



League of Women Voters - Lansing Area



CAPITOL VOTER

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017

**CAPITOL VOTER
HIGHLIGHTS**

IN MEMORY.....

NEW MEMBERS

**CO-PRESIDENTS
MESSAGE**

**LWV - JACKSON
AREA!**

**YOUR INPUT
NEEDED**

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL TIME**

**THANKS SCHULER
SHOPPERS**

**GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION**

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

**REFLECTIONS AND
LOOKING AHEAD**



Like the news programs at year's end, it seems helpful to reflect on the highs and lows of 2017:

- An obvious "high" was the welcoming of nearly 100 new members during the past year. A "low" could be that we did not do as much as we could/should have to welcome and involve these new members. See the story below about the membership survey and help us learn more about your interests and talents.

PROGRAM**VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE****BE SURE TO *LIKE*
US!****IN MEMORY**

Long-time League member **Betty Koch** passed away recently. She had been an active member for many years and then, after a lapse, she renewed her membership last year in appreciation of voter education efforts at Burcham Hills.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Brittany Maugher
from Holt
Shirley Zeller
from Jackson

- Our voter education efforts continue to expand. Even though this was a quieter election year, it was a time to form a new partnership with a community organization, Represent Us, and to involve many new volunteers. We are busy planning new initiatives for next year: an expanded high school registration effort, a community coalition effort to increase voter turnout, and continued expansion of VOTE411.
- Given the interest in learning strategies for effective political action, we will continue to offer program opportunities to look more closely at the state legislative process. We are currently planning a lunch series focused on the resources that can help each of us be more effective in our political action. Watch for a calendar at the beginning of the New Year.

Beth Moore & Camilla Davis**JACKSON UNIT BECOMES AN
INDEPENDENT LEAGUE!**

Congratulations to the members of the new Jackson League, after their recognition by the LWVMI and LWVUS boards within the past week. Beginning on a snowy January day in 2015, a small group of interested citizens, under the able leadership of Mary Lee Clark, has worked towards this goal. They have had an active voter registration program, conducted candidate forums, worked on criminal justice issues, and formed issue groups on local government, and the environment. Small groups of members worked to gather the information for submitting the request for independent status and the impressive nature of that material caused the LWVUS board to give quick approval. New board members highlighted their plans and accomplishments for the members of the

We also welcome two new members who are joining as part of household memberships: **John Couteras** of East Lansing and **Michael White** a student member, also from East Lansing.

PEACE TALK RESCHEDULED

William Hartung, noted author talk and military analyst, will speak on Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 pm in 107 S. Kedzie Hall on the MSU campus. See the [attached flyer](#) for more information. This presentation was originally rescheduled for October.

2017-18 LWVLA BOARD

Co-Presidents

Camilla Davis
Beth Moore

VP Program

Ann Marston

Secretary/ Membership

LWVMI board on December 2nd.
The LWVLA board has served in a mentorship role during the past three years and we wish the Jackson League great success as they move to becoming an important part of Jackson County.

Beth and Camilla

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

All local League members recently received a survey to help us determine your interest and talents. It really is important for board members to gather such information as we plan ahead for a busy election year in 2018. Barb Bidigare, Member Liaison, will send the survey again. If you don't receive it, please contact her at babidigare@aol.com.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY



Now is the time to send in your membership dues. We need your support, at whatever level of involvement fits your current circumstance. Your League dues of \$65 (\$97.50 for a household membership) support the lobbying, education and legal actions of LWVUS and LWVMI. Ten dollars remains to support our local voter service and programming efforts.

You can renew your membership by writing a check and filling in the form that you recently received in the mail **OR** by using the Pay Pal option on the LWVLA web site. [Click here](#) to access JOIN using Pay Pal. Also, check out the information on the form and website about the dues assistance policy.



**THANKS TO ALL SCHULER
BOOK DAYS SHOPPERS!**

Deanna Hanieski

Treasurer
John Hanieski

Environment
Ellen Link

**Finance/Fund
Raising**
Debby Starnes

Jackson Unit
Mary Lee Clark

**Membership/Web
Master**
Judy Culham

**New Member
Liaison**
Barbara Bidigare

**Parliamentarian/
Government**
Cele Friestater

Publicity
Carol Swinehart

Thanks to LWVLA members and friends who shopped at Schuler Book Stores during our fund raising week. **Debby Starnes**, Development Director, organized and publicized the event. Her efforts resulted in over \$400 that will be available for League voter education efforts in 2018.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM GUN VIOLENCE



The League recently sponsored a community forum with a panel of resource people who are all working to reduce the threat from gun violence for children in this country. The audience was particularly interested in discussing how to most effectively communicate with elected officials. One speaker stressed repeated contacts; other responses were to look for natural connections (friends of friends, club/church membership, etc.), and definitely attend events such as coffee hours.

Emily Durbin, Michigan leader of MOMS Demand Action, encouraged attendees to be aware of current legislation and to work to persuade lawmakers to support legislation that is keeping children safe.

Sonya Lewis, M.D. and a member of Physicians for Prevention of Gun Violence & Suicide among children and youth, spoke about the connection between suicide and guns. She stressed that gun violence is a public health issue and that strategies must be developed to keep children from accessing guns.

Scott Nichols, retired from the Michigan State Police, advocated for Emergency Restraining Protection Order (ERPO). ERPO is a tool to let family members have fire arms seized from a potential user. Contact your Michigan representative to encourage a committee hearing on House Bills 4706-4707.

QUICK LINKS

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)

[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)

[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)

[LWVLMR**](#)

****LWVLA is a member of the LWV - Lake Michigan Region. Click on LWVLMR for an update of the organization's initiatives.**

Linda Brundage, Executive Director of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, explained that a bill to restrict child access to guns has been introduced in the Michigan Senate. The owner of the gun would be responsible for what happens. Twenty-seven states have Child Access Prevention legislation and it is proving successful.

For more information, go to the [Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence](#) web site.