



Calendar

May 2023

2 Election Day

Polls open 7am-8pm

10 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

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

19

21 LWVMI State Convention

24 Calhoun County Unit Board Meeting

6:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Sue Rosko @
lwkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com

Calhoun County Unit High Tea

Ballroom at East End Gallery, Marshall, 5 pm

22 LWVKA Board Meeting

6pm via zoom, Contact Barb Dircks @
barbdircks@gmail.com

June 2023

Pride Month

14 LWVKA Development Committee Meeting

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

19 Juneteenth

20 LWVKA Book Group

7 pm, Kazoo Books, 2413 Parkview Ave. The book for discussion is *Ida B. the Queen*:

The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells, by Michelle Duster (2021). For more information, please contact Aedin Clements
aedinclements@gmail.com.

27 LWVKA Board Meeting

6pm via zoom, Contact Barb Dircks @
barbdircks@gmail.com

28 Calhoun County Unit Board Meeting

6:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Sue Rosko @
lwkacalhouncounty@yahoo.com



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



President's Column

By Barb Dircks

Spring, and all the changes that go with it, surround us. Many familiar signs of the season remind us that time is filled with hope and expectation; the same is true with League routines.

Our April 24 Annual Meeting is behind us and it provided inspiration, information and an evening mixed with camaraderie and business. Dr. Brandy Brown's presentation was followed by the business meeting where the 2023-24 Budget was adopted, the Endowment and Education Fund reports clarified, a report from the Development Committee and presentation and adoption of our local program. Thank you to everyone who contributed and presented — **Tanya Potter, Ken Manley, Denise Hartsough, Kristen Kern Beaver, Kay Anderson**, along with the support of many others. We are appreciative of the efforts and work done by everyone to make it a wonderful evening!

Our slate of Officers was approved:

Co-Presidents – (1yr) **Barb Dircks** and **Chris Kuthe**

VP Organization (2yr) **Kristen Kern-Beaver**

Secretary (2yr) **Deb Freiman**

Board Members (2yr) **Aedin Clements, Rick Freiman, Aimee Bedard**

Nominating members (1yr) **Kay Anderson**. Off Board: **Regena Nelson, Teresa Johnson**. On- Board members: **Angela Erdman and Lisa Fuller**

Looking Forward

May 19–21, members of Leagues across the state will attend the biennial 2023 State Convention in East Lansing. It is a great opportunity to feel the energy of fellow delegates! Those who attend go as a voting delegate, or not, but we all look forward to seeing League members from across the state for shared learning and decision-making. Votes during plenary sessions will take place as well as expanding understanding of the important work the State League is doing through the planned workshops: *Engagement with Communities of Color, Gun Safety, New Leaders Boot Camp, Censorship/ Avoidance of Black History, National Popular Vote and Creating a Campus Unit*

Speakers Michigan Election Attorney **Mark Brewer**, Chair of the House Elections Committee, **Rep. Stephanie Tsernoglou** and CEO of LWVUS, **Virginia Kase Solomon** will address members as part of the workshops, and provide the keynote address at the Saturday night banquet, and breakfast meeting. All will have a perspective and offer a wealth of information!

Voting delegates will thank current Board members under the leadership of **Christina Schlitt** and **Paula Bowman** and then be asked to elect new LWVMI officers. Our own **Denise Hartsough** and **MerriKay Oleen-Burkey** are running for offices at the State level. Delegates will also vote to adopt the budgets for the next two years, consider amendments to the LWVMI bylaws, and adopt the 2023-2025 program for coming years so the good work can continue!

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LWVUS Update

Paula Manley

May 2023

Asian American Native Hawaiian/
Pacifier Islander Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

14 Mother's Day


21 104 years since US House passed
19th Amendment

29 Memorial Day

Late May/Early June Graduation Season

Promote voter registration

Some states have recently decided to withdraw from the nationwide Electronic Registration Vote Center known as ERIC. LWVUS staff have written a blog What is the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)? This blog and other recent blogs may be found at lww.org on the home page.

If you have not signed up to receive the biweekly League Update from LWVUS, go to lww.org and subscribe on the League Management site. 

LWVMI Updates

Denise Hartsough

Your State League in Action

Among the ways LWV of Michigan and its Education Fund serve local Leagues:

- Hosts networks for local League presidents, treasurers, and leaders in Voter Service, Membership & DEI, Observer Corps, Communications, Environment, Campaign Finance Reform.
- Sends action alerts to local League members so you can let your elected officials know, if you personally support the League's position on pending state legislation.
- Pays for VOTE411 for all Leagues in the state.
- Obtains state-level candidate information for a state Voter Guide (and for use in our local Voter Guide).
- Provides affordable liability and Directors & Officers insurance.
- Conducts statewide studies on state-level issues when so directed by Convention delegates.
- Provides materials for presentations on issues such as National Popular Vote and mis- & disinformation.
- Fosters development of League units through membership and leadership coaching.

Please engage with and support your State League! 




News from
National




EVENTS UPDATE

Barb Dircks

There was no meeting this month, instead, in anticipation of the Annual Meeting and the full calendar coming in 2023 -2024, the group is poised to respond. Education, Voting Services, Engagement, Networking, Technology and Social Media are all part of actions that promote the League. The connection between these leads to the solutions necessary to address questions during planning. Going forward, the LWVUS is communicating a change that is in the works, (if you have fifteen minutes to watch the video <https://www.lww.org/league-management/league-fundamentals/dr-turners-state-league-2023-address> there is more on the subject.) The committee will accommodate the new direction and the expanding "Who's Who lists" (in Google Docs) will be useful to future collaboration and promotion! 

You're Invited!

Barb Dircks

This month, you have been invited—to many things! The Annual Meeting was a great opportunity to meet and greet and discuss with fellow members face-to-face. The upcoming LWVMI State Convention in mid-May also offers a wonderful chance to see and learn with each other. Please take advantage of the many busy summer activities that are on the calendar coming in June and beyond. We will take July off to regenerate and re-energize, but look forward to gathering again for first, Tuesday, face-to-face meet-ups, in August. Happy Spring and Summer! 



Calhoun County Unit

Sue Rosko

The Voter Services team has contacted all area high schools to offer assistance with the State of Michigan Youth Voter project, presentations or registration events. Lakeview High School is participating with the state again this year, led by their staff and students. Lakeview was an award winner last year. Marshall High School hosted class presentations by the Calhoun County Unit in April. The Voter Services team is planning for the Senior Fair in May and upcoming events this summer.

League members are active on several advocacy drives through the state. Members have trained on and are involved in committees around the National Popular Vote, Money in Politics and the Gun Safety legislation. The Unit partnered with Marshall United Methodist Church for a Lemon Bars and Letter writing event with great participation. Letters were written to legislators requesting support for the gun safety bills. Links for "action alerts" and the video stressing the importance and power of members taking action were shared. Individuals were strongly encouraged to take the few minutes required to respond to the LWVMI or LWV US "take action" statements when it is an issue that they support. Members have been invited to attend Albion College's Challenging Borders in Domestic and International Human Rights Conference the first weekend in May. Two members will attend. One member is serving as a LWVMI conference delegate with LWVKA. Much good information should be gathered from these events.

In May the Unit will hold a High Tea at the ballroom at East End Gallery in Marshall. This social and annual meeting is planned to be held at 5 pm on Wednesday, May 24. Watch for your emailed invitation, Calhoun County members! We'd love to gather and meet you all!

Election Update

Shardae Jones-Chambers & Barb Dircks

It is a busy time for election officials and clerks across the state. They have their hands full preparing and executing necessary requirements of Proposal Two.

The following updates are in the works:

- Voter registration forms are getting ready to change again. The state is looking at removing the request to be a permanent AV (absentee voting) list; voters will instead be on a permanent list when the ballot is issued. A new form will be created that allow voters to request either addition or removal from the list.

- The state is working on funding to support the requirement of additional drop boxes, and to reimburse clerks for postage required for return ballots and absentee applications and ballots.
- The state is actively working on creating a ballot tracking site for voter use. Testing is in the works.
- Lastly, the state is actively working on creating a ballot tracking site for voter use. Testing is in the works.

It is a monumental undertaking to arrange, plan and work to be in compliance with the new amendment voters passed. THANK YOU to everyone for working those long hours to keep citizens safe and able to vote!

Membership

Jennifer Snyder

In March, LWVKA was pleased to welcome Michelle Greenlee of Paw Paw.



WELCOME
New Members!

Special Tributes

In Memory of **Janet Scarrow**
Paula Aldridge



LWVKA Education Fund Board of Directors

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

Vice-Chair - Open

Jessica Reiser, *Secretary*
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Tanya Potter, *Treasurer*
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Dennis Elmer, *Director*
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Rick Freiman, *Director*
richard.freiman@gmail.com

President's Column, continued

League members from local leagues will be honored with the presentation of the Belle Brotherton Award, the Eva Packard Voter Service Award and the Judy Karandjeff Advocacy Award. Other recognition for Bell Ringer Awards will be given to recognize the amazing work our League members across the State have done. Next month's VOTER will feature pictures and further details of the convention.

Networking and sharing are the heart of the Convention! The LWVMI has prepared an extensive program and we thank them for all the amazing organization and hard work! Every delegate will meet, share and have fun because of their efforts! Finally, there will be an auction where delegates can bid on a selection of baskets, gifts and donations. (Our League is contributing a basket of Kalamazoo-themed specialty items) For more information, a pre-convention Zoom meeting is scheduled for May 11th at 7 p.m. and all are welcome to go to the website, <https://wvmi.org/miscellaneous-league-resources> and learn more. We look forward to seeing everyone who attends! 🇺🇸

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