

Calendar

March 2023

Women's History Month

7 Kalamazoo County Commission Vote
to support the new position of County Climate Sustainability Coordinator position.

8 International Women's Day

LWVKA Development Committee Meeting
10am through Zoom, contact Ken Manley @ kenmanley@hotmail.com

12-18 Sunshine Week

18 LWVKA Co-hosts Public Presentation:
Lessons Learned from A2Zero: Ann Arbor's Climate and Equity Work. *In collaboration with WMU Climate Change Working Group.* 3 pm Van Deusen Room, Kalamazoo Public Library

22 Calhoun County Unit Board Meeting
Calhoun County LWV Unit meeting. Contact Sue Rosko @lwvkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com

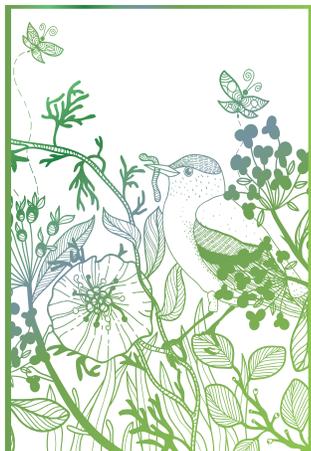
27 LWVKA Board Meeting
6:00pm via zoom, Contact Barb Dircks at barbdircks@gmail.com

April 2023

7 World Health Day
Celebrate founding of WHO

22 Earth Day

24 LWVKA Annual Meeting



Happy Spring!

President's Column

By Barb Dircks

We want to dedicate this month to being curious—and to wondering out loud, “Do we make a difference?” After gaining a foothold in “what’s next?” last month, seeing the ways members can take steps based on individual interests and the time they have to get involved, we recognize that motivation and curiosity are complimentary qualities. Sometimes we need to find answers to small detail questions. Other times a deeper, more philosophical question is on our minds, and still other queries are informational and tied to the actions we care to pursue. This is how familiarity with issues grows and opportunities multiply. Engagement is the way to find answers, lean into issues, and learn with friends.

Have you ever wondered about the following:

- **How do members find out what’s going on in the LWVKA?** Visit the LWVKA public calendar at lwvka.org. Times and dates for board meetings, committee meetings and events are all listed. Our **Annual Meeting** is already scheduled for April 24.
- **Can I attend the LWVMI State Convention?** Every league member can attend a day, part, or all of the Convention in May. Keep reading *The VOTER* for more information.
- **There are new t-shirts for sale. How do I order one?** Place your order at :graphix gostoreonline.com or contact Kristen Kern Beaver (kristenkernbeaver@gmail.com)
- **What is all the talk about a National Popular Vote about?** Information and training around this issue is in the works. Read the introductory article in this issue of *The Voter* or reach out to Chris (ckuthe57@gmail.com)
- **Earth Day is coming. Is there anything in the works I can join?** Contact Aedin Clements (aedinclements@gmail.com). Activities and actions are planned for 3/18 & 4/22.
- **When I read, hear and see articles and presentations that seem full of mis- and dis-information, what’s the best thing to do?** Join the Observer Corps and learn with others; practice the *Ways To Counter* strategies—<http://ncsbe.gov>>electionsecurity.
- **The ballot initiative about voting early passed. What does that mean for voters now?** Visit VOTE411.org. There are bills being introduced to coordinate and execute guidelines meant to assist voters comprehension and to supply Election Clerks with the support they need as they make necessary alterations to meet the guidelines.
- **What is Sunshine Week?** Sunshine Week is a period that promotes transparency and access to public information. It coincides with *National Freedom of Information Day* and was first celebrated in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors. FOI (freedom of Information) activities for classrooms and newsrooms can be found at spj.org (society of professional journalists). Read more at www.bridegemi.com “Sunshine Week; More Transparency Please.”
- **Are all League activities meeting on Zoom, or are there face-to-face meetings?** Join fellow members monthly at the scheduled “share and tell” social gatherings. (See *public calendar* for date, place and time.) Participate in future Book Club meetings, attend our Spring Board meeting, and watch for hybrid affairs throughout the year.

It has never been easier to be a part of LWVKA! We encourage curiosity! We hope you ask questions. It makes us all better! When you wonder how you can contribute, whether you and a friend can get involved, just ask! We love sharing what 103 years of growth continues to make possible! The LWVKA is a strong, non-partisan organization with a mission to empower voters and defend democracy. It’s strong because everyone continues to pay attention, ask questions and work on solutions! 



News from
National

LWVUS Update

Paula Manley

March 2023

Women's History Month
Deaf History Month
National Foreign Language Month
6- Anniversary of Bloody Sunday
6-10 Civic Learning Week
8- International Women's Day
26- Anniversary of SCOTUS Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina arguments
31- International Transgender Day of Visibility

Upcoming LWV webinars include:

- Technology: Friend or Foe of Free, Fair and Accessible Elections? March 15 at 2pm ET
 - LWV's Criminal Justice Position: Overview and Advocacy Considerations on March 22 at 3pm ET
- Check the League Management site at lwv.org for the latest listings of webinars and recordings.

LWVUS is a partner with a coalition supporting civic education policy. The coalition encourages "civic learning for a strong democracy."

The LWVUS publication Impact on Issues 2022-2024 is available in a digital version on the League Management site. It contains the newest version of LWVUS policy positions. A webinar recording on the League Management site offers information about this new version. 



LWVMI Updates

Denise Hartsough, VP for Programing

LWVMI Offers Networking

Interested in an aspect of the League and want to learn more? Would you like to meet people from other local Leagues in the same role as you? LWVMI offers virtual opportunities for networking and information sharing, open to any League member:

- **NEW! Money in Politics Network.** Holding initial meeting 3/9, 7pm led by Robbi Duda of LWV Washtenaw County. To register: <https://tinyurl.com/86t296hx> For info: mip@LWVWashtenaw.org
- **Membership, Leadership and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)** 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. For the link: Camilla Davis, cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com
- **Voter Services** (registration, VOTE411, voting, forums) 4th Thursdays, 7pm. For the link: Judy Florian, jflo@comcast.net
- **Observer Corps** Planning of future Zoom meetings on March 29, 3pm For the link: David Allen, pdavidallen2@icloud.com
- **Local League Treasurers** February and July, dates TBA. For the link: Denise Hartsough, denise.hartsough@gmail.com

For advocacy webinars, watch for announcements in LWVMI's League Links, <https://lwvmi.org/league-links>. 

Calhoun County

By Sue Rosko

In January the Calhoun County Unit board and interested members formed a strategic plan and record of 2022. It's the first formally done as previously we were just trying to work on all of the voting/election work, LWVMI projects and expanding our membership/member involvement. This coming together for the strategic plan was well received and very helpful. It will continue to be reviewed and updated.

The urgent need to get the critical gun legislation bills through the Michigan legislature is the biggest focus of the Calhoun County Unit in February. This will continue. Many members have a keen interest in getting these passed. A working committee of concerned members and supporters has formed. If others are interested in being more involved and receiving more updates, contact lwvcalhouncounty@yahoo.com. Updates on information and action are shared to members/others through emails and our Facebook page. Leadership on the committee joined with *Moms Demand Action* in Kalamazoo and *End Gun Violence Michigan* to support their efforts and learn. We have gained support and action from other Calhoun County organizations and individuals, are trying to locate other Calhoun groups who are working on gun safety and are forming a county collaborative around ending gun violence and education. Besides area, state and national advocacy we are striving for education and action in our county. *End Gun Violence Michigan* has asked organizations to sign on to their letter of support for the gun safety legislation. In reaching out to LWVMI, the presidents have signed this letter. Christina stated, "As a state legislative issue, LWVMI has signed on to the letter and will most likely testify at least in writing. Also look for an Action Alert when it makes it through. That will provide your unit the opportunity to speak up as individuals to your House and Senate Reps". There is so much more strength when we come together as a whole.

In addition to the above, the Voter Services director is making high school contacts to attempt to schedule presentations and registrations. Marshall schools are scheduled. She is also beginning to plan for any upcoming Voter Information/Registration tables. The Vote 411 director is working on the May election, first finding the items that will be on the ballots in the county. The Membership director is putting together posters to post throughout the county, sharing a description of our Unit and our contact information. Social/information gatherings are being planned, especially for our annual meeting and promoting the hard work of the clerks. Our Clerk Engagement director is making plans to support our clerks as they work through instituting Proposal 2. National Popular Vote education and advocacy is being explored with two members attending the training. Nominations for open positions are being pursued, with this being a priority. We are hoping to get more members active in leadership, on committees, and/or chairing any special projects. Together we have and can continue to accomplish so much—sharing the League's education and advocacy in Calhoun County. 



You're Invited

Barb Dircks

We are extending another invite for a gathering to share and tell. Let's meet at *University Roadhouse*, 1332 West Michigan Ave., near the WMU campus, on March 7th, from 5:30–6:30. The conversation starter last month was the ever-changing, media's impact on the way we vote. This month the topic is an offshoot and continuation of that topic. It will deal with the future of voting, given the variable, access to information each generation chooses to use. Let's explore generational shifts in views, news and access points.

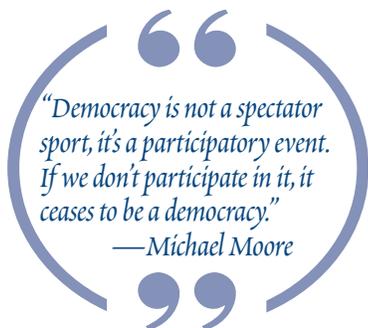
What personal stories do we have; what anecdotal ideas do we bring to the table? I look forward to the exchange of ideas! Reach out to barbdircks@gmail.com with questions or to request a virtual meeting around this dialogue. 📧

EVENTS

Barb Dircks

Our EVENTS meeting spent a short time following up on *Founder's Day*—agreeing that it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and mix with new people; *Voter Services* and *Observer's Corps* picked up new members. Discussion around the reorganization and regeneration of the *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* committee was discussed. There will be many new opportunities to incorporate and define words in new contexts which will be important moving forward. Weaponizing DEI as part of an agenda of mis- and dis-information must be countered. As this negative messaging appears, the League will be ready to redirect and support accuracy in actions. Outreach to a wider audience is always open for discussion; consideration of YouTube media is one avenue to investigate. Knowledgeable individuals are invited to the next meeting to share ideas and skills on March 11th.

The LWVKA is partnering with WMU's Climate Change Working Group to host a very interesting and informative event. 📧



A2Zero

Aedín Clements

Lessons Learned from A2ZERO: Ann Arbor's Climate and Equity Work— a presentation by **Missy Stults, PhD**, *Sustainability and Innovations Director*, A2ZERO will be held at Kalamazoo Public Library (VanDeusen Room), 315 South Rose St., on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 3 p.m.

This is part of a series of events organized in Kalamazoo during March—Climate Emergency Month, coordinated by WMU's Climate Change Working Group with partner organizations. Watch our Facebook page for information on this and other events. <https://www.facebook.com/events/718646586567815>. 📧

**Lessons Learned from A²ZERO:
Ann Arbor's Climate and Equity Work**

Missy Stults, PhD
Sustainability and Innovations Director

**March 18, 2023
3:00 PM**

**Kalamazoo Public Library
315 S. Rose St.
(VanDeusen Room)**

hosted by: **LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KALAMAZOO AREA**



Membership

By Jennifer Snyder

LWVKA welcomes **Judith Cieslak** of Marshall & **Maria Gagnon-Markucki** of Kalamazoo! 📧

Thank You!

...to Chris Kuthe and Kayla Boonstra for working at a voter registration event in February.

KVCC hosted several such events and the LWVKA volunteers showed up to help register over **10 new voters!** 📧



LWVKA Education Fund Board of Directors

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paula.mae.aldridge@gmail.com

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