

*Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, Michigan*

### **LWVOA Board of Directors 2017-2019**

PRESIDENT Geri Rinschler  
1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Judy Bateman- Voter Service  
2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Tera Moon - Membership  
3rd VICE PRESIDENT  
Karen DeGrendel – Finance  
SECRETARY Eva Packard  
TREASURER Mary Howarth

#### **DIRECTORS**

Sue Abrams – Administration  
Jerry Burden – Candidate Forums  
Randa Keener - Environment  
Elizabeth Kern – Voter Editor  
Kathleen Maisner – Redistricting  
Ann Megalizzi - Redistricting Chair  
Jim Treharne – Redistricting  
Maria Woloson - At Large

#### **OFF-BOARD POSITIONS**

Ann Edwards – Mailings  
Marcia Femrite - Education  
Patricia Finn – Communications  
Deb Horner - Voter Guides  
Tera Moon – Webmaster  
Cheryl Rozier – VOTE411  
Kathy Henry - Education  
Sue Liebetreu - Promote the Vote  
Coordinator

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Patricia Finn - Chair  
Ann Edwards  
Laura Gogola

### **Letter from the President**

As we move towards the end of 2018, I first want to thank you for your tremendous support. As I was looking at our attendance numbers for our programs this past year, it was truly exciting.

I'm sure that some of you are still impressed by the number of voters who went to the polls on November 6. Michigan saw a record high voter turnout for a midterm election. For the first time, women were elected to the top three offices. In the state house of representatives, the number of elected women grew from 33 members to 41 who will serve in January. In the Michigan state senate, there will be 11 senators compared to 4 who currently serve in office.

Many thanks to those of you who were canvassing neighborhoods to support Promote the Vote, made phone calls and attended programs. Proposal 3 was approved by over 1.7 million votes state wide. As I am sending you this update, the Michigan legislature is reviewing Senate Bills to alter the ballot language which was approved by the voters. We will have to wait and see what happens next.

And, there are so many to thank for the work you did during the election season registering residents to vote. There were times when we couldn't keep up with the demand. I am so grateful to our team of board and off-board members who are so dedicated to the mission of the League of Women Voters. We are anticipating that during the 2020 election season the demand for voter guides and assistance with registering voters will be even higher. Please consider that we are all volunteers and that our budget is based on your donations and that of our community. We welcome new sponsors and all donations no matter how small. For those of you who may have a business contact there are many opportunities for us to include an ad on the cover of our Voter Guides or our other information brochures. Just give us a call or send us the contact name and number in an email and we'll do the rest.

Please watch for future information about the LWVOA Program Planning Brunch which is scheduled for January 19, 2019.

2019 is going to be an exciting year for us as the LWVOA and the LWVMI will each be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our local league is planning a birthday celebration in April. The LWVMI is planning their celebration at the state league convention which will be held in Livonia this year on May 17-May 19, 2019. Both

events are in the early stages of party planning and we should have more details in January and we will keep you posted of the details when they become available. I know both events will be very special. I can't wait!

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.  
Geri



League members get ready to help voters in Novi get to know their candidates for school board.



The manager of HopCat wants you to vote

## Candidate Forums

The fall 2018 election cycle found us busy as usual. LWVOA participated in 10 candidate forums. We began with a city election forum in Sylvan Lake followed by the Circuit Court forum and 2 District Court forums. All three court forums were also sponsored by the Oakland County Bar Association and the Detroit Free Press.

We arranged and produced 7 school board forums in Bloomfield Hills, Novi, Walled Lake, Farmington, Birmingham, and Waterford. Thanks to Jerry Burden and Judy Bateman who coordinated the forums. Thanks to moderators Linda DePoorter, Jerry Burden, Tera Moon, Judy Bateman, Neil Zechman, Charles Carpenter, and Susan Liebetreu. There were several volunteers for timing, screening, and paging including: Susan Liebetreu, Charles Carpenter, Sharon Kelly, Susan Sherman Hall, Eva Packard, Kath Maisner, Maria Woloson, Molly Langwald, Neil Zechman, and several members of the Birmingham Junior League.

It was very impressive that at every forum the room was filled with 50 – 60 people in attendance. The questions were varied, but specific and showed that the audience was very interested and wanted to be involved in the community.

We are looking forward to the fall 2019 election cycle which will be cities. All volunteers are welcome. **Forum coordinators are needed for the**

## Registering Voters

HopCat Brewery invited League to register voters at its Detroit and Royal Oak locations. On October 6, 12 volunteers hung out and ate HopCat's famous crack fries. And talked with folks about registering to vote. This was a unique and fun way to interact with voters and get them thinking about the upcoming election. *Thanks to HopCat for providing this opportunity, and for committing to making a donation to LWVOA.*

League members also visited Oakland University on two occasions to register young voters.

## LWV Educates Voters on Statewide Proposals



Sue Smith, LWVMI, explains all three statewide ballot proposals to interested voters at Groves High School in Birmingham.

future. Please contact Judy Bateman or Jerry Burden if you are interested in being trained to be a coordinator.

## Save the Date for Program Planning Brunch

Each year, LWVOA gathers to plan activities for the upcoming year. We're keeping with tradition and making 2019's meeting a potluck brunch. This meeting will help guide our efforts and resources, so you don't want to miss it. New members are definitely welcome. This is a great way to be introduced to League's work.

WHAT: Program Planning Brunch  
WHERE: Home of Judy Bateman  
10494 Talbot Avenue  
Huntington Woods, MI 48070  
WHEN: Saturday, January 19, 2019  
10:00 AM

LWVOA Board Members will provide a potluck brunch.

### Voter Guides Used by Thousands of Voters

LWV Voter Guides continue to be incredibly popular.

116,285 voters viewed races online in 2018 in Oakland County and at least another 20,000 read them via the printed guide – more if the guides were shared with family and friends.

- 23,056 voters viewed the full Oakland County guide at LWVOA.org.
- 30,876 voters visited LWVOA.org to view individual guides.
- The individual LOCAL races had a total of 49,257 views with nonpartisan races especially popular.
- Oakland Community College with 13 candidates for 3 OCC seats had 13,173 viewers!
- 62,353 voters visited VOTE411.org to view guides available for races on ballots in Oakland County.

In all of Michigan, 390,392 voters visited VOTE411.org to view guides there 525,745 total times throughout the state – 2.4 times as many viewings than in 2016 and 5.7 times more than in 2014.

Oakland County Voter Guide information appeared on 3 websites for 2018 elections and was also included in a 76-page printed Oakland Area guide with 20,000 copies printed and distributed to all public libraries and all city and township clerk's offices in the county and mailed to all members and contributors.

On LWVOA.org:

- 120 candidate guides online covering 130 General Election races.
- 51 ballot proposals – 3 statewide and 48 local area proposals.
- The Printed Oakland County Voter Guide covering all races also appeared on the website.

VOTE411.org contained guides covering all the candidate races and proposals on Oakland County ballots. Voters entered their voting address and were given a list of just the races on their ballot and could select races and candidates (one or two at a time) to view.

MLive.com, a news organization, also contracted with LWVMI to provide its online readers VOTE411's federal, state and local races. It also prints races for its newspaper readers in 8 areas of the state.

Many thanks for the Voter Guide team of Deb Horner, Cheryl Rozier, Eva Packard, Tera Moon, Kim Brown, and Ann Edwards. Eva Packard provided federal and state races from Vote411 for LWVOA to link to. Cheryl Rozier sent questionnaires to local candidates to

receive their responses for VOTE411 posting and for exporting races for posting on OA website. Deb Horner collected candidate responses for print and online Voter Guides. Tera Moon and Kim Brown posted the guides at LWVOA.org. Ann Edwards led members in proofing the printed guide and arranged for mailing.

## LWVOA Book Club

Do you love to read and talk about books as much as you love League? Join the LWVOA book club! This group is just getting started reading books that connect to [LWVOA's positions](#) and other issues important to our organization. This is a great way to get to know your fellow League members.

### Next meeting:

*The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss

Thursday, January 24, 2019

7:00 PM

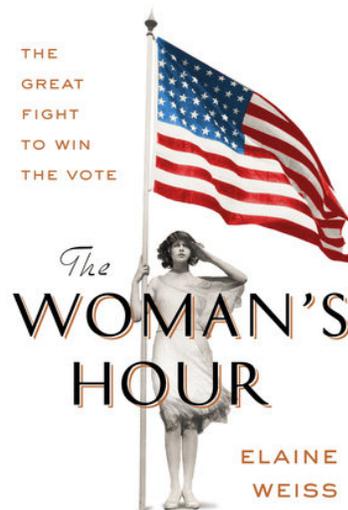
Panera Bread

2508 S Adams Rd

Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Let [Tera Moon](#) know if you're coming. Email

tlcmoon@gmail.com or call or text 248-376-9368.



## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE

We have experienced a very busy and productive midterm election year and look forward to celebrating the founding of LWV Michigan next year. Meanwhile we plan to update, publish and distribute our 2019 TRY ([They Represent You](#)) brochure which lists local, county, state and national officials and how to reach them.

Now is the time to consider the opportunity to contribute to LWVOA Ed Fund in the form of an IRA Charitable rollover gift. The bonus is that your rollover is not taxed. The basic guidelines are as follows:

- You must be at least 70 1/2 years old.
- Your gift must be from your IRA or Roth IRA.
- You must instruct your IRA administrator to make a distribution directly to LWV Education Fund for LWV Oakland Area.
- You cannot receive a benefit for your gift.

Check with your IRA administrator for details.



They Represent You brochures list contact information and more for every elected official in all 60 communities served by LWVOA. They are updated and printed every other year. We will print updated brochures in 2019. It costs around \$4,000 to these guides that are requested by citizens in every community.

## General Membership Information

LWVOA dues are \$65 per year and payable at [LWVOA.org](#) or by sending a check to the LWVOA office at 725 S. Adams Rd, Suite L-144, Birmingham, MI 48009. The LWVOA dues year runs from July 1 through June 30.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19** Program Planning Brunch  
10am-12pm, Judy Bateman's, 10494 Talbot Avenue, Huntington Woods, MI 48070

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24** Book Club *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss  
7pm, Panera Bread, 2508 S Adams Rd, Rochester Hills, MI 48309

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 17-19**  
LWVMI State Convention, Embassy Suites, Livonia; more information forthcoming

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8** Annual Meeting  
TBD, Farina's, 2485 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley, MI 48072

**Thank you  
to our  
sponsors**



<b>MEA</b>	<b>Doug Hill</b> Board Member, Region 7 President, REA
<b>Michigan Education Association</b>	<a href="http://www.mea.org">www.mea.org</a>
Rochester Education Association 200 East Silverbell Lake Orion, MI 48360 Ofc: 248-874-1832 Fax: 248-377-0520 Email: <a href="mailto:dhill@mea.org">dhill@mea.org</a>	

	<b>Shelton</b> BUICK GMC
855 South Rochester Rd. Rochester Hills, MI 48307 248.651.5500 <a href="http://www.shelton.com">www.shelton.com</a>	

League of Women Voters Oakland Area | [league@lwvoa.org](mailto:league@lwvoa.org)  
248-594-6602 | [www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org)

Be our friend on Facebook

