

Calendar

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

21 Environmental Justice Housing Forum

7-8:30pm via Zoom & live-streamed. Sponsored
by LWVKA DEI Committee and Kalamazoo
Climate Crisis Coalition.

30 LWVMI Spring Workshop: Local League Advocacy

1-3:15pm via Zoom, Watch for details about this
free workshop in League Links and the Voter

May 2022

11 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

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

23 LWVKA Annual Meeting

7pm, Friendship Village Kiva Room. Free Event!

25 DEI Committee Meeting

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

25 Calhoun County LWV Unit Meeting

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

President's Column

By Barb Dircks

The first quarter of 2022 is picking up speed and the following statement from the LWVUS, says it all, "Never has there been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual and civil voice that the League of Women Voters brings to our community." It's a resource that serves as a microscope to be used to dial in for a close-up look at community action, or dial back to see an overview of what is going on, locally and across the State.

Always, the League is driven by its non-partisan mission, Empowering and Educating Voters, and pursuing the expansive effort of Defending Democracy. Drawing circles around action and adjusting our lenses, these close-up and distant views are evidence that many are stepping up and getting involved—contributing what and where they can! League members are able to network, listen and volunteer—in doses that fit their lives. Thank You!!

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." This is clearly in play with our League family! We have ongoing action in the following areas:

- Planning a DEI committee Housing and Environmental Justice forum
- Involvement in Promote the Vote ballot initiative actions
- Collaborative strategizing with the Natural Resources Committee to further Climate Justice efforts
- Strengthening commitment to voter support with an Observer Corp
- Encouraging citizen volunteers that support upcoming election work
- Arranging future forums and candidate contacts
- Returning to an in-person High School voter education programming once possible, and supporting those that register to participate in the MI Vote Matters High School Voter Registration Challenge
- Outreach and collaboration arrangements with diverse groups as we organize voter registration events
- Generating interest and publicizing VOTE411

We are all busy! The contextual information surrounding these efforts can be found in the contents of the VOTER articles that follow. Readers have access to the latest information, and, though we remain mostly remote, meeting on Zoom to accomplish our goals, look for a save-the-date announcement soon. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 23rd, 2022 at 7:00 and it will be our first return to face-to-face greeting and meeting. We hope to see many of you there! Finally, there are workshops in April and a LWV National convention in June for those interested in getting more involved.

As you continue reading, you will find the details and contact information that illustrates how working together makes a difference! When the many join together, the possible becomes ever more probable! Save dates for reference, follow up with questions and reach out! These resources and information will help everyone stay informed and engaged! Enjoy! 🌸

"What people have the capacity to choose, they have the ability to change."

—Madeleine Albright





News from
National

LWVUS Update

Paula Manley

The LWVUS has sent a memo to the members of the US House of Representatives urging the US House to co-sponsor H. Res. 891 affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as part of the Constitution as the 28th Amendment. There is a precedence for this action as similar resolutions were passed when the validity of the 14th and 27th Amendments were questioned. Contact your representative and urge support for H. Res 891.

April 12th is Thank Election Heroes Day of Action! LWVUS is partnering with Public Citizens, Leadership Conference, and APIA Vote to show support for local election workers and honor them for their dedication in ensuring our elections run smoothly.

LWVUS joined partners which included civil rights, community, academic, philanthropic, civic, business, public and private sector groups in a letter to the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). They requested that the OMB to move forward with revising standards for federal data on race and ethnicity. Revision of the standards will ensure the US Census Bureau fulfills its mission to produce fair and accurate data on the population and economy. 🗳️

LWVMI Updates

Denise Hartsough

Michigan Redistricting

The maps created by the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) for Congressional, State Senate and State House districts will take effect March 28, 2022 unless a court intervenes. As of this writing, two court cases continue—one in federal court about equal population in Congressional districts, and one in the State Supreme Court about partisan fairness in State House districts.

Activity of the MICRC is winding down, but the MICRC serves until its successor is formed in 2030. Currently it meets twice a month for 4 hours.

On April 14 the MICRC will publish a report on its mapping, including dissenting reports by commissioners who voted against the maps. In May a video and document on “lessons learned” will be published. A survey commissioned by the MICRC showed that over 65% of voters surveyed said the MICRC should continue to draw Michigan’s maps in the future.

For details, see <https://tinyurl.com/z6n5cays>.

Advocacy in the League

The League advocates on issues based on League positions adopted at the national, state and local levels.

Interested in advocacy at the local and state levels? You can learn about advocacy in April:

April 21, 7pm—LWVMI Advocacy Committee hosts a virtual meeting for any League member on the bills LWVMI supports and opposes. Watch League Links for more information.

April 30, 1-3:15pm—LWVMI’s Spring Workshop focuses on advocacy Leagues can do at the local level. Hear about efforts involving foreclosures, climate change and voting rights. Registration will be open by April 1 at www.lwvmi.org.

Check out the advocacy tools for local Leagues at <https://lwvmi.org/advocacy-tools/>.

For a list of issues on which LWVMI has taken a stand in 2022, see <https://lwvmi.org/advocacy-2022/>. Issues include reproductive freedom, education, gun safety, criminal justice, Open Meetings Act, election workers, state redistricting and county apportionment. 🗳️

EVENTS Update

By Barb Dircks

The EVENTS committee continues to lend support and arrange for actions in a variety of arenas. The next meeting is set to discuss efforts to build an Observer Corp and the necessary training arrangements that will be needed. Interested individuals can contact regena.fails.nelson@wmich.edu or barbdircks@gmail.com for more information. The basics of the job involves attending, witnessing, recording and remaining silent during public meetings. The information and observations are archived and serve the League in a variety of ways as needed. Continued efforts to get the word out about the importance of the State Ballot initiative called PROMOTE the VOTE is also on-going. Social media is always in need of pictures and posts and support in the form of liking and retweeting, and helping others understand what this entails will take planning and an education focus. Contact aedinclements@gmail.com or kakbeaver@yahoo.com. with messaging ideas and information to share. Members are continuing to share ideas on how we can facilitate support for clerks in their efforts to prepare for the upcoming election cycles. Hats off to everyone who is stepping up, becoming engaged, and volunteering to participate! 🗳️



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Annual Meeting— Save the Date

By Chris Kuthe

Please join us for our in person Annual Meeting on **Monday, May 23rd at 7:00pm** at Friendship Village’s Kiva room. Our keynote speaker will be **Dr. Luchara Wallace** of the WMU Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations. She will be speaking to us on empowering young adults to become more engaged in voting. Annual meeting business will be conducted which includes the election of board officers and the approval of the budget. Punch and cookies will be served. This event is free. Invitations will be coming out in the mail and email in early April. You may RSVP to Chris Kuthe at: ckuthe57@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members!

Jennifer Snyder

LWVKA was pleased to welcome several new members in February!

- Emily Bettencourt & Thomas Hackley of Kalamazoo
- Susan Creager of Lawton
- H. Allan Hunt of Kalamazoo
- Suzanne Leech of Hickory Corners
- Ann Marcelletti-Murray of Schoolcraft
- Laurene & Robert Swanson of Athens

Save the Date — Environmental Justice Housing Forum

Save Thursday April 21, 7-8:30pm for a panel discussion with housing advocates as they discuss issues related to the quality of housing stock in Kalamazoo County such as the affordability of housing and its utilities, energy efficiency, the effects of environmental hazards, and availability of support services like transportation. Watch for more details in your email and social media.

It will be held via Zoom & live-streamed. Sponsored by LWVKA DEI Committee and the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition (KCCC).

DEI Events & Resources

Documentaries:

CODA is streaming on Apple TV Plus. CODA stands for “child of deaf adults” and refers to 17-year-old Ruby Rossi (Emilia Jones), who is the only hearing person in her family. The Apple TV Plus service costs \$5 per month, and new subscribers can sign up for a seven-day free trial.

13th Directed by Ava DuVernay and available on Netflix. An in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation’s history of racial inequality. More African-American men are incarcerated, or on probation or parole, than were enslaved in 1850, and the United States, which accounts for 5% of the world’s population, counts nearly a quarter of the world’s incarcerated people.

Nominating Committee Slate

The following LWVKA members have accepted nominations for Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee for the 2022-2023 LWVKA Board. Voting occurs during the Annual Meeting.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Co-President (1yr) | Barbara Dircks |
| Co-President (1yr) | Chris Kuthe |
| VP Organization (1yr) | Kristen Kern-Beaver |
| VP Program (2yr) | Denise Hartsough |
| Treasurer (2yr) | Tanya Potter |
| Board Members (2yr) | Jules Isenberg-Wedel |
| | Jennifer Snyder |
| | Lisa Fuller |
| | Shardae Chambers |
| Nominating (1yr) | Kay Anderson |
| | Regena Nelson |

Current Nominating Committee members are: **Kay Anderson** 269-649-2461 or kander314@aol.com, off-board members **KC Miller** and **Regena Nelson** and Board members **Angela Erdman** and **Lisa Fuller**.

Special Tributes

In Memory of **Mary Brown**
Linda & Fritz MacDonald



Dr. Luchara Wallace,
WMU Lewis Walker Institute for the
Study of Race and Ethnic Relations



Calhoun County Unit News

By Sue Rosko



Four high schools in Calhoun County are participating in the Secretary of State's MI Vote Matters High School Voter Registration Challenge (Battle Creek Central, Harper Creek, Homer, and Lakeview High Schools). Lakeview had the Unit present to their Service Learning class. The students will assist with the Challenge as part of their service projects. Their voter education programming was most impressive. Harper Creek is welcoming assistance from the Unit. All schools who have not registered have been contacted and encouraged to join. Information has been shared with news sources and social media. Our Voter Services Chair Lori Kline-Closson has been working with Inspire2Vote to resolve questions for the benefit of all chapters. Prior to fall elections Inspire2Vote will text students who are registered and submit their pledge cards, reminding them to vote. They will share the League's Vote411 website as well.

The Calhoun County Unit joined A Phillip Randolph Institute for a registration table at Kellogg Community College, with two more planned for April. Thank you to those members who have already volunteered for these projects. Tables are set for BC Pride Chili Cook-Off in March and reserved for Juneteenth. Plans are evolving for Promote the Vote petitioning. Exploration of events across the county is occurring so that petitioners can

be organized. The Unit is working with partner organizations in the county on this project. **Linda Pell**, an experienced petitioner, is chairing the project. It is hoped that all members will sign up to take part in petitioning. If each obtained even 10 signatures from their circles we would have a good step toward getting this on the ballot. A volunteer platform for our LWVKA Calhoun County Geo Unit is being studied and set up.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the LWVKA Calhoun County Unit interviewed a young Battle Creek commissioner. They encouraged young people to register to vote, to vote, and to get involved in government. The link for the interview was shared with high schools and is on our Facebook page. Presentations are set for Heritage Senior Center/Carewell in March and Marshall Rotary in April. A letter to Editor celebrating the 102nd anniversary of the LWV was sent to all papers, with the Marshall Advisor publishing it and Battle Creek Enquirer wrapping it into an article for the March Women's History Month. An article promoting the LWV as a vehicle for action was printed in the Battle Creek Enquirer and Shopper and peaked interest from the public. Membership flyers are being printed and distributed. Board members have been contacting members to acknowledge interests and skills. Looking to June, nominations for new board members are being sought. 

Support LWVKA When You Shop!

Support the LWVKA Education Fund when you shop on Amazon through smile.amazon.com. When you make your purchase, choose LWVKA as the charity. There is no cost to you for this donation to support the LWVKA Education Fund which supports projects such as voter services. 

amazonsmile



DEI committee is collaborating with Linden Grove Middle School art class for ideas for postcard designs. This design is by student Alayna Filipunas.

BUDGET PROPOSAL	
LWV KALAMAZOO AREA	
GENERAL FUND	
PROPOSED BUDGET YEAR JULY 1, 2022 THRU JUNE 30, 2023	
REVENUES	
Individual, Business Contributions	4000.00
Membership Dues	13300.00
Meetings Income	500.00
Ware Sales	50.00
Advertising in Bulletin	50.00
Interest Income	200.00
	\$ 18,100.00
TOTAL REVENUES	
EXPENDITURES	
Website	550.00
Office Supplies	150.00
Postage, PO Box	500.00
Printings and copying	400.00
Telephone	430.00
<i>The Voter</i> Expenses	1300.00
National PMP	7400.00
Michigan PMP	5300.00
PayPal fees	80.00
Donations to other organizations	50.00
Membership and Dues	50.00
Sponsorship	0.00
Membership Recruitment	1000.00
Meeting Costs	3000.00
Insurance (Directors & Officers)	100.00
DEI Committee	100.00
Development Committee	700.00
Videoconferencing	160.00
Calhoun County Unit	500.00
National/State Convention	800.00
	\$ 22,570.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 22,570.00
NET REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	\$ (4,470.00)
BUDGETED DRAW FROM GENERAL FUND RESERVES	\$ 4,470.00
Note: When the budget proposal for the General Fund has a draw from the reserves there is enough money on hand to cover the necessary expenses budgeted for the year.	

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
lepotter1224@gmail.com

Dennis Elmer, Director
dgelmer@comcast.net

Rick Freiman, Director
richard.freiman@gmail.com



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