



# Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area  
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## AUGUST 3, 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION



Display this lawn sign on Election day.  
Call 248-594-6602 to purchase a sign.

Four of Oakland County's State Senate districts, three of its State House districts, and three of its County Commissioner districts are Open seats with no incumbents, and thus drew a significant number of candidates. Often the Primary can be the deciding election as to who will represent you because of the political demographics of the voters in the district. **The League of Women Voters encourages all citizens to exercise their right to vote on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

To that end, **we provide nonpartisan information** for voters to help them evaluate the candidates. **See Page 3** for detail on the following:

**Visit our Website [www.LWVOA.ORG](http://www.LWVOA.ORG) for voter information through our VOTER GUIDES and CANDIDATE FORUMS.**

**Also see websites of partner non-partisan organizations:**

[www.OCBA.ORG](http://www.OCBA.ORG) for forum videos + more background on judicial candidates.

[www.MiVote.org](http://www.MiVote.org) for videos of 5-minute interviews of legislative candidates.

[www.Publius.org](http://www.Publius.org) for Sample Ballots, precincts, Free Press surveys.

### League of Women Voters backs trio of proposals

Below is a Letter to the Editor which was sent to Oakland County newspapers. While the League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, it does study issues and takes positions on them after membership consensus. As the League is a multi-level organization, it has positions at the national, state, regional and local level. Using positions on Parks & Recreation (local), Mass Transit (regional), and Education (state), the Oakland Area board voted to support three proposals with impact on the majority of county residents.

The League of Women Voters Oakland Area is in favor of passing all three county ballot proposals on the Aug. 3 primary ballot.

We support the **Oakland County Parks and Recreation millage renewal** based on our local position that provisions for open spaces, parks and recreational lands be available.

We support the **Oakland County Public Transportation millage renewal** based on our regional position of having a regional transit system.

We support the **Oakland Community College millage renewal** proposal based on our state position that community colleges be available for all.

Judy Bateman, President  
League of Women Voters Oakland Area

### **WATCH for an E-mail about our Saturday, August 21st DREAM CRUISE Plans**

LWVOA would like to again sell pizza and pop at the Dream Cruise in downtown Birmingham for the Dream Cruise. To do this, we need an appropriate booth site. Once that has been secured, an Email will go out to members asking for (1) donations of pop or dollars to buy pizza and (2) Volunteers to staff the booth on Saturday, August 21. It is a fun way to earn money to fund our activities.

*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

LWVOA Board of Directors,  
2010-2011

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THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published seven times a year by the LWVOA. Articles and Letters to the Editor, with writer's name, address and phone number may be sent to the LWVOA office.

- Editor: Eva Packard

#### **LWVOA ON FACEBOOK!**

If you are not already a member of Facebook, you can sign up at [www.FACEBOOK.com](http://www.FACEBOOK.com) and make "League of Women Voters Oakland Area" one of your Facebook friends.

Invite your friends to learn about League activities and upcoming programs.

*LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

There is no better way to understand the importance of the League and the impact it has on our country than to attend the **LWV National Convention**, as Renate Soulen and I did in Atlanta, GA, last month. Congressman John Lewis advised us to keep "getting in the way" on issues. A panel of former LWVUS presidents reminded us of the influence they had on presidents, government leaders, and legislation. League members from around the country brought important information and educated us on the critical issues of the day. Renate and I attended caucuses, workshops, and meetings. We used what we learned to vote, on your behalf, to decide the direction the league will take for the next two years. The two new studies, three concurrences, and six resolutions are listed in this Voter. Let's get educated, get active, and continue to "get in the way" to make democracy work.

LWVOA participated in the **MiVote Roadshow** held in Oakland County. Thanks to Linda DePoorter, coordinator, and the following members who came out to help with the 5-minute taped interviews of those candidates who attended: Sybil Levenson, Jerry Burden, Barbara Talley, John Magary, Geri Rinschler, Karen DeGrendel, Mary Ann Barkach, Marge Polidori, & Shaniya Jarrett. Thanks, too, to Helen Sergott for helping in Macomb County.

Thanks to everyone who helped at the **LWVOA Annual Meeting** as I couldn't be there, especially Bernadette Najor who led the meeting, Sheryl Mitchell who invited Phil Power to speak, and Eva Packard who made sure our speaker was made welcome.

Special thanks to Jerry Burden who coordinated many of the July **candidate forums** for the August Primary election. He and John Magary will be attending 7 of the 9 non-judicial forum events. Jerry, Carla Gribbs, Tera Moon, Sheryl Mitchell, Neil Zechman and I will be moderating, John is our main screener, Pat Finn will screen and coordinate in Ferndale. Others who will time or pass out cards & pencils are: Fran Fisher, Shaniya Jarrett, Linda Brown, Karen DeGrendel, Mary Howarth and others to be named later.

Several OA members attended the **LWVDMA Annual Meeting** Saturday, July 10 at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Tim Bledsoe, a former professor of political science at WSU and now a State Representative, spoke highlighting the reasons he feels that a new state constitution is a good idea.

President, Judy Bateman

## Available ON-LINE Voter Information for August Primary

Voter Service Vice-president **Debra Horner** prepared individual **VOTER GUIDES** for the 25 Oakland County Commissioner Districts, 6 Township races, and 2 Judicial contests. Webmaster **Tera Moon** posted them on our website [www.LWVOA.ORG](http://www.LWVOA.ORG) and linked to the federal and state contests for Governor, US Representative, State Senator, and State Representative on the LWV of Michigan website and to the many ballot proposals on the County Clerk's website. There will be no printed guide for the Primary, but Oakland Area will do one for the General Election. Thank You to the **Taubman Company** for providing funding toward that guide.

Candidate information available on the websites of organizations with which the League partnered include:

- [www.OCBA.ORG](http://www.OCBA.ORG), the website of the **Oakland County Bar Association**, which has judicial candidate responses to 29 additional questions and also online videos to view at your PC of candidate forums held with OCBA and the *Detroit Free Press* and moderated by LWVOA.
- [www.MiVote.org](http://www.MiVote.org), a collaborative project of **Detroit Public TV, U of M–Dearborn, and the Center for Michigan**, which provides MiVOTER GUIDE videos of 5-minute interviews of candidates for the State Legislature. League members throughout the state helped at the Roadshow events to tape the interviews.
- [www.PUBLIUS.ORG](http://www.PUBLIUS.ORG), a website to provide **Sample Ballots and precinct locations** for voters with links to LWV-gathered candidate responses, the MiVote videos, and *Detroit Free Press* candidate surveys.

### CANDIDATE FORUMS in Oakland County

Candidate Forum Chair **Jerry Burden**, with the help of **Judy Bateman** and **Ann Edwards**, coordinated **CANDIDATE FORUMS** for 14 offices for the August Primary election: **2 Judicial contests, 3 State Senate districts, 4 State House Districts, and 5 County Commissioner Districts**. Moderators included **Judy, Jerry, Linda DePoorter, Carla Gribbs, Sheryl Mitchell, Tera Moon** and **Neil Zechman**. Candidate forums were taped for rebroadcast on cable stations and some were made available for viewing online. Known rerun channels and schedules are listed below.

**Forums:** Where rebroadcast times are not listed, call your local municipality.

- 6/16 **State Senator District 12.** 100 minutes. View Online at [rochesterhills.org](http://rochesterhills.org).  
On cable in Auburn Hills (Ch. 16 or 54), Clarkston (Ch. 10 or 22), Orion Twp. (Ch. 20 on M, W, Th, F, Sat at 2 pm + T, F, Sa at 8 pm), Oxford Township (Ch. 97), Pontiac (Ch. 10 or 20), Rochester (Comcast Ch. 61), and Rochester Hills (Comcast 55 & WOW 10 on T & Th at 4 pm).
- 6/16 **County Commissioner Districts 11 and 12.** 80 minutes. View Online at [rochesterhills.org](http://rochesterhills.org).  
On cable in Auburn Hills (Ch. 16 or 54), Pontiac (Ch. 10 or 20), Rochester (Comcast Ch. 61), and Rochester Hills (Comcast 55 & WOW 10 on T & Th at 4 pm).
- 6/29 **Probate Court Judge** with OCBA, *Detroit Free Press*. 81 minutes. View Online at [www.ocba.org](http://www.ocba.org).  
On cable in Greater West Bloomfield (Ch. 15 on F/Sa/Su at 9 am and 8 pm + Th, 7/29 at 8 pm and online at [www.civiccentertv.com/blog](http://www.civiccentertv.com/blog))
- 6/30 **District Court 52-4 Judge** with OCBA, *Detroit Free Press*. 60 minutes. View Online at [www.ocba.org](http://www.ocba.org).  
On cable in Clawson (Comcast 60 & WOW 10) and Troy (Comcast 52 & WOW 18 on M@5pm, W@6:30pm, Th@10am).
- 7/13 **State Senator District 14.** 75 minutes.  
On cable in Southfield Area (Ch.15 -See [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com) City Dept./Cable 15/Program Guide/pg.2 for schedules)
- 7/14 **State Senator District 15.** 60 minutes. View online at [www.novi.ezstream.com](http://www.novi.ezstream.com). (4min.black silence at start.)  
On cable in Novi (Ch.10), Commerce/Highland/Lyon/Milford/WhiteLk Twps, WalledLake/Wixom (Ch.22 M-F@5am,11am,10:30pm)
- 7/15 **County Commissioner District 1.** 60 minutes.  
On cable in Oxford Twp. (Ch. 97) & Addison Twp. (Ch. 19)
- 7/19 **State Representative District 39.** 60 minutes. View Online at [www.civiccentertv.com/blog](http://www.civiccentertv.com/blog)  
On cable in Greater West Bloomfield (Ch. 15 on F/Sa/Su at 10 am and 9 pm + Th, 7/29 at 10 pm)
- 7/19 **County Commissioner District 25.** 60 minutes. View Online at [www.ferndale-mi.com/Services/Cable/CityCouncilVideo](http://www.ferndale-mi.com/Services/Cable/CityCouncilVideo)  
On cable in Ferndale (Comcast 53 & WOW 10 at 7am, 1pm, 7pm, and 1am daily)
- 7/20 **State Representative District 35.** 60 minutes.  
On cable in LathrupVlg/OakPark/RoyalOakTwp/Southfield (Ch. 15-See CityDept./Cable 15/Program Guide/p.2 for schedules)
- 7/20 **County Commissioner District 23.** 75 minutes.  
On cable in Southfield (Ch.15 -See [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com) City Dept./Cable 15/Program Guide/pg.2 for schedules)
- 7/21 **State Representative District 46.** 60 minutes. View Online at [www.orionONTV.org](http://www.orionONTV.org).  
On cable in Orion Twp (Comcast 20 & ATT99 on M-F at 4 pm, T, Sat at 10 pm)
- 7/22 **State Representative District 26.** 90 minutes. View Online at [www.cmntv.org](http://www.cmntv.org).  
On cable in Royal Oak (Comcast 52 & WOW 18 on 7/27@3p, 7/28@4p, 7/29@9p, 8/3@3p), Madison Hts (WOW 18)

## **2010 LWVOA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

Elected to the LWVOA Board for 2-year terms unless otherwise noted were:

**Bernadette Najor** as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
**Patricia Finn** as 3rd Vice President  
**Sue Abrams** as Treasurer  
**Fran Fisher, Renate Soulen, and Barbara Suhay** as Directors  
**Tera Moon** as Director (1-year term).

Continuing in office are: **Judy Bateman** as President

**Debra Horner** as 2nd Vice President  
**Randa Keener** as Secretary  
**Jerry Burden, and Sheryl Mitchell** as Directors.

Appointed to the Board for 1-year terms as Directors are **John Magary & Eva Packard**.

Elected to the Nominating Committee for 2010-2011 League year were:

**Mary Ann Barkach** (Chair), **Karen DeGrendel** and **Carole Elder**.



Bernadette, Barbara, Debra, John, Eva  
Sue, Randa, Fran, Patricia

Thank you again to **Bernadette Najor**, who arranged for our Annual Meeting to be held at the beautiful Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield followed by a tasty lunch, and who also Chaired the Annual Meeting as President Judy Bateman was out of town at a family event. The business meeting moved quickly with no changes to the Budget, Program, or Officers as presented to the membership. All local program positions were retained. We will continue the consolidation of our various 1<sup>st</sup> local government positions.

Members were directed to the **President's Report in the Workbook** to read about the Proclamation received for the League's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, awards received by LWVOA members, our 26 Candidate Forums, 54 Voter Guides, Clerk interviews on voter registration procedures, *They Represent You* brochures updates, our high school PSA Contest on the Census, a DMA program on health care as we age, an OA program on health care reform, the fall luncheon on the need for a free press, speakers on prisons followed by a consensus meeting, national program planning, our fundraiser/ party with "Iron Jawed Angel", and Advocacy Day in Lansing. It was a busy year during which LWVOA also went on Facebook. Judy thanked the many members who made our accomplishments possible, our contributors and supporters, and especially the LWVOA Board.

### **PHIL POWER's presentation at Annual Meeting entuses members to be involved**



Our luncheon speaker, invited by board member **Sheryl Mitchell**, was **Philip Power, founder and President of the Center for Michigan**. He spent nearly 40 years in the newspaper business as founder, owner and Chairman of HomeTown Communications, which published 62 community newspapers including the Observer & Eccentric, Mirror, and various papers in West Oakland County. He also served on the University of Michigan Board of Regents and chaired the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The Center For Michigan, founded in 2006 after Power sold the papers, is a "think-and-do-tank" aimed at improving the policy and political environment in Michigan. It is a bi-partisan organization which intends to incite a citizen movement to heal the broken political structure.

Phil Power began **Michigan's Defining Moment Public Engagement Campaign** in 2007. He gave it that name because he believes that decisions made in the next five years will determine the future of the state. Community conversations have been held all across Michigan with a wide demographic to gather the people's vision for Michigan and develop an action plan to achieve that vision. Over 10,000 people participated over the past three years. The **result was a 10-point plan focused on three visions or principles:** (1) Economic Growth & Quality of Life, (2) a Talented, Globally Competitive Workforce, and (3) Effective, Efficient & Accountable Government.

**Actions to achieve** the first vision include creating a more business friendly and entrepreneurial environment, overhauling the Michigan tax system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and building on Michigan's distinctive & competitive assets. To achieve the second vision, action steps were to change how & what schools teach, transform education operations & funding, and hold educators, parents & students to higher standards. The action steps for the third vision were to hold politicians – and ourselves – more accountable, extend or repeal term limits, develop & execute transparent & strategic budgets, and intensify consolidation and service sharing in local government.

In 2008, there were 48 open seats in the legislature and the Center for Michigan met with the candidates for those seats and explained the preliminary findings. The legislators elected formed a bi-partisan caucus to work on key items such as adopting a balanced budget by July 1, changing term limits which 'mandate inexperience', reducing prison spending, increasing education standards. They saved the Pure Michigan campaign which brought in more dollars than it cost. In 2010, the Roadshow taped videos for online viewing of candidates for 78 open seats who answered four questions related to the visions. Participants were also informed about results from the 10,000 voices.

The intent is to link citizens' visions with the political system and policy development for a better Michigan future. Member enthusiasm for Power's presentation was high and members expressed interest in involvement with the Center's efforts to increase bipartisan cooperation to help solve Michigan's problems.

**For more information on the Center for Michigan, go to [www.thecenterformichigan.net](http://www.thecenterformichigan.net).** Phil Power writes a weekly column which appears on the website. Other items on the website include the 10,000 Voices booklet, the **Michigan Truth Squad** which fact checks political ads and provides an analysis of whether fact or fiction, and **online petitions** dealing with topics such as tax & budget reform, term limit reform and education reform. The Center produces a **weekly eNewsletter** which is emailed to those who sign up to receive it.

Phil Power's presentation to the LWVOA Annual Meeting can be viewed on Greater West Bloomfield Civic Center TV15 on Fri/Sat/Sun, 7/23-25 at 8 am and at 7 pm and on Thur, 7/29 at 9 pm.

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## **Activities to meet LWVOA GOALS for 2010-2011**

Approved at July 1, 2010 LWVOA Board Meeting

MISSION-related:

### **Continue & Enhance Voter Services provided**

- Provide Voter Guides on Website for all elections
- Provide Voter Guides in Print with General Election as priority
- Hold Candidate and Proposal Forums
- Provide *They Represent You* (TRY) brochures
- Provide a Speaker's Bureau re Citizenship & Voting
- Hold Voter Registration Drives (especially for students)
- Do Civic and Citizen Education

### **Participate in Program Studies of Public Policy Issues**

- Participate in LWVMI study of Michigan Election process
- Complete Merge of Rochester Area & Oakland Area City & Township Positions
- Participate in the 2 new National studies - Role of Federal Government in Education, Privatization

### **Increase Advocacy for Our Positions at ALL Levels**

- Participate in Framing Michigan's Future state initiative
- Establish Local Position(s) for Emphasis (as LWVUS and LWVMI do)
- Follow up on National and State Calls for Action
- Hold Programs to Educate about our Positions

SUPPORT Functions:

### **Achieve Fund Raising Goals**

- Conduct an Annual Finance Drive with follow up
- Establish a Finance Committee
- Find Local Sponsors for TRYs
- Develop Corporate Sponsors for Voter Guides
- Hold another "fun" Fundraiser (besides Dream Cruise) for the general public
- Look into establishing a Business Advisory Committee

### **Increase Membership & Member Involvement**

- Plan the Year's Activities and have a Year's Calendar by Sept.
- Improve Access to Information about Member Interests
- Provide Members with Volunteer Opportunities List
- Call Members for Upcoming Meetings at Specific Times as needed (Phone Committee)
- Form a Membership Committee & Hold a Brainstorming Session at a place like Starbucks
- Reach out to/Partner with other Organizations

### **Increase Visibility**

- Develop list of other organizations and create liaisons
- Develop PSAs to encourage action on an issue
- Hold Town Hall meetings, inviting organizations and schools

## DECISIONS BY 2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION

### NEW NATIONAL STUDIES approved: (All current positions retained)

- **Federal Role in Public Education:** The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. (Supported by a good number of Leagues. Board recommended.)
- **Privatization:** the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services, and assets to the private sector. (Non-recommended item – close votes for consideration and approval.)

### CONCURRENCES approved:

- **Arms Control:** Board-Recommended concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position. See the LWVUS website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for new position text.
- **Equality in Marriage:** Adds to LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position: “The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.” [Non-recommended. Required 2/3 vote to approve.]
- **National Popular Vote:** This concurrence adds the following words to the third sentence of the LWVUS position on selection of the president: “We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished” [Non-recommended. Required 2/3 vote to approve.]

### RESOLUTIONS approved:

- **Safe Drilling and Mining:** Support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.
- **Support Lifting the Travel Ban to Cuba.**
- **Limit use of the Filibuster:** Call upon the U.S. Senate to change its rules.
- **Add the principle of Transparency to the SARA resolution passed in 2009:** (SARA – Security, Accuracy, Recountability, Accessibility, and now Transparency in voting).
- **Advocate for improved Medicare for all.**
- **Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill:** Our government should hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable, the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.

**2010-11 BUDGET adopted. Per-Member-Payment** to LWVUS by Local Leagues was **raised to \$29.70 for 2010-11** (includes \$0.10 added to accommodate non-recommended Privatization study) and **to \$30.00 for 2011-12.**

**BYLAWS changed:** 1) Drop word HONORARY before words ‘life member’ for those who have been members for 50 years and are excused from payment of dues. 2) Provide for adoption of biennial budget at Convention, starting in 2012. 3) Provide for Council to be held at a time and place or manner determined by national board.

### LWVUS BOARD and Nominating Committee Elected for 2010-2012:

**OFFICERS** are: **ELISABETH MacNAMARA, President;**

Judy Duffy, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; Judy Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; Susan M. Wilson, secretary/treasurer.

**DIRECTORS** are: **Patricia Donath (MICHIGAN),** Margaret Hawkins Hill, Mary Klenz, Janis McMillen, Marcia A. Merrins, Marlene O’Brien, Norman Turrill, and Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** members are: Elaine Blodgett, chair; Laura Blackburn, and Jennifer Vidrine.

## 2010 LWVUS National Convention Report – by Renate Soulen

First I would like to thank LWVOA for the opportunity to attend this convention as a voting delegate. The meeting was intense, informative, energizing and exhausting! Caucuses began at 7:30 AM and the program ran 'til 10 PM daily until concluding at noon on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Since multiple caucuses and workshops ran concurrently, choices had to be made; Judy and I tried to attend different ones.

Plenary sessions, at which LWVUS business was conducted (see decisions in prior article), also featured an impassioned speech by **Congressman John Lewis of Atlanta** (who was spat on and vilified for voting in favor of health care reform) **urging the LWV to never give up and to keep “getting in the face” of Congress**, a speech by **HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius**, which focused on the history of the suffrage movement and the continuing importance of women working to support legislation like the Affordable Care Act which she described in some detail, and **a panel of past LWVUS presidents**, each of whom spoke briefly about the highlights of her tenure and lessons learned – among them, to have fun while being persistent in fighting for goals. **“Gerrymandering: The Movie”** was shown during one lunch hour. Soon to be released, it is a documentary with emphasis on a successful referendum campaign to outlaw the practice in California; it is well done and might serve LWVOA for a fund-raising meeting.

Notable were four Convention awards for projects:

- 1) **Online Engagement Award** – to LWV Houston area, TX, for Facebook & Twitter activities engaging the community,
- 2) **Pioneer Award** – to LWV Oak Park-River Forest, IL, for a very creative “Roll out the Rain Barrels” campaign for water conservation (similar to the lion statues decorated in the Detroit area),
- 3) **Connection with Community Award** – to LWV Bellingham-Whatcom County, WA, for a series of community workshops invoking “Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times”, and
- 4) **Strengthening Democracy through Reform Award** – to LWV of California for their work on redistricting reform (featured in the above noted movie).

Summarizing the eight caucuses/workshops I attended:

**1. Marriage Equality** - sponsored by LWVs of MD & Saratoga County, NY – discussed the need for the (subsequently passed) addition to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position specifying equality in both marriage rights and responsibilities of same-gender and heterosexual couples.

**2. National Popular Vote** - sponsored by LWV AZ – noting that Congress is not presently favorable to a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College and that the suffrage movement did not succeed until it went to individual states, the supporters of NPV propose a voluntary compact among states which agree to award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives a plurality of the national vote – the compact to take effect when states collectively possessing a majority of electoral votes have enacted it. Support for NPV subsequently passed.

**3. Improved Medicare for All** – sponsored by LWV of Bloomington-Monroe County, IN – featured a talk by Dr. Rob Stone, Director of Hoosiers for a Common Sense Health Plan (HCHP) and Illinois Coordinator for Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) (slides available at HCHP.info). A passionate supporter of single-payer universal health care, he compared health care costs and results in the US with those in other developed nations, stressing both the inadequacy of the recently passed health care reform bill and the evils of for-profit health insurance companies. He predicts that runaway costs will make Medicare for all inevitable. His bottom line: educate yourself, find your voice, and join groups that are pushing a single-payer National Health Insurance Plan.

**4. Spreading the Health Care Message** – sponsored by LWV of Sudbury, MA – this caucus addressed grassroots efforts to spread the word on the need for a single-payer health plan which, advocates believe, would yield savings both to businesses and individuals despite paying for it through taxes on individual salaries and community offices. Advice: more focus on states versus national – with some states joining in a single-player plan; use of Healthcare-NOW.com (which collaborates with PNHP); offer to give luncheon talks on the subject to service clubs such as Kiwanis; ask people to divest investments in for-profit health insurers. Both this and #3 above emphasized that single-payer means publicly-financed but privately-delivered health care – hence “improved Medicare for all”. Personally I have a problem with that slogan since Medicare is widely seen as riddled with waste and corruption; proponents favor it because people understand the term Medicare better than “single payer”.

**5. Working for Sustainability:** Citizen’s Toolkit for Energy/Climate Change Action – sponsored by LWVUS Climate Change Task Force – kudos to the task force! This splendid toolkit (available by link from LWVUS website) provides a range of well-researched activities, strategies and resources categorized under 1) choosing a role for your league, 2) basics of climate change, 3) engaging individuals, 4) mobilizing communities, 5) promoting public policy, and 6) resources for climate change related issues. LWVOA can surely find something worthwhile here.

**6. Voter Registration Workshop** – focused on building voter registration strategies with emphasis on youth and underrepresented groups. Strategies to attract youth include a partnership with a wrestling TV channel, the “*Smackdown Your Vote!*” campaign (T-shirts available), and going into high schools (particularly in minority neighborhoods) to register eligible students. Indeed the LWVEF announced a 2010 Democracy Award contest to recognize outstanding work to engage young people in the political process. Open to any state or local league working in youth engagement, registration & voting, it offers cash prizes of \$4,000 (grand prize) and \$2,000 (2 runners-up); applications will be online in the fall and are due to LWVEF by 11/30/10.

**7. Advocacy of Federal Issues Workshop** – Lloyd Leonard, the LWVUS Senior Director of Advocacy, updated lobbying efforts on climate change and health care reform, applauding the volunteer lobbying core of League members in the D.C. area who are briefed weekly and then meet with appropriate members of Congress and/or their staff. The Gulf oil spill is influencing bills under consideration and he urged members to lobby their congressmen/senators with emphasis on alternative energy sources to improve/assure US independence. A veteran lobbyist spoke of the importance of humor in effective lobbying.

**8. Our Great Lakes** – sponsored by LWV of Lake Michigan – a lively speaker presented a PowerPoint talk of water issues. She would be a great speaker to have at one of our meetings. [See LWVOA Fall Luncheon below.]

**The LWVUS Board is seeking applications from members who are interested in being on the Study Committee for the national Public Education Study. Deadline is August 16. See [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) under For Members/Projects and Programs for details and application.**

## LWVOA ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

Presents

### **DAM THOSE FISH**

**Are Asian Carp a Threat to the Great Lakes?**

**Speaker from the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization.**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

12 noon Lunch, 1 pm Speaker

**First Baptist Church of Birmingham**

300 Willits, Birmingham, MI 48009

Open to the public. Please come and bring your friends.  
We need your strong support to achieve our goals as a League.

**\$20 Lunch & Speaker** (delicious lunch, beverages & dessert) **\$5 Speaker only**

**RESERVATION NECESSARY BY SEPT. 16<sup>th</sup>**

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Reservation Form for Women's Equality Day Luncheon on August 21, 2010:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sorry, I cannot attend but would like to contribute to the cause \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Women's Equality Day Luncheon

**Saturday, August 21, 2010  
11:30 am to 2:30 pm**

### One Under Restaurant and Banquet Hall

35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia – Ph. 734-474-5555  
Between Farmington Rd and Levan

**Celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WOMEN's RIGHT to VOTE!**

**Luncheon \$25.00**

#### U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow – Video Greeting

#### “A Woman's Place” – Debbie Macon of LWVOA

Vice-President of Women Officials' Network (WON)

#### “The Mosaic: A Conversation with Alice Paul”

A one-act play by Roberta Francis  
Performed by the Women's Equality Day Players

Event sponsored by American Association of University Women/MI, Michigan coalition for Equal Rights Studies, and Michigan ERAmerica. Co-sponsored by Business and Professional Women/MI, Coalition of Labor Union Women, League of Women Voters/MI, Michigan Women's Commission, National Organization for Women/MI, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/Metro Detroit, Women Officials' Network, and Zonta International.

*Limited Seating – See Reservation Form above.  
Don't delay. Send in today to avoid disappointment.*

**Make checks payable to:** Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies (MiCERS)

**Mail to:** 21697 McClung, Southfield, MI 48075-7804

**\$25 before August 13, 2010; \$30 after August 13, 2010**

Phone: 248-355-5233 or 734-425-3572

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# Time Dated Material Enclosed

## Calendar of Events

See [www.LWVOA.ORG](http://www.LWVOA.ORG) for VOTER GUIDES and CANDIDATE FORUM information for Primary.

Forums were held and taped for State Senate Districts 12, 14, 15; State House 26, 35, 39, 46;

County Commission 1, 11, 12, 23, 25; Probate Judge and District Judge 52-4. [See Page 3.](#)

Also see [www.ocba.org](http://www.ocba.org), [www.MiVote.org](http://www.MiVote.org), and [www.publius.org](http://www.publius.org) for additional candidate information.

**Tue. Aug. 3 7am-8pm Primary Election** for Governor, US Congress, State Senate & House, County Commissioner, some Townships, Judges, and Proposals

Thu. Aug. 5 7 pm LWVOA Board meeting at 725 S. Adams Rd, Birmingham 48009

**Sat. Aug. 21 11:30 am Women's Equality Day Luncheon** at One Under Banquet Hall 35780 Five Mile Rd, Livonia. \$25. Reserve by 8/13. [See Page 9.](#) "A Woman's Place" (Debbie Macon) + "The Mosaic: A Conversation with Alice Paul"

**Mon. Sep. 20 12 noon Fall Luncheon** at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits "Dam Those Fish": Are Asian Carp a Threat to the Great Lakes? \$20 for Lunch+Speaker, \$5 Speaker only. Reserve by 9/16. [See Page 8.](#)

Tue. Sep. 21 7 pm Candidate Forum for District Court 46 – Southfield, Lathrup Village, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin

Wed. Sep. 22 7 pm Candidate Forum for District Court 48 – Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Twp, W. Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, & Sylvan Lake

Thu. Sep. 30 7 pm LWVOA Board meeting at 725 S. Adams Rd, Birmingham 48009

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