

## Calendar

### December 2022

#### 14 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

10am via Zoom, contact: kenmanley@hotmail.com

#### 28 Calhoun County Unit Meeting

7pm via Zoom, contact: lwwkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com

### January 2023

#### 21 LWVKA Program Planning Meeting

1-3pm, via Zoom, contact Denise Hartsough @ denise.hartsough@gmail.com

#### 23 LWVKA Board Meeting

6pm via Zoom, contact ckuthe57@gmail.com

#### 25 DEI Committee Meeting

6:30pm via Zoom, contact: moburkey30@gmail.com

### February 2023

#### 4 Founders Day Celebration

10am to Noon, Kiva room at Friendship Village, free event, refreshments provided. Members should invite guests who may be interested in joining the League.

### Calhoun Co. Calendar:

#### November 30

##### Calhoun County Unit Board Meeting.

1pm, Marshall Public Library. November election wrap up and gleaning ideas to carry into future elections and work of the Unit.

#### December 7

Clara's by the River, Battle Creek. 5:30pm, dinner and social for Calhoun County Unit

No Calhoun December board meeting

## President's Column

By Barb Dircks, Co-President

**T**hankful! Grateful! Sharing! This is the time of year we express feelings that acknowledge transitions. We see the calendar flip from October to November and then to December — all around us are reminders that the season has morphed to colder temps, darkness, and snowy weather. Time to slow down and recall the many accomplishments of the busy political season! We reach out and back and acknowledge those who have contributed so much in so many areas!

### “Thank you” for:

- Voter guide preparation, arrangement and distribution; all the behind-the-scenes volunteers who contributed endless hours to this achievement were amazing! It is an invaluable asset that educates voters! Thank you one and all!
- Outreach with collaborative partners that led to planning, discussions, and many Zoom meetings that made the candidate forums the success they were. You can always tell when projects are being handled by experts when the finished product looks polished and professional! Thank you, all!
- Voter Services organized and planned and assisted by K-votes, WeVotes, and our local league members who helped register so many first-time, new voters. Our mission continues its success with help of so many!
- Thank you to the election poll workers who stepped up and dedicated time to training and participating on November 8th — awesome! Thank you to the many election officials who addressed concerns, stayed late and coordinated the many election places in communities across the state. Thank you to observers who made room in their schedules to be witnesses to the process!
- Veterans — earlier in November we celebrated their day — we never want to miss the day dedicated to the many that served our country.
- Thank you for the those that have contributed financial investment and the support used to educate voters and help with promoting democracy
- Thank you to our partner associations and Leagues for commitment and energy given to achieve shared goals.
- Thank you to VOTERS who made a plan and showed up to exercise their right, demonstrating democracy matters! Electing candidates and passing proposals that make a difference in their lives is possible when everyone votes!

Finally, the League is thankful for the strength in numbers of members that care and contribute in so many large and small ways – it is what will keep us going strong into the New Year. This December and January VOTER is full of further acknowledgement of days and individuals and issues we recognize and want to showcase! Enjoy! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting in February! Happy Holidays! 🎉

*“The quality of our lives is a reflection of the investment we make in crafting them to our liking.”*





News from  
National

## LWVUS Update

*Paula Manley*

**December 15th Bill of Rights Day.** On December 15, 1791, three fourths of the State legislatures in the new United States ratified the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. These ten amendments confirmed the fundamental rights of citizens and became known as the Bill of Rights. Franklin Delano Roosevelt designated the first Bill of Rights Day on December 15, 1941 in recognition of the history and importance of these ten amendments.

**January 9th — the birthday of Carrie Chapman Catt,** suffrage leader and founder of the League of Women Voters. She grew up in Iowa and wanted to become a doctor. Before beginning her career in the suffrage movement, she was a law clerk, teacher and the superintendent of schools in Mason City, Iowa.

**January 15th — the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.** Dr. King was one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. He received the Noble Peace Prize in 1964 for his advocacy of nonviolent resistance.

**January 16th — the Federal Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day**

LWVUS recently issued a letter urging Congress to support legislation to protect DACA recipients. Senate and House leadership have indicated that protecting the Dreamers is a high priority in the remaining time of the 117th Congress.

Keep track of the latest LWVUS news by registering to receive the League Update which is emailed biweekly. Go to [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) and register to receive the League Update Newsletter. 

## More GOTV Gratitude!

*Denise Hartsough, VP for Program*

**T**hanks to volunteers and grants from LWVMI and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, LWVKA and the LWVKA Education Fund made a last-minute effort to get out the vote for the November 8th election!

In addition to the postcards that LWVKA volunteers sent to newly registered/first-time voters earlier in October, volunteers in late October wrote 2,100 postcards to lapsed voters in area precincts with historically low voter turnout.

Thanks to: **Aimee Bedard, Emily Bettencourt, Pat Catellier, Nancy Dolan, Leigh Ford, Linda Fox, Sandra Glishta, Tom Hackley, Carolyn Heineman, Pat Hickok, Allan Hunt, Chris Kuthe, Mary Lewis, Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Sue Nelms, Kay Nelson, Kay Perry, Jessica Reiser, Laura Wheeler, Sara Wick, Kandace Wilson, and Kim Cummings** and his crew at Friendship Village.

The League also ran ads promoting VOTE411 and the Election Protection Hotline on The Touch, a radio station serving the local African American community.

You may have noticed GOTV billboards in several Kalamazoo neighborhoods that included the LWVKA EF logo among the set of logos at the bottom. Thanks to ISAAC for sponsoring those billboards and including VOTE411 in the message! 

## LWVMI Updates

*Denise Hartsough, LWVMI Treasurer*

### LWVMI in Action

**T**his fall LWV of Michigan facilitated and, in some cases, financially supported voter service efforts by local Leagues:

- Covered the \$6000 cost of VOTE411 for all local Leagues
- Paid for layout and printing of the state Voter Guide (\$28,000)
- Created educational presentations on the three statewide ballot proposals
- Provided educational presentations on recognizing and countering mis- and disinformation
- Offered GOTV postcards for newly registered/first-time voters
- Mobilized poll workers, poll observers and challengers
- Mobilized and coordinated observers for each county's Board of Canvassers

Among your year-end giving, please consider a gift to LWVMI ([www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org)) as well as to LWVKA! 

## Membership

*By Jennifer Snyder*

In November, LWVKA was pleased to welcome three new members from Calhoun County:

- Darby Bayliss** of Marshall
- Ellen Donovan** of Marshall
- Cathleen Knoll** of Ceresco



# Calhoun County Unit News

By Sue Rosko

As we gathered for Thanksgiving, we were thankful for so much. On December 7 we will share as the Unit gathers together for dinner to celebrate the November election work and the upcoming holiday season. We are most grateful for the hard work of the LWWKA Calhoun County Unit volunteers who stepped up in so many ways to help get out the vote, share information, work for our democracy, serve as poll workers, observe canvassing...the list goes on and on. Thank you, thank you. Even if you did it by personally promoting the vote, we appreciate the commitment to The League and voter rights. The personal touch can make a big impact.

In addition to our Calhoun County's LWW members, we want to thank LWWKA and LWWMI for their strong leadership and mentoring of our Unit. In reading through the League Links and election reports, we're proud to have walked in step with the larger LWWMI. The materials, postcard project, text-banking, and leadership were most helpful. The focus you had on new voters, young voters and women gave us direction and certainly made a difference. Thank you!

As our partnerships with county non-partisan organizations grow in size and relationship, we celebrate that. Through the election season our registration tables took on the new face of information tables. The Calhoun County Unit became recognized as the group to invite to share voting information, how to's with registering and voting, information on candidates and proposals, and how to evaluate media sources and mis- or dis-information. In our three presentations at Albion College (Gerald R. Ford Institute Voter Suppression, Human Rights Lab and Earth Day), the young people were passionate and eager to learn. Some instructors shared our material in their classes and encouraged students to vote. Voter guides, vote411 website, and our new information-filled bookmarks were hot items at all of our presentations throughout the county, new to many voters. Our voting signs were placed across the campuses as well as lawns in the county. Presentations/tabling for partners were embraced for candidate forums and meet and greets. This was invigorating. We are thankful for the strong connections we've made across the county with partner organizations and individuals and look forward to continuing to build this.

Now as we take pause to celebrate the holidays, we can rest in the difference the League has made, valuing each and every voter and the foundation of our country. The holidays remind us of what's really important in life...the joy of serving and of embracing our fellow people. ✓

## EVENTS Update

Barbara Dircks

EVENTS group met November 19th to discuss the following:

### Election Success

Congrats to everyone who participated in the Voter Guide publication and distribution! The team effort meant more people than ever benefited. Many Voter Guide appreciative comments that came back to us! It was an extensive project completed by talented and dedicated people!! Thank You!

### Observation Corp

At the October meeting member comments were helpful and useful to those preparing questions for 2022 LWW candidate Forums. The Corps welcomes all League members interested in participating in the Corps. It is an easy access point for new members. In particular, observing school board meetings might be important given that school censorship is becoming a political issue.

### DEI thoughts:

The DEI committee is looking for new members; it was suggested adding outreach through Facebook advertising. New and former members may be interested in attending the Kalamazoo Public Library training on racial justice. The training is free and all details can be found on the library site under the ONEplace link.

### League Promotion:

Research and planning to offer League t-shirts through the website is in the works. There will be no cost up front to the League as interested people will order, pay and arrange for delivery with an on-line transaction. Mary suggested offering additional products like visors or hats, and cross-reference what is currently available at our local league website through Zazzle. Kristen is researching and making arrangements and will report details at the next Board meeting.

### Social Media Update:

We will continue to seek current promotion opportunities for Facebook posts; Giving Tuesday is one example! Aedin appreciates the contact and outreach. There was consensus that we pull back from using or continuing accessing Twitter until details of the platform are worked out. It will be a topic to continue addressing. ✓



## 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*  
lepottter1224@gmail.com

**Dennis Elmer**, *Director*  
dgelmer@comcast.net

**Rick Freiman**, *Director*  
richard.freiman@gmail.com

## County Board Certifies Election

*By Chris Kuthe*

The Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers certified the general election on Tuesday, November 15th. Thankfully, no threatening or intimidating behavior was exhibited during the canvass. All Leagues in the State of Michigan cooperated with the Secretary of State in observing the canvasses in 83 counties. The Secretary was very complimentary of our efforts. The LWVUS and other Secretary's of State have been interested in our format and organization. This project can be a source of pride for our local and state LWV. Well done LWVMI!

Holly Jenson, Madeline Cimini, Rochelle Habeck, Aimee Beardard, Barbara Hemphill, Sara Wick and Jackie Wylie covered 33 hours of observation.

Mary Baggerman, Emily Bettencourt, Ruth Caputo, Angela Erdman, Connie Ferguson, Stephen Ferguson, Denise Hartsough, Jules Isenberg-Wedel, Janet Jones, Kathryn Racette, and Patricia Vinge were on deck to observe, but the canvass finished earlier than expected.

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this important project happen. You are appreciated by your local and state League.

We have planned a Board of Canvassers debriefing on December 1 at 7pm via zoom. All of our observers are welcome and encouraged to attend. A zoom link will be sent out to observers several days before the 1st, so please watch for it.

### Officers:

**Barbara Dircks**  
*Co-President*  
barbdircks@gmail.com

**Chris Kuthe**  
*Co-President*  
ckuthe57@gmail.com

**MerriKay Oleen-Burkey**  
*Past President*  
moburkey30@gmail.com

**Kristen Kern-Beaver**  
*First Vice-President (VP Org)*  
kristenkernbeaver@gmail.com

**Denise Hartsough**  
*Second Vice-President (VP Programs)*  
denise.hartsough@gmail.com

**Deb Freiman**  
*Secretary*  
deb.freiman@gmail.com

**Tanya Potter**  
*Treasurer*  
lepottter1224@gmail.com

**Jennifer Snyder**  
*Membership Chair*  
jsyndergaard Snyder@gmail.com

### Board Members:

**Aedín Clements**  
aedinclements@gmail.com

**Jules Isenberg-Wedel**  
*Vote411/Guides*  
julesisenbergwedel@gmail.com

**Rick Freiman**  
richard.freiman@gmail.com

**Angela Erdman**  
amerdman@sbcglobal.net

**Shardae Chambers**  
shardaeljones@gmail.com

**Lisa Fuller**  
Lfuller6257@gmail.com

**Paula Manley**  
*GR & Calhoun County Unit Mentor*  
pjmanley@hotmail.com

**Sue Rosko**  
*Calhoun County Unit*  
lwvkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com

**Terry Hluchyj**  
*Vote 411/Strategic Plan/Archives*  
hluchyberg@aol.com