



Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area
725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292, Birmingham, MI 48009
Phone: 248/594-6602 Fax: 248/594-6603 website: www.lwvoa.org
President: Mary Ann Barkach e-mail: Pres@lwvoa.org

2012-2013 Issue 1

Summer 2012

National Convention Highlights

Renate Soulen and I just got back from National Convention in Washington D.C. We dashed from caucuses - to workshops - to plenary sessions. It was a bit dizzying, but meeting Leaguers from all over the country is very energizing.

National Board and staff made a real effort to address our concerns, and one major concern is falling membership. National launched a new campaign to reverse this trend, and delegates enthusiastically voiced their support by donating a whopping \$35,000 on the spot to fund this initiative: Membership and Leadership Development.

You will be happy to learn that Convention adopted a concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position as follows: "The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offences."

The impact of money on our elections due to the *Citizens United* decision resulted in a resolution being passed calling upon the Board to "advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters."

A motion also passed to review and update the LWVUS agriculture position addressing issues such as genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.

We were treated to an outstanding group of speakers and panelists, many of whom urged the League to look closely at the steps needed to fix the broken campaign finance system and to press forward on behalf of all voters and for elections that are determined by the voters.

Annenberg Public Policy Center's Kathleen Hall Jamieson gave an impassioned speech urging us to insist on truthfulness in media advertising. Be sure to visit Annenberg's **FlickCheck.com** for a humorous approach to fact checking and to recognizing deceptive speech.

Attorney General Eric Holder said, "I urge you – regardless of the opposition you face – to stay true, and remain fiercely committed, to the principles that have always guided the League of Women Voters and that can ensure that the 21st will be another 'American century.'"

I could go on and on, but this this is enough convention business for now.

Mary Ann Barkach, President

A Look Ahead to Fall Election Activities

LWVMI has offered local leagues some opportunities to partner with them in the Michigan Voter Power Project. After looking over the possibilities, Board chose "**Capture the Election**" by monitoring, analyzing and publicizing campaign advertising during this year's election cycle." The goal of this initiative is to draw media attention to loopholes in campaign finance laws that allow special interests to sponsor election ads without having to disclose their financial supporters. [Please start saving your campaign advertising.](#)

We also plan to ramp up our efforts to register voters and possibly to partner with the Michigan Nonprofit Association. Information will be coming on how to volunteer for these activities.

PRESIDENT

Mary Ann Barkach

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Patricia Finn - Communications

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Sheryl Mitchell – Citizen Education

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

Karen DeGrendel – Finance

SECRETARY

Eva Packard

TREASURER

Cathy Hodson

DIRECTORS

Sue Abrams - Administration
Judy Bateman- Candidate Forums
Jerry Burden - Candidate Forums
Randa Keener - Voter Editor
John Magary - CF Support
Kathleen Maisner
Renate Soulen -Health Care, PSA
Barbara Suhay - Government
Toni Whitley

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Linda DePoorter - Membership
Ann Edwards – Mailings
Carole Elder - Voter Registration
Deb Horner - Voter Guides
Mary Howarth - Data Mgmt
Grace Kachaturoff - Education
& Barbara Rosalik - Education
Tera Moon - Webmaster

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Barbara Rosalik, Chair
Pat Szura

THE OAKLAND VOTER is the official publication of the League of Women Voters. It is published six 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: Randa Keener

LWVOA ON FACEBOOK!

If you are not already a member of Facebook, you can sign up at 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Power the Vote was the theme of the 2012 National Convention. And committed we are to doing everything we can to provide information to all citizens and to register them to vote. September 26th has been designated as a day for the LWV to register voters all across the country.

HOWEVER, despite the efforts of Sue Smith, our State President, and others, new legal requirements that affect how we register voters have passed the state legislature. The state League has been fighting against this bill, SB754, since November and was able to get an amendment that gives us 30 days after the bill's July 1 effective date to comply. The bill now goes to Gov. Snyder for his signature, and Sue Smith has sent him a letter asking him to veto it.

The new requirements will not take effect until August 1, and until then we may register voters as we usually do.

Unless Gov. Snyder vetoes the bill, beginning August 1 no one may register voters unless that person: (1) has taken training that is consistent with the new standards that will be developed by the Secretary of State and (2) has registered with the state on forms to be provided by the Secretary of State. There are legal penalties for not following the new requirements.

The state League is in conversation with its lawyer regarding the legal impacts of the new legislation, including who will be held "responsible" by the Secretary of State for League members following the new requirements.

The legislation also requires photo ID for in-person voter registration and absentee voting.

The legislation passed is part of a nation-wide push to make it more difficult to register and vote, and also more difficult for third-party organizations like the LWV to register voters. The proponents of the legislation say they need to prevent fraud and voter impersonation. However Clerks who run our elections have attested that there is no evidence of voter impersonation in Michigan. Michigan has strong election laws to protect the integrity of our elections and establishes the identity of voters by means of the Qualified Voter File, the state's voter registration data base.

Stay tuned. No one ever said democracy was easy.

Mary Ann Barkach, President

FLASH: July 3

Gov. Snyder has vetoed three bills in a package of Republican-sponsored election reforms.

The vetoed bills would have required people to affirm their U.S. citizenship and show a photo ID before they can get a ballot, and require people to get training before they can register voters. In both cases, the governor says, the measures would have created too much confusion about who can vote or register people to vote.

VOTER SERVICE for August 7th, 2012 PRIMARY ELECTIONS



VOTER GUIDES for **Primary races in Oakland County** will be **posted on our website, www.LWVOA.org** by **July 9th**. The **U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress and State Representative** races are available now on **www.Vote411.org**. This website displays races applicable to the voting address entered by the viewer.

Specify Michigan in "On Your Ballot" box of Vote411. On the next screen on the right, enter your Address, Community, Zip in the Personalized Ballot. A map will appear with a list of your voting districts. Continue to next screen; select English and continue to U.S. Senate race; next to U.S. Representative; then State Representative. Clicking on individual candidate names takes you to their response below under Comparison. Candidates can be compared two at a time. Later in July, the Oakland County races will also be posted on Vote411.org so it has a complete ballot and the federal and state races applicable to Oakland County will be available via the OA website.

In addition to the partisan federal and state races on the ballot, there are also 6 County Officers, County Commissioners, and all 21 Townships with races and (with NO guides) Precinct Delegates. This election is an **OPEN PRIMARY** which means you pick the political party in the secrecy of the voting booth. However, **you must pick all your partisan races for one party or you invalidate your ballot**. The Primary is a key election for predominantly one-party Townships.

Next on the ballot are the Nonpartisan races, such as for Judges and for the Pontiac City Charter Commission. The county, city/township/village, and school district ballot proposals follow. In addition to the LWVOA voter guides for Judges, see www.OCBA.ORG (Oakland County Bar Association) for candidate responses to an additional 29 questions. Also on that website: Videos of the 4 judicial candidate forums held.

See the **CANDIDATE FORUMS** calendar on www.lwvoa.org for info on all forums scheduled, including those held in June for Circuit Court (5 candidates), District Courts #48 (4 candidates), #46 (7 candidates), and #44 (3 candidates). **ALL Forums are being recorded and rebroadcast on local cable with some also available online** on-demand including earlier forums not listed below. Check with your local cable organization for rerun information.

Tuesday, **July 10**, 7:00 pm, **State Rep 35th District**, 1 Republican and 4 Democratic candidates, Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Rd., Southfield

Wednesday, **July 11**, 7:00 pm, **Southfield Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees**, Beverly Hills Village Hall, 18500 W. 13 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills

Thursday, **July 12**, 7:00 pm, **County Commission 18th District**, 1 Republican, 2 Democrats, Ferndale City Hall, 310 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale

Wednesday, **July 18**, 5:00 pm, **West Bloomfield Township Election:**
Supervisor (3) from 5:00–5:45 pm, **Clerk** (2) from 5:50–6:25 pm, **Treasurer** (2) from 6:35–7:10 pm, **Trustees** (9 candidates) from 7:20–8:50 pm,
West Bloomfield Library, 4550 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield

Wednesday, **July 18**, 7:30 pm, **State Rep 45th District**, 1 Republican, 3 Democrats, Rochester Hills City Hall Auditorium, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr., Rochester Hills

Wednesday, **July 18**, 7:00 pm, **State Rep 41st District**, 3 Republicans, 1 Democrat, Sponsored by Troy LWV, Clawson City Hall, 425 N. Main St, Clawson

Tuesday, **July 24**, 7:00 pm, **State Rep 40**, 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat, Baldwin Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham

A partnership of MIvote (at UM-Dearborn), DPTV, Center for Michigan, and LWV has interviewed candidates for State Representative on video and posted the videos on www.MIvote.org.

DUES DUE

Our new League year began July 1st, which means DUES are due for the 2012-2013 League year. **Dues remain at \$60.** If you have not yet paid your dues for this League year, go to www.LWVOA.org and click on JOIN THE LEAGUE to print a membership form to use for mailing a check payable to LWVOA to our office or to utilize PayPal to pay your dues online.

PSA Awards Ceremony Celebrates Creativity

An Awards Ceremony to honor the winners of our PSA contest, "Know Before You Go – Be An *Informed* Voter," was held on Thursday evening, May 31, 2012, at the Bloomfield Township Public Library. About 50 people, including honorees, proud family members and teachers enjoyed presentations of the winning entries.

Winners in the essay category were: Caroline Jagnow, from Rochester Adams H.S. 1st place; Omkar Shende, from Troy H.S. 2nd place; and Kristen Finney, also from Rochester Adams H.S., 3rd place. This is a repeat win for Mr. Shende who placed 1st in the essay category last year.

Andover H.S. students took all three awards for radio PSAs. Bryan Brown won 1st place, Kenneth Selander 2nd place, and brothers Paul and Mark Stewart together won 3rd place. *This is a repeat win for Paul Stewart who shared 1st place last year.*

Teams from Rochester Adams H.S. won the top two awards for TV PSAs: Caroline Kletzien, Sarah McBeth, Casey Flynn and Haley Argeros placed 1st; Emily Burns, Austin Gongos, Cameron Barnes and Addison Bordine placed 2nd; Kento Mori from Troy Athens H.S. placed 3rd.



Rochester Adams H.S., which submitted 98 PSAs, received the award for the school with the largest number of entries. Some of the winners are pictured here with teacher Greg Clevinger.

PSA committee members who worked tirelessly and diligently included: Renate Soulen, Chair, Judy Bateman, Karen DeGrendel, Shelley Goldberg, Robyn Gorell, and Tera Moon, with help from Patricia Finn.

Community sponsors include: Fidelity Investments, General Motors, Michigan First Credit Union, Huntington Cleaners, and Kroger (in decreasing order of funds contributed).



Radio contest winners Bryan Brown, Kenneth Selander and Mark Stewart pictured here with Renate Soulen, PSA Contest Chair

LWVOA ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Picture: Judy Bateman, Rebecca Blumenstein, Mary Ann Barkach

Our Annual Meeting was once again held at Shenandoah Country Club where Leaguers, friends and relatives gathered for a delightful lunch. Twenty-four members were present, along with another 25 people who came to hear the speaker.

The talk by Judy Bateman's niece, **Rebecca Blumenstein, Page One Editor & Deputy Managing Editor of *The Wall St. Journal***, was definitely the highlight of the meeting. She spoke of the challenges she faced as her career advanced at the same time she was having three children. It helped to have a writer-husband who often tended to the home front with his more flexible schedule. In fact, it was his suggestion that she apply for the position as chief of the Journal's China bureau which she secured and which led to something of a family adventure. She humorously recounted how they went to the zoo shortly after arriving, but it turned out that her young family was more of an attraction than the animals.

Rebecca discussed the challenges women must meet in the workplace. She also answered questions about the how the WSJ has adapted to the digital age. They are the largest newspaper in the U.S. and their subscriptions have held steady while at the same time more readers have turned to their digital edition.

A brief business meeting was held after the talk. Ann Edwards, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of Officers and Directors who were elected unanimously:

Patricia Finn, First Vice President for a 2-year term.

Karen DeGrendel, 3rd Vice President for a 2-year term.

Cathy Hodson, Treasurer for a 2-year term.

Eva Packard, Secretary for a 1-year term.

Kathleen Maisner, Renate Soulen, and Barbara Suhay for three Director positions for 2-year terms.

They were presented to the floor, along with the following officers and directors continuing in office:

Mary Ann Barkach, President

Sheryl Mitchell, Second Vice President

Directors: **Judy Bateman, Jerry Burden and John Magary**

Sue Abrams, Randa Keener and Toni Whitley will be appointed to the Board as Directors for a 1-year term.

Sponsors



855 S. Rochester Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307



**Rochester
Regional
Chamber
of Commerce**

Rochester • Rochester Hills
Oakland Township

www.rrc-mi.com

MEA

Michigan Education Association

Avondale/Rochester Education Association
43252 Woodward Ave., Suite 200
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Ofc: 248-874-1832

Fax: 248-874-1855

E-mail: ecrain@mea.org

Eduarda Crain
Executive Director

www.mea.org

1st Place PSA Essay

by Caroline Jagnow

In November 2012 the 45th President of the United States will be elected. This is a significant event for everyone but it will be especially significant for my brother this year. He has turned 18 years old and he will vote in the Presidential election for the first time. Whether he is a Republican, Democrat or Independent, I don't really care that much. What I do care about is our future. We need a strong President. An honest President. A very smart President. I'll admit that there are a couple of things that I want to happen in my future. I want to be educated, prosperous, safe, and proud. For this reason, Brother, before you go to the polls this November, I want to make sure that you do a few things.

- V ...View all of the candidates equally
- O ...Observe some debates
- T ...Trust only the facts, not the advertisements
- E ...Examine both sides of every issue
- S ...Surf up some of the candidates' history
- M ...Meet with your friends to hear what they think
- A ...Argue it out with them
- R ...Reach your decision
- T ...Tick the right box on your ballot

Our future is in your hands so I am counting on you to do the smart thing. The League of Women Voters Oakland Area (LWVOA) and I want to make sure that you **Know Before You Go - Be an *Informed* Voter.**

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly acknowledge that **Christine Jurgensen** of Farmington Hills and Livonia, long-time LWVOA and NW Wayne member who had moved to the Lansing area near her daughter, passed away on June 16, 2012.

Christine was very helpful. She would always make phone calls when it was very hard to get other members to volunteer for that job. She was a wonderful person to know and will be missed. -Sue Abrams

She lived about a mile from me and I would sometimes pick her up for League events. She was a busy lady, very active at the Finnish Center nearby, playing golf with friends, working elections for the city, and helping when she could with many League activities, including welcoming people at the Fall Luncheons, doing League mailings, working the Italian-American election project, etc. She had a very pleasant, positive personality. -Eva Packard

In 2008 Christine and I took turns driving up to Pontiac from Farmington Hills once a week to register voters at the Michigan Dept. of Human Resources. We did this for about six weeks. She was so conscientious about going, and it was a pleasure to work with her. - Mary Ann Barkach

What a wonderful person she was. - Paula Bowman, NorthWest Wayne

Obituary may be found on www.hometownlife.com



33400 Woodward
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 645-1118
www.newyousalon.com



14611 West 11 Mile Road
Oak Park, MI 48237

Phone 248-545-0500
Fax 248-545-6859

info@CurtsService.com · www.CurtsService.com

LWVOA Supports Local Proposals in August Primary



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. The Oakland Area board has taken positions on two local ballot proposals on the August Primary ballot and Letters to the Editor are being sent. **LWVOA SUPPORTS** the following proposals:

- **OAKLAND COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MILLAGE RENEWAL** (based on the LWV Detroit Metropolitan Area position supporting a regional Transit System) If approved, this proposal will renew the 0.59 mills levied in 2010-11, for the years 2012 through 2013, and will allow continued support to the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) for a public transportation system serving the elderly, disabled, and general public of Oakland County.
- **Waterford Township Library millage renewal** (based on LWVOA's position on support for local library services) The library is asking voters to renew its ten-year operating millage. The millage rate is 0.9118 per \$1,000 of taxable value, or \$44.57 per year for an average home in Waterford Township. As this is a renewal, there is no new cost for Waterford residents.

Please Join Us ...

Women's Equality Day Luncheon

Celebrate the Anniversary of women gaining the right to vote

Saturday, August 25, 2012

11:30 am to 2:30 pm

One-Under Restaurant and Banquet Hall

35780 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI – Ph. 734-464-5555
Between Farmington Road and Levan Road – West entrance (Top of Hill)

Luncheon \$25.00



Featured Speaker: Carolyn Cook, founder of United for Equality

Carolyn A. Cook is a dynamic and innovative feminist who will present an update on efforts to ratify the ERA in Washington, DC and in unratified states. Carolyn drafted the original proposal which became joint resolutions, HJ Res. 47 and SJ Res. 39: *Removing the ratification time limit on the Equal Rights Amendment*. She then worked tirelessly to have them introduced into both Houses of Congress. **Don't miss hearing Carolyn.**

Other speakers TBA

Event sponsored by: American Association of University Women/MI, Michigan Coalition for Equal Rights Studies, and Michigan ERAmerica.

Cosponsored by: Business and Professional Women/MI, Coalition of Labor Union Women, League of Women Voters/MI, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/Metro Detroit, Women's Officials Network, and Zonta International.

Limited Seating

Don't delay. Send in today to avoid Disappointment!

Reservation for Women's Equality Day Luncheon August 25, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip _____

Phone: _____ No. Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Special Dietary needs? Please describe on separate sheet.

Sorry I cannot attend but would like to contribute to the cause. \$ _____

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

Mail to: 21897 McClung, Southfield, MI 48075-7804 \$25.00 by August 18, 2011.

\$30.00 after August 13, 2011

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



League of Women Voters® Oakland Area

725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292
Birmingham, MI 48009

A Voice for Citizens,
A Voice for Change

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 32
BIRMINGHAM, MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material Enclosed

Calendar of Events

For elections, see Voter Guides and Candidate Forums on www.LWVOA.org, www.OCBA.org (additional judicial race info), and www.VOTE411.org (federal and state races).

- Tues. July 10 7 pm** **Candidate Forum:** State Representative 35th District, Southfield Public Library
26300 Evergreen Rd, Southfield 48076 (See Page 3)
- Wed. July 11 7 pm** **Candidate Forum:** Southfield Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer & Trustees,
Beverly Hills Village Hall, 18500 W. 13 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills 48025 (See Page 3)
- Thur. July 12 7 pm** **Candidate Forum:** County Commission 18th District, Ferndale City Hall,
310 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale 48220 (See Page 3)
- Wed. July 18 5 pm** **Candidate Forum:** West Bloomfield Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer,
& Trustees, West Bloomfield Library, 4550 Walnut Lake Rd., W. Bloomfield 48323
(See Page 3)
- Wed. July 18 7:30 pm** **Candidate Forum:** State Representative 45th District, Rochester Hills City Hall
Auditorium, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr, Rochester Hills 48309 (See Page 3)
- Wed. July 18 7 pm** **Candidate Forum:** State Representative 41st District, Sponsored by LWV
Troy, Clawson City Hall, 425 N. Main St, Clawson 48017 (See Page 3)
- Tues. July 24 7 pm** **Candidate Forum:** State Representative 40th District, Baldwin Library,
300 W. Merrill, Birmingham 48009 (See Page 3)
- Wed. Aug. 1 7 pm** **LWVOA Board Meeting**, League Office
- Tues. Aug. 7 7 am-8 pm** **PRIMARY ELECTION – DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**
- Sat. Aug. 25 11:30 am** **Women's Equality Day Luncheon:** Cost: \$25. Reservation required.
One-Under Restaurant, 35780 Five Mile Rd. Livonia (See Page 7)