

Calendar

September 2021

8 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

10am via Zoom, contact Ken Manley
@kenmanley@hotmail.com

14 Calhoun County LWV Unit Meeting

6pm social, 6:30 meeting at Schulers in Marshall
and via Zoom, contact Sue Rosko @
lwkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com

22 DEI Committee Meeting

6:30pm via Zoom, contact Millie Lambert
millielambert3922@gmail.com

27 LWVKA Board Meeting

6pm via Zoom, contact MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
moburkey30@gmail.com

28 LWVKA Book Group

Book by Isabel Wilkerson, "Caste: The Origins
of Our Discontents", contact Aedin Clements @
aedinclements@gmail.com

National Voter Registration Day

30 Donor Appreciation Event

via Zoom, invitations will be sent to those who made
a donation to the LWVKA

October 2021

12 Calhoun County LWV Unit Meeting

7pm via Zoom, contact Sue Rosko,
lwkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com

13 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

10am via Zoom, contact Ken Manley @
kenmanley@hotmail.com

15 The LWV Lake Michigan Region 2021 Fall

16 Conference and Annual Meeting

"Hybrid" (in person with a virtual option) event at
the Spring House and Spa in Porter, Indiana. More
meeting details will be coming out in September.

27 LWVKA Board Meeting

6pm via Zoom, contact MerriKay Oleen-Burkey
moburkey30@gmail.com

25 DEI Committee Meeting

6:30pm via Zoom, contact Millie Lambert
millielambert3922@gmail.com

President's Column

Together We Make A Difference

By Barb Dircks

Welcome to a new year of action and participation! Whether you have been vacationing and enjoying fun in the sun from another location, or whether you've stayed home with friends and family, relaxing, catching up, or maintaining the flow of life as it comes, it is always the change of pace that nourishes.

The various levels of the League from our local LWVKA, to LWVMI and LWVUS have all been busy, as well. You will see articles this month detailing progress on several initiatives. The work of advocacy and education on issues of interest to the LWVKA, has meant our fellow members have followed up on pending legislation in regards to Voting Rights for Michigan citizens; they have attended and observed and contributed to the ongoing meetings of the MICRC (Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission) and have maintained contact and interest in the updates from Environmental and Climate action groups. Each area extends an open invitation to everyone to be involved and give input.

Currently, the lull between the 2020 elections and the next round of primaries is being put to good use. It is that time of year where efforts are directed to preparing and publishing the new, always in demand, Voter Guide publication. Members are studying the need for Kalamazoo City Candidate forums, and as elections occur, the need for voter registration has never been more important; volunteers to help with set up and participate in tabling makes registering easier; it is a great opportunity to meet and get to know others. The DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) and the newly reactivated EVENTS committees are hoping to grow membership, invite speakers and increase connections as they assist the management of operations, as well. Participation in small ways or large is fun! Everyone can make a difference!

The calendar looks busy and the new look to the LWVKA website is a great resource. The articles that follow have the details and are an in-depth look at events and activities. Make a goal to make a commitment! Try something new. We hope to see you soon! ✓

E pluribus unum. (Out of many, one.)

Motto on Great Seal of the United States.





News from
National

LWVUS Update

Paula Manley

2020 Census Data Talking Points are on the lwv.org League Management site.

LWVUS is hosting a webinar on September 15 at 3pm ET on Legislative and Litigation Priorities. The discussion will be on the LWV federal and state legislative and litigation priorities for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is Tuesday, September 28. As of mid-August over 200 Leagues have registered to participate.

Keep up with the latest information about League activities around the country. Sign up for the bi-weekly League Update at lwv.org League Management Site.

LWVMI Updates

Denise Hartsough, VP Program

The LWVMI Monitoring Team continues to observe the **Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission** (MICRC), even as it changes its schedule and agenda frequently. COI Teams at the county level will reach out to their local contacts once draft maps are ready, so COIs and others can provide input before Sept. 30, when the MICRC votes to select proposed maps.

LWVMI hosted a webinar for the legal community on the “nondelegation doctrine,” a doctrine from federal law which the Michigan Supreme Court used to strike down the 1945 Michigan law giving emergency powers to the governor. You can read about the concerns raised by this court action here: www.freep.com/story/opinion/contributors/2021/02/22/whitmer-emergency-powers-covid-19-michigan-supreme-court/4487985001/

LWVMI’s Advocacy Committee will send alerts when action is needed to counter the voter suppression bills in the state legislature. For helpful resources, please use the links below.

Visit lwvmi.org/documents/AntiVotingBillsLatestUpdate.pdf to see an explanation of the 39 bills plus a chart that details what each bill wants to accomplish, and the League’s position on each.

Read the League’s press release in response to the passage of SB 285, 303 and 304 in the Senate on June 16 here: lwvmi.org/documents/PrRelAntiVotingBills6-16-21.pdf. These bills make unreasonable and unnecessary changes to the existing voter ID laws in Michigan.

Click here youtu.be/q8fmsITtqng to watch a June 28, 2021 conference concerning the Anti-Voter Legislation in Michigan, featuring Voting Rights Attorney Sharon Dolente and LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase-Solomon. Dolente’s explanation of what the bills would do is clear and compelling.

Local Redistricting

Denise Hartsough, VP Program

Just as congressional districts and state legislative districts are redrawn every 10 years based on Census data, each county also redraws the districts for its county commission.

Kalamazoo County has begun that process. Per State statute, the Apportionment Commission includes the county clerk, prosecutor, treasurer and the heads of the county Republican and Democratic Parties.

At its upcoming meetings on September 1, 8 and 22, the Commission will determine the number and outline of commission districts for the next 10 years. To join the virtual meetings, find the link at <https://www.kalcounty.com/userfiles/publicnotices/news/Public%20Meeting%20Notice%20of%20future%20regular%20meetings.pdf>.

EVENTS Committee News

Barb Dircks

An E.V.E.N.T.S. committee will be meeting for the first time in September. The plan is to meet in person, get acquainted, and set an agenda. Once organized, the first goal will be to facilitate connections between all the moving parts of the LWVKA. A network works best when collaboration and communication go hand in hand, and so it will strengthen and support League planning already underway.

The name is an acronym for Education, Voting, Engagement, Networking, Technology and Training, and Social Media Communications. This ties to the mission; problem solving, supplying assistance and having some fun too. We look forward to new member involvement. If interested in participating in any one of the areas outlined in the EVENTS title, please let me know. You can send an email or send a text message to Barb Dircks: barbdircks@gmail.com(269) 569-3509



Volunteers!

MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

Thanks to the volunteers who helped with mailing the Congratulatory Cards to the KPS grads encouraging them to register to vote online:

- Jennifer Hill
- Leigh Ford
- Chris Kuthe
- Laura Latiolais
- Moira Macleod
- Sue Nelmes
- MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

We would also like to thank the volunteers who did legislative interviews:

- Connie Ferguson
- Megan Mullins
- Allison Hammond
- Betty Lee Ongley
- Linda Mah
- Michele McGowan
- Paula Manley

Thank you

Membership

We are pleased to welcome several new members:

- Vivian Abramowitz of Kalamazoo
- Ginger Kamps of Battle Creek
- Marsha & Jim Powers of Battle Creek
- Patricia Sheets of Marshall
- Martha Dobbins & Shirley Knaack of Marshall
- Susan & Mark Stuart of Marshall.

Please help keep our records up to date to receive the latest LWVKA news! Email new contact information to membership Chair Jennifer Snyder, jsyndergaardsnyder@gmail.com.







21-DAY CHALLENGE:
DISABILITY JUSTICE

This October...

Save the Date for the October 21-Day Equity Challenge: *Disability Justice*.

Sponsored by the United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region and Disability Network of Southwest Michigan.

Take the challenge learn about disability from a position of equality and pride.

The 21-Day Disability Justice Challenge will take place throughout the month of October. It is designed to raise your awareness, increase your understanding, and shift your perspective about disability in our culture

To learn more and register for this event follow this link: <https://portal.gkuw.org/comm/SinglePageRegEvent.jsp?EventKeyHex=33383731>

United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region
changethestory.org



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facing older adults in
our community.

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meeting details and membership information:
www.kcasi.net



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