



Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area

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2013-2014 Issue 2

Sept-Oct 2013

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 ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

Presents

“HUMAN TRAFFICKING – Is IT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?”

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013

12 noon Lunch

1 pm Speaker

First Baptist Church of Birmingham

300 Willits, Birmingham, MI 48009

(North of Maple, West of Old Woodward)

Please enter the Church via the BACK Door

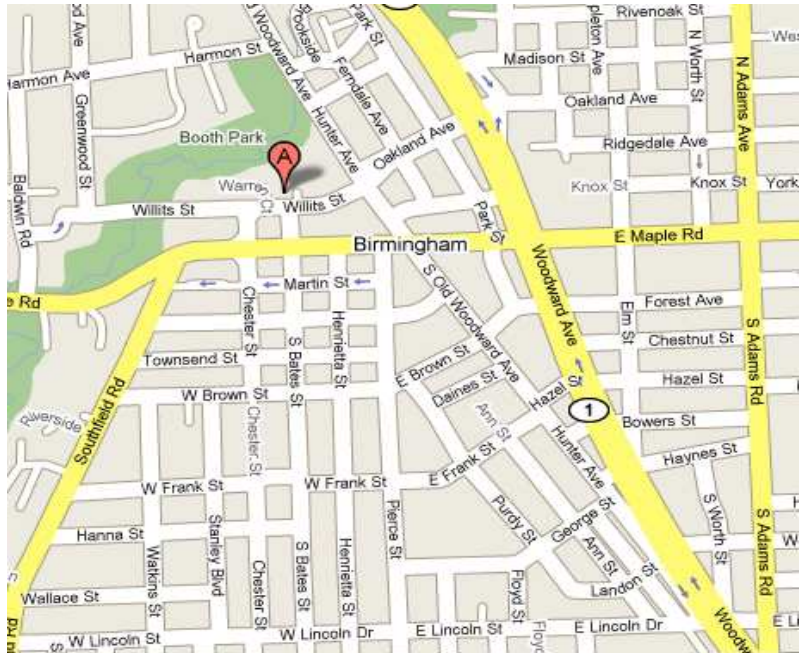
PARKING: (1st 2 hours free) at adjacent Garage.

Enter lot at Bates and Willits

Handicapped Parking is available in the lot directly behind church.

SPEAKER: Lieut. Wendy Reyes

Oakland County Sheriff's Department,
serving on the MI Human Trafficking Task
Force



Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of reproductive slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, or a modern-day form of slavery.

We are updating our "Human Trafficking" information at our Fall Luncheon as this is timely in view of recent developments in Oakland County.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Please come and bring your friends and support our programs and fundraising activities.

\$25 Lunch & Speaker [Reservations by **Oct. 10** please. See Page 7 for form.]

- delicious lunch, beverages & dessert.

- provided by Dorothy Conrad & Marge Polidori.

\$7 for Speakers only

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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.

MESSAGE from the BOARD

This is the time and place for remarks from the President, but since we don't have a President we will have comments from the Chairman of each Board meeting.

Even though we didn't have a busy Election season this past spring, your League leaders have been busy planning and working on the 2013-2014 year. We attended State Convention and learned what other Leagues were doing, attended workshops and enjoyed fellowship with other League members. We also won some State Awards which were listed in the summer newsletter (See Oakland Voter on our website).

We started the new year with a planning meeting held at Toni Whitley's home, followed that up with a fund raiser social at Cathy Hodson's home. We have added new members to our executive board: welcome Kathy Bartley and Kimmie Shuck. Our finance letters have been sent, and dues notices will be sent to those who have not yet paid their dues.

Our Voter Service team had a slow time during the primary season, but is now looking forward to a very busy time in the General Election. As this is written, we have already scheduled candidate forums for 16 cities and are working on 2 more. You can find a list of the forums on Page 3.

I would like to thank the entire Board and all volunteers for all the work you have done.

And in closing I ask all of you to invite your friends and neighbors to League events and to join in on all the fun we are having.

It has been said: "If you want to get something done, find someone who is already busy."

Jerry Burden, Aug.-Sept. Chairman

LWVOA Candidate Forums for November 5 City Elections

All forums will be rebroadcast on cable and some will be available on demand on websites.
Visit http://www.LWVOA.org/candidate_forums.html for latest forum information and broadcast locations.

To all our members:

Voter Service needs Pages, Screeners and Timers for these candidate forums.

Pages hand out cards and pencils for audience questions, and pick them up to give to the screeners.

Screeners review these questions for relevancy and duplication.

Timers keep time on the candidates' opening and closing statements and answers.

If you can work for an hour one or more nights please contact your Voter Service Team:

Jerry Burden 248-398-1746 (jburden41@ameritech.net) or

Judy Bateman 248-399-2815 (judybateman@comcast.net).

Tue. Sept 10	3 forums: Keego Harbor Orchard Lake Village Sylvan Lake	6:30pm 7:15pm 8:15pm	Sylvan Lake Community Center, 2456 Pontiac Drive, 48320 City Council: 2 for 1 seat City Council: 3 for 2 seats City Council: 4 for 2 seats
Mon. Sept. 16	Rochester	7:00pm	City of Rochester Council Chambers, 400 Sixth Street, 48307 City Council: 5 for 4 seats
Mon. Sept. 23	Clawson	7:00pm	Clawson City Hall, 425 N. Main Street, 48017 City Council: 3 for 2 seats
Tue. Sept. 24	Rochester Hills	7:00pm	City of Rochester Hills Auditorium, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr., 48309 Council Member at Large: 2 for 1 seat
Thu. Sept. 26	Birmingham	7:00pm	Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill Street, 48009. City Council: 4 for 3 seats.
Mon. Sept. 30	Ferndale	7:00pm	Ferndale City Hall, 300 E. Nine Mile Rd., 48220. Mayor: 4 candidates
Tue. Oct. 1	Farmington Hills	7:00pm	Farmington Hills City Hall Council Chamber, 31555 W. 11 Mile Rd, 48336 City Council: 9 for 3 seats. Sponsor: COHA (Council of Homeowner Assoc.); Co-sponsors: LWVOA & Committee to Increase Voter Participation.
Thu. Oct. 3	Pleasant Ridge	7:00pm	Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 4 Ridge Road, 48069. Mayor: 2 candidates; City Commission: 3 for 2 seats.
Mon. Oct. 7	Royal Oak	7:00pm	Royal Oak Middle School, Meeting Place Room, 709 Washington Street, City Commission: 4 for 3 seats. Co-sponsored by Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce.
Wed. Oct. 9	Wixom	7:00pm	Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail, 48393 Mayor: 2 candidates; City Council: 4 for 3 seats.
Wed, Oct. 16	Lathrup Village	7:00pm	Lathrup City Hall, 27400 Southfield Road, 48076 City Council: 6 for 3 seats
Thu. Oct. 17	Bloomfield Hills	6:30 pm	Bloomfield Hills City Hall, 45 E. Long Lake Rd, 48304 City Council: 4 for 3 seats
Thu. Oct. 17	Auburn Hills	7:00 pm	Auburn Hills City Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd., 48326 City Council: 8 for 4 seats
Wed. Oct. 23	Southfield	7:00pm	Southfield Public Library, 2600 Evergreen Rd., 48076 City Council: 7 for 4 seats.
TBA	Oak Park		City Council: 4 for 2 seats.
TBA	South Lyon		City Council: 6 for 3 seats

Commissioners Publish Gun Violence in Oakland County Report

By Mary Ann Barkach

At our Annual Meeting, Oakland County Commissioners Marcia Gershenson and Bill Dwyer talked about the public hearings they were sponsoring to get input before proposing recommendations for improved education in gun safety and mental health, and the resources to accomplish these goals. The report is now available at www.oakgov/boc. Residents can still offer their comments by clicking on feedback or by calling Dwyer at 248-417-7500, Gershenson at 248-808-1032.

Mental Health

- Improve access to mental health care services.
- Promote public awareness to improve understanding of warning signs and risk factors of residents with potential mental health problems.
- Promote crisis intervention services and use new technology, such as live chat and text messaging.
- Recognize retailers who adopt policies not to sell violent video games.

School Safety

- Develop model school safety policy and best practices at federal, state and regional levels.
- Require schools to adopt limited entry procedures and monitor access to facilities.
- Develop program to teach faculty, parents and students to identify warning signs of at-risk youth.
- Provide direct access to school surveillance and appropriate communication equipment for law enforcement.

Gun Ownership

- Promote continuing gun safety practices.
- Increase public importance of quickly reporting stolen weapons.
- Promote awareness of buying weapons from registered federal firearms dealers.

Law Enforcement

- Improved sharing of databases between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.
- Consistent input of firearm permit denials by agencies at all levels.
- Make available databases to conduct instant background checks in private exchanges of firearms.
- Provide tougher penalties for violent gun crimes, and when appropriate, prosecute under federal laws that have greater penalties.

The next step for the commissioners will be implementing these recommendations at the county level and later at the state level.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH DETROIT ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Mary Ann Barkach
Karen DeGrendel
Jan Dolan
Ann Edwards
Nancy Goedert

Edwin Lord
Deb Macon
Kath Maisner
Sheryl Mitchell
Eva Packard

Marie Pryce
Cheryl Rozier
Barb Suhay
Tamika Turner-Graydon
Toni Whitley

Thank you to these Oakland Area members who helped the League's Detroit Voter Service team to provide Detroit voters with candidate information for the 2013 city elections. Fourteen OA members assisted July 22-24 with candidate interviews which were made available for online viewing at U of M-Dearborn's MiVote.org website and for showing on DPTV. Five worked a Co-op election in Detroit to raise funds towards printed Detroit voter guides. The help was much appreciated by LWVMI and Detroit Leaguers.

Oakland Area member selected for Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

by Eva Packard

Judith Levin Cantor, a member of LWV Oakland Area and a League member for almost 50 years, has been selected for induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She is a historian, author, archivist and exhibit curator dedicated to promoting Michigan's history and to furthering awareness of the state's significant Jewish heritage. Judy was and continues to be integral to the revival and preservation of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. She has received several awards including being named one of "Eight over 80" in 2010 by Jewish Senior Life of Metropolitan Detroit for her dedication of time and talents to the community.

She is one of 19 women to be honored at the **30th Annual Awards dinner of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on Thursday, October 17, 2013, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing**. Historical honorees include past LWV of Michigan Presidents Katherine Moore Cushman of Dearborn & Detroit and Dorothy Leonard Judd of Grand Rapids, who were two of the "Con-Con Eleven" – women elected delegates to the 1961-1962 Michigan Constitutional Convention.

Another contemporary honoree is Marina von Neumann Whitman, a prominent international economist whose husband is an Ann Arbor League member. She was the first woman on the President's Council of Economic Advisors, became a trailblazer for women on corporate boards, and achieved the highest rank for a woman in the auto industry as Group Vice-president of General Motors.

To read about the nominees and the award dinner, visit www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org

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Summer Party Fundraiser

"...and a good time was had by all"



Our hosts: Lee & Cathy Hodson



Past Presidents: Ruth Hathaway & Mary Ann Barkach
(Ruth was president of the West Oakland League, before the Leagues merged into LWVOA, and a longtime Membership Chair for LWVOA.)



Member Doug DePoorter and 2nd VP Sheryl Mitchell relaxing and enjoying the event.

Volunteers Needed for Italian American Club Election

Help us do what we do best and raise funds at the same time. We have been asked to run the election for the Italian American Club in Livonia on **Wednesday, October 16th**. We need to cover the polls from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and then count the ballots after the polls close.

We could use 3 people on the shifts from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. From 5:00 p.m. on we could use 4 or 5 people.

Please **contact Linda DePoorter** (248- 719-4210 or dldepoor@sbcglobal.net) if you can work any of these times. This is a great fund raiser for LWVOA.

Save the Date:

Topic: Issues in Michigan Education

Date: Saturday, November 16th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Bloomfield Township Library

Speaker: Cassandra Ulbrich

Vice President, State Board of Education

Co-Sponsor: AAUW

Program Coordinators: Kath Maisner & Karen Linnell

Voter Registration - Volunteer opportunities

This month LWVOA will be participating in several voter registration events. All 5 **Oakland Community College** campuses are having Welcome Week Fairs when the students come to

VOTER REGISTRATION



register and buy their books. So far we have committed to 3 of these: **September 10th at the Auburn Hills and Royal Oak Campuses** and **September 11 at the Southfield Campus**. Times are 11 am-2 pm. We will also have a table at the **Gateway Wellness Center in Detroit** on Voter Registration Day, **September**

24th. So far those participating are Judy Bateman, Carole Elder, and Barb Rosalik.

To volunteer, **contact Carole** (eee24@comcast.net, 248-335-6410) or **Judy** (judybateman@comcast.net, 248-399-2815).

Cut out, fill in and mail, please:

RESERVATION FORM FOR OCTOBER 14, 2013 FALL LUNCHEON

Fill out this form and mail with check payable to LWVOA to:

Marge Polidori
30525 Timberbrook Ln.
Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4660

NAME(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number for Lunch (@\$25) _____ for Speaker Only (@\$7) _____ \$ _____ Enclosed

Choice of Panera Bread Sandwich: (Indicate number of each if reserving for more than 1 person)

Mediterranean Veggie _____ Smoked Ham & Swiss _____

Sierra Turkey _____ Roast Beef _____ Tuna Salad _____

See <http://www.panerabread.com/menu/cafe/sandwiches.php> for detail on sandwiches.

RESERVATIONS NECESSARY BY OCT. 10th

Help needed with Legislative Interviews

Oakland County residents live in 5 State Senate Districts and 14 State House districts. Of these 19 districts, 2 are shared with LWV Flint Area, 2 with Troy Area (interviews completed), and 15 are solely within OA (3 interviews completed).

Legislative interviews help to establish a relationship with our legislators, which is crucial to future advocacy efforts. The interviews are NOT for lobbying purposes, but help us understand the views of each legislator. LWVMI has provided several questions about issues of interest to the League as well as allowing legislators to indicate issues of importance to themselves.

Two people are needed for each district – one to ask the questions and one to take notes.

We need volunteers for the following districts:

State Senate 14 - Vince Gregory and 15 - Mike Kowall
State House 29 - Tim Griemel, 35 - Rudy Hobbs, 37 - Vicki Barnett, 38 - Hugh Crawford,
State House 39 - Klint Kesto, 43 - Gail Haines, 44 - Eileen Kowall, 45 - Tom McMillen,
State House 46 – Brad Jacobsen

If one of the interview team lives in the district, it helps in arranging an interview. We can help put teams together and will provide you with the questions, forms, and background information on the issues involved. Knowledge of the issues is not required as the goal is to hear and note the legislator's views on them. **If you would like to help, please send an email to issues@lwvoa.org** and tell us which legislator(s) you would like to volunteer to interview, your name, email and phone number and, if you have a partner for it, include that person's name.



League of Women Voters® Oakland Area

725 S. Adams Road, Suite 292
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A Voice for Citizens,
A Voice for Change

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material Enclosed

Calendar of Events

Details will be posted in Event Calendar on www.LWVOA.org

CANDIDATE FORUMS for CITIES – See list of dates, times & places on Page 3.

Tue Sept. 10	11am-2pm	Voter Registration at OCC – 2900 Featherstone Rd, Auburn Hills 48326
Tue Sept. 10	11am-2pm	Voter Registration at OCC – 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak 48067
Tue Sept. 11	11am-2pm	Voter Registration at OCC – 22322 Rutland Dr, Southfield 48075
Tue Sept. 24		Voter Registration at Gateway Wellness Center , 3011 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit <u>Volunteers needed.</u> (See Page 6)
Wed Oct. 2	7 pm	LWVOA Board of Directors Meeting At the Conference Room, League Office
Mon Oct. 14	12 noon	Fall Luncheon: "Human Trafficking: Is It In Your Neighborhood?" Speaker: Lt. Wendy Reyes, Oakland County Sheriff's Dept. @First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, Birmingham 48009 Reservation required by 10/10. (See article Page 1; Registration Form, Page 7)
Wed Oct. 16	11am-7pm	Italian American Club Election Monitoring – Please volunteer and help raise funds for LWVOA. (See Page 6)
Thu Oct. 17	6 pm	Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Award Dinner (See Page 5) @Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing Reservation required.
Tue Nov. 5	7am-8pm	<u>General Election</u> for ALL CITIES in Oakland County
Sat Nov. 16	10 am	General Meeting with AAUW – Issues in Michigan Education Speaker: Cassandra Ulbrich, State Board of Education (See Page 6) @Bloomfield Twp Library. 1099 Lone Pine Rd (at Telegraph), 48303