



Calendar

March 2022

9 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

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

15 LWVKA Book Discussion Group

7pm via Zoom, Book by Stacey Abrams, "Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America," contact Aedin Clements @ aedinclements@gmail.com

19 Girl Scout Program

Program to celebrate Women's right to vote 10:00 am-Noon

23 DEI Committee Meeting

6:30 pm via Zoom, contact MerriKay Oleen- Burkey @moburkey30@gmail.com

23 Calhoun County LWV Unit Meeting

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

28 LWVKA Board Meeting

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

April 2022

13 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

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

25 LWVKA Board Meeting

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

27 DEI Committee Meeting

6:30 pm via Zoom, contact MerriKay Oleen- Burkey @moburkey30@gmail.com

27 Calhoun County LWV Unit Meeting

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

May 2022

11 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

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

President's Column

By MerriKay Oleen-Burkey

Promote the Vote 2022: Expand our Voting Rights!

It's the season for ballot proposals to be launched through petition drives.

Many of these proposals will appear on our ballots in November providing they receive a sufficient number of petition signatures. To view the status of the various petitions, go to lwwmi.org. Choose "Advocacy" on the Home menu, then "Advocacy 2022" and "Statewide Petition Status."

One of these ballot proposals may sound familiar: "Promote the Vote." In 2018, LWVKA helped collect petition signatures for the Promote the Vote ballot proposal that would amend the Michigan constitution to give voters many voting rights they had not had previously: automatic and Election Day voter registration, and no-reason absentee voting, among others. The voters responded favorably with 66.9% saying "Yes."

This year, Promote the Vote and a coalition of voting-rights groups, including LWVMI, seeks to amend the state constitution to expand these voting rights to:

- Allow nine days of early voting
- Publicly subsidize absentee ballots (with postage) and a tracking system for the ballot location
- Continue to allow voters to sign an affidavit attesting to their identity rather than a state ID
- Allow public sources and charities to fund local elections (i.e., church voting venues)
- Allow voters to register for absentee ballots for all future elections
- Require ballot drop boxes for every 15,000 voters in a municipality
- Establish that post-election audits can only be conducted by state and local officials

The Board of Canvassers approved the summary of the Promote the Vote 2022 petition on February 11, 2022, and the petitions are being printed. Training by webinar or a recording and signature gathering will begin in March, and 425,059 valid signatures must be collected by July 11, 2022.

What can you do to help? Volunteer to talk to voters, collect signatures, and give voters the opportunity to vote for Promote the Vote 2022 in November.

If you are able to donate any amount of time to collecting signatures, let one of the LWVKA co-presidents know as soon as possible. (MerriKay Oleen-Burkey: moburkey30@gmail.com or Barbara Dircks: barbdircks@gmail.com) Give us your name, email address and cell phone for text messages.

Thank you in advance for giving time to this important League work! 



News from
National

LWVUS Update

Paula Manley

LWVUS offers several educational opportunities during March which is *Women's History Month*. On March 3rd at 12 pm ET on Facebook Live, Women Power Democracy Live Panel with Virginia Kase Solomon, LWVUS CEO and guests from SuperMajority, LULAC, and Black Voters Matter will discuss how to build more trust in elections, grow electorate equity and create more fair voter access.

A webinar to celebrate International Women's Day will be offered on March 8th at 10 am ET. It is titled *United Nations Observance of International Women's Day: Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow*.

LWVUS will partner once again with Lyft to provide transportation to the polls. Lyft will offer free and discounted rides to the polls for the November midterm elections for any voter who needs transportation as was done for the 2018 and 2020 elections. "Transportation should never be a barrier to exercising the right to vote," said Virginia Kase Solomon, CEO of the LWVUS. ✓



LWVMI Updates

Denise Hartsough

Michigan Redistricting

Maps approved by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) take effect on March 1, 2022. See the maps here: https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/0,10083,7-418-107190_108607---,00.html

Status of lawsuits as of late February:

Michigan Supreme Court dismissed lawsuit by Detroit Caucus charging violation of the Voting Rights Act in all of the maps.

Lawsuit charging violation of the one-person-one-vote rule and unnecessary fragmenting of local jurisdictional lines in the map for Congress (Banerian v ICRC & Benson) is in US District Court, Western District of Michigan, Southern Division.

LWVMI v MICRC charging insufficient partisan fairness in the map for State House is before the Michigan Supreme Court.

Ballot Proposals

Signature gatherers want us to sign a multitude of petitions and may mislead us to get a signature. Be sure to read the synopsis before signing any petition!

You may be told that you are just allowing the citizens of Michigan to vote on the proposal, but the legislature has the power to adopt into law a ballot measure with enough signatures--without letting us all vote on it--and the governor cannot veto a law so adopted.

We all get to vote on a proposed amendment to the Michigan Constitution that collects enough signatures.

Of 15 possible ballot measures, LWVMI supports 4, opposes 5 and is considering 6.

LWVMI supports:

- Promote the Vote 2022 (voting rights beyond PTV 2018—Constitutional amendment)
- MI Reproductive Freedom for All (abortion rights—Constitutional amendment)
- Michigan United (sentencing reform)
- Yes on National Popular Vote (withdrawn from circulation)

LWVMI opposes:

- Secure MI Vote (voter suppression)
- Unlock MI II (limit power of public health officials)
- Let MI Kids Learn A & B (tax credits for donations for private & public schools)
- Audit MI (political board to audit elections)

For details, see <https://lwvmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MichPetitions2022.pdf>

Local League Advocacy

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30, 1:00-3:15pm on Zoom for the LWVMI Spring Workshop! The focus this year is on League action at the local level: observing, educating and advocating. Watch for details about this free workshop in future editions of League Links and the Voter. ✓

Kudos to LWVKA Member Ruth Caputo

LWV LMR President Joy Guscott-Mueller congratulates 2021 Art Palleon Advocacy Award winner **Ruth Caputo**, a long time LWV Lake Michigan Region Board member as well as a dedicated educator and advocate for the environmental health and protection of Lake Michigan.

Congrats!

DEI Events & Resources:

1) Lunch and Learn | Immigration, Policy, and Black History

March 18, 2022 | 11:30 a.m-1 p.m.
MultiCultural Center, Trimpe Building, WMU
Join us for a podcast taping of our last lunch and learn of the year.

2) Lunch & Learn: Access & Inclusion. – Income Inequality

• Tuesday, March 15 at 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Grab your lunch and join us online to take a deeper dive into the disability rights movement. Each month we will highlight the disability experience through the lens of access and inclusion. We invite you to join us to brush up on your knowledge or learn about the topic for the first time.

3) Africa Imagined: Reflections on Modern & Contemporary Art

On display at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts until May 5, 2022

This exhibition explores how artists of varying cultures and perspectives have been inspired by and responded to the ideas, truths, and myths surrounding African art.



Welcome New Members!

Jennifer Snyder

James, Matthew and Sarah Beaver of Galesburg
Skylar Bre'z and Jaynee Michaels of Kalamazoo
Susan Schneider of Kalamazoo
Karen Weideman of Battle Creek
Linda Whitfield of Battle Creek

WELCOME
New Members!

Check Out the Members Area on Our Website!

Jennifer Snyder

- Have you visited the password-protected Members Area of our website? There you will find:
- Member roster, with contact information
- Committees and activities, with contact information
- Event calendar
- Volunteer opportunities – Fill out the Volunteer Signup to let us know your interest areas. The appropriate committee chair will get in touch as opportunities arise.
- Board meeting minutes, committee reports, announcements, and League documents, such as our Handbook and Strategic Plan.

How to Access the Members Area

From the home page (LWVKA.org) click the Members tab (this takes a moment to load!).

Enter your User Name (the email address you have provided to LWVKA).

Enter the password that was emailed to you when the system was set up in 2021 (or for newer members, when you joined).

Can't find that email or forgot your password? Scroll down and click the Lost Password link at the bottom of the page. You will receive an email with instructions for resetting your password.

Email didn't show up? Check your spam or junk folder for a message from WordPress or LWVKA Members Area.

Still having problems? Contact Membership Chair Jennifer Snyder, jsyndergaardsnyder@gmail.com

FOUNDERS DAY BRUNCH



“
Thank you so much!
Lots of great information!
I will head over to the main site and join.
— Ann Murry
”



Founders Day



LWVKA Education Fund Board of Directors

Paula Aldridge, Chairperson
paula.mae.aldridge@gmail.com

Vice-Chair - Open

Jessica Reiser, Secretary
jcreiser@comcast.net

Tanya Potter, Treasurer
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Dennis Elmer, Director
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Rick Freiman, Director
richard.freiman@gmail.com



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facing older adults in
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meeting details and membership information:
www.kcasi.net



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