Central and Phoenix High Schools and the Young Adult Program. Presentations will be shown during September and the first week of October.

We will need lots of volunteers for both the presentations (dates to be determined) and the mock election (October 23). As soon as the exact dates are confirmed, I will be scheduling volunteers to help pass out materials at the presentations and help at the election itself. Please email [Paula Aldridge](#) or call 269-372-7258 if you would like to volunteer.

## Women's Equality Day

By Denise Hartsough

Mark your calendar for the celebration of Women's Equality Day! The anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment is August 26. Because that falls on a Sunday this year, we'll celebrate on Monday, August 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the YWCA of Kalamazoo on 353 E. Michigan.

State Representative **Barb Byrum** of Onondaga will speak on "Celebrating Women's Right to Vote." Representative Byrum is one of two

legislators banned from speaking on the floor of the Michigan State House on June 14 after they voiced their opposition to anti-abortion legislation.

Watch the mail for an invitation to the 2012 Women's Equality Day event, co-sponsored by the LWVKA and the YWCA of Kalamazoo.

If you are interested in staffing the LWVKA table at the event, please contact **Denise Hartsough**, 381-4023.

## Lake Michigan League Annual Meeting

By Paula Manley

You are invited to attend the Lake Michigan League Annual Meeting on September 28-29, 2012 in Michigan City, IN. If you care about Lake Michigan as a valuable resource, this is an opportunity to learn

how to advocate in your community and with elected officials. Participants may tour a steel mill, hike with an expert on the Calumet Region, and hear expert presentations. For more details, [visit their web site](#).

## Two Voter Registration Opportunities:

By Karen Eddy

We need volunteers to register students to vote and answer their questions about voting. On-the-job training is provided. Opportunities include:

- KVCC's Cougar Connection, at the Texas Township Campus on Tuesday,

September 4. Shifts are: 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6.

- Kalamazoo College's KFest, on the campus quad area, Thursday, September 13, 3:00 to 4:30, 4:30 to 6:00.

If you can volunteer for either or both, please contact **Karen Eddy**, 599-6399 or email [ksedy2@yahoo.com](mailto:ksedy2@yahoo.com)

## Welcome New Member

**Carolyn Alford**  
413 W. Patterson St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269-345-4827  
[cgalford12@gmail.com](mailto:cgalford12@gmail.com)

Correction:

**Michele Mototiuk** email:  
[Michele\\_Mototiuk@hotmail.com](mailto:Michele_Mototiuk@hotmail.com)

**Roses are red.  
Violets are blue.  
We value government,  
And trust you do too!**



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## Volunteer Opportunities

- Participate as a team member for “Capture the Election” Project—see page 6 for details.
- Help with Voter Registration Opportunities—see page 7 for details.
- Staff LWVKA table at Women’s Equality Day—see page 7 for details.
- Assist with upcoming Candidate Forums—see page 3 for details.
- Participate in the High School Voter Registration Project—see page 6 for details.

**Words  
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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!