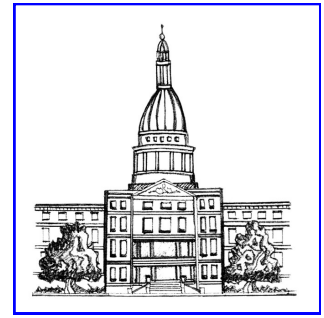




CAPITOL VOTER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LANSING AREA



LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS December 12, 2012

January 16, 2013: LWVLA Board Meeting on Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Hannah Community Center, Recital Room. Coffee and refreshments.

January 22, 2013: Roe Reproductive Justice Jeopardy and Pro-Choice Potluck on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at E105 in Fee Hall at MSU. the MSU Medical Students for Choice Roe v. Wade Event. Community and intergenerational teams will compete at the celebration of the Roe v. Wade Decision. Potluck theme: Pro-choice chili or chowder. Soup is fine too, but not as alliterative. Choice cookies will be back so if baking is more your thing, bring dessert. This program is sponsored by Medical Students for Choice, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Michigan (RCRC in MI), LWVLA and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan (PPAM)

February 13, 2013: League of Women Voter of Michigan Program Planning Session . Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Recital Room at Hannah Community Center. 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Cele Friestater will moderate this discussion. All members are invited. Coffee and light refreshments provided.

March 13, 2013: LWVLA Board Meeting. Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Recital Room at Hanna Community Center. 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. All members are invited. Coffee and light refreshments provided.

April 10, 2013: LWVLA Board Meeting. Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Recital Room at Hanna Community Center. 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. All members are invited. Coffee and light refreshments provided.

May 17– 19, 2013: LWVMI Convention. The Michigan convention will be held at the Radisson Hotel at 111 North Grand River in Lansing. Camilla Davis, one of the local organizers of this event, has invited League members to participate and volunteer.

May 17, 2013: LWVLA - Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame Reception. Friday from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the MWHF Meeting Room. There will be coffee, tea, champagne, chocolate, fruit and light refreshments. Tours of the exhibits will be available every fifteen minutes. Please come and welcome LWVMI convention delegates to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Please come and bring a friend. The MWHF is located at 213 West Malcolm X Street in Lansing, Michigan.

For more information about programs or the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area visit our website: <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org> and [Vote411 org/onyourballot/state.php](http://Vote411.org/onyourballot/state.php)

President's Report

Voter Guide Report

The LWVLA published five (5) voter guides this fall. The LWVLA Ingham County, Meridian Township, Delta Township, Lansing Community College and East Lansing School Board Voter Guides were available on the LWVLA <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org> and Vote411 website at <http://www.vote411.org/onyourballot/state.php>. The Ingham County, LCC and East Lansing School Board Voter Guides could also be accessed through the Lansing City Clerk's website.

The League covered thirty-two (32) races with over hundred candidates (including boards) and included the Ingham County, Lansing, East Lansing and Meridian Township proposals on Vote411 and in the printed Voter Guides. We also posted Eaton Rapids School District, Williamston School District, Perry School District funding proposals on Vote411.

Due to the generous donations of LWVLA members, particularly Dorean Koenig, the LWVLA was able to distribute about three thousand (3,000) copies of the voter guides. We published 1,250 digest-sized LWVLA Ingham County Voter Guides and 15 large print Ingham County Voter Guides. We had to go back to press three times to satisfy the demand for that voter guide. When voters called to ask about candidates or proposals, they asked for printed voter guides, despite the availability of online election information. The LWVLA sent out at least 16 voter guides to local voters in Lansing, East Lansing and Okemos. We also sent print copies of the LWVMI Voter Guide to all League members.

Print copies were available at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, the East Lansing City Hall, Prime Time Senior Program at Hannah Community Center, all the Capitol Area Public Library branches, East Lansing Public Library, Delta Township Library, Schuler Books and Music in Eastwood Town Center and Meridian Mall, Goodrich's Spartan Shop-Rite, Twichell's Dry Cleaners and Tailors, Co-si - Life Should be Delicious, Foods for Living, the East Lansing Food Co-Operative, Douglas J Salon in Okemos, Just 4 Fun Hobbies and Comics in Frandor Shopping Center and other participating businesses.

The LWV of Michigan Voter Guide, edited by LWVMI Voter Services Director, Eva Packard, was also distributed by the LWVLA. It included a pro - con on the Michigan proposals, prepared by Packard and Judy Karandjeff. This was also available on Vote411 and at the LWVMI website.

The LWVLA distributed about two thousand, one hundred (2,100) LWVMI Voter Guides to the Capitol Area District Library, East Lansing Public Library, the Lansing City Clerk's Office, East Lansing City Hall, Prime Time, Goodrich's Spartan Shop Rite, Schuler Books and Music in Eastwood Town Center and Meridian Mall, Tri-County Commission on Aging, Allen Street Center and businesses.

My deepest thanks to Eva Packard for all her work on the LWVMI Voter Guide and Vote411. Judy Karandjeff did yeoman work on the LWVMI Pro-Con on the Michigan Proposals. I want to thank Judy Culham for her work on Vote411 and for posting the LWVLA Voter Guides on our website, <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org>. I want to thank Walt Esselman for all his help with Vote411, LWVLA Voter Guides and posting candidates' pictures on Vote411. We also want to thank Gloria Kovnot and Deanna Haneski for their work on the LWVLA Delta Township Voter Guide, taking the Vote411 webinar, crafting questions and contacting candidates.

Bag the Election

On Wednesday, November 14, 2012, **Bag the Election** was scheduled from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 in Room 211 at Hannah Community Center. LWVUS Treasurer and Michigan Campaign Finance Board Member, Pat Donath led the discussion with aid and assistance from Rich Robinson, the Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

For this project, LWVLA members as well as Pat's friends and relations around the state bagged all their campaign letters, literature and flyers. This trove of data offered Donath and Robinson an opportunity to "follow the money." Forensic accounting of campaign literature poses a challenge. Printing can be done in small shops, or even out of state. You cannot call a tv or radio station to find out who or what organization bought an ad.

As Pat reminded us early in the summer: "Yes, the political mail you receive before the election is more than just a contribution to your trash bag, it is more than just paper recycling. It needs it's very own "bag" so that you can be part of the development of the solutions for the current monied electioneering system."

If money = speech, as Justice Scalia determined in Buckley v. Valeo, then the only counterweight is more speech. Once voters know who is sponsoring legislation or candidates, they can make an informed choice. Sound and noise signifies nothing. Knowledge about who sponsors and publishes flyers and campaign literature empowers voters. You might agree. You might disagree, but you will know.

There was brisk and informed discussion of this issue at Bag the Election. The programs was co-sponsored by the MSU Women's Resource Center, the American Association for University Women (AAUW) and the Associated Students of MSU - MSU's Student Government (ASMSU).

Beth Berglin

LWVLA Member, Children's Advocate and New Mom

Beth Berglin was Children, Youth and Education Director on the LWVLA Board from 2008-2012. On Wednesday, November 9, 2011, Berglin led the LWVUS Federal Role in Education Consensus in the Recital Room at Hannah Community Center. She organized reference material, the questionnaire and clarified the issues.

Her experience earning advanced degrees in Early Childhood Education at MSU, working at the legislature, and for Michigan's Children educated offered an informed view of Children, Youth and Education issues. We miss her infectious enthusiasm and unique insights.



From left: Beth brought tidings of great joy!!! Jake Berglin, Beth Berglin with Miles Axel Berglin was born Sunday November 18, 2012 at 2:19 pm at 8# 3oz and 21 inch-

The State of Michigan Infant Reduction Plan: A Community Conversation



Dr. Renee Canady, Ph.D., MPA,
Health Officer, Ingham County
Health Department

According to *The State of Michigan Infant Reduction Plan*: “For every 1000 live births in our state approximately seven infants die before reaching their first birthday. Michigan’s infant mortality rate consistently exceeds the national average.”

On Wednesday, November 7th at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing, the LWVLA, the American Association of University Women, the MSU Women’s Resource Center, MSU Safe Place, and the Women’s Center of Greater Lansing, Inc., sponsored a Community Conversation to discuss *The State of Michigan Infant Mortality Reduction Plan* led by Renée Branch Canady, PhD, MPA, Health Officer, Ingham County Health Department.

Dr. Canady was invited to talk with community partners, neighbors, students, and others about the importance of community awareness and engagement in addressing this challenging community health issue.

“Michigan has a public health crisis.” Dr. Canady recently stated in the *Lansing State Journal*: “*Infant mortality is not someone else’s problem. High infant mortality rates are indicative that our community is not well. If babies are dying prematurely and moms are not having healthy pregnancies, there is something inherent in the structure, culture, norms of the community contributing to that.*”

A vigorous discussion followed Dr. Canady’s opening remarks that addressed infant mortality issues in Michigan particularly as they relate to disenfranchisement and discrimination. Participants responded to the gravity and scope of the issue with many questions, comments and ideas. Although a follow-up meeting has not been scheduled, there appeared to be consensus that increased community engagement and further discussions will be essential for generating solutions to infant mortality issues.



The Hannah Community Center audience engaged by Dr. Canady’s presentation before the conversation.

29th Annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner and Induction Ceremony



At left, crowd attending the Woman's Hall of Fame Banquet. Below, Gladys Beckwith is inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame by MWSA President Shirley Veller

The Michigan Women's History Center and Hall of Fame held its 29th Awards Dinner and Induction Ceremony on Thursday, October 18, 2011 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. A large and enthusiastic crowd welcomed nine notable women and one man into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

The co-founder of the Michigan Women's History Center and Hall of Fame, the Michigan Women's Studies Association, and former MWHF Director Gladys Beckwith was inducted into the Hall of Fame at this event. She served as founding MWHF Director for 37 years until her retirement in 2010.



Current LWVMI Vice President for Advocacy and former Michigan Women's Commission Executive Director, Judy Karandjeff, was also inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She was honored for her long career in support of women's rights, including choice, but also for her work on the Women's Commission, which included support for the groundbreaking legal challenge to the traditional priority for boy's high school basketball season in the fall, while girl's basketball was scheduled in the spring, when scouts could not attend. In a pioneering agreement, the seasons for girl's and boy's high school basketball seasons now alternate to equalize access for scouts and coaches, who award college scholarships.



The LWVLA and LWVMI co-sponsored an advertisement honoring these longtime League members. Our League, our community and the state of Michigan have been enriched by their contributions.

Judy Karandjeff is shown with the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame medal she received on her induction. To the MWHF.



Please join us and make a difference!

The total annual dues for 2012-2013 are \$62.00. This includes \$31.00 for LWV-US, \$21.00 for LWV-MI, and \$10.00 for LWV-LA. If another member resides in the same household, the dues for the second member are \$31.50. National and state dues are assessed to our local league based on the national membership list as of January 31, 2013.

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

LWV-LA
P.O. Box 971
E. Lansing, MI 48826

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please note that we will keep your information confidential.

Amount enclosed:

\$ _____ \$62.00 for one member

\$ _____ \$93.00 for two members in the same household

Additional donations:

\$ _____ for LWV-LA

\$ _____ for League of Women Voters Education Fund

(Please use separate check)

The **Capitol Voter** publication sponsored in part by the following:

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