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It's League Convention Time in Michigan!

There are so many reasons to join your fellow Leaguers in East Lansing on May 19-21. Among them:

Energize your members. Six workshops on Saturday feature empowerment opportunities for local Leagues:

- LWV Engagement With Communities of Color
- Gun Safety
- New Leaders Boot Camp
- Censorship – Including Avoidance of Black History
- National Popular Vote
- Create a Campus LWV Unit

Flex your grassroots muscles to help decide LWVMI's 2023-25 path. Delegates will be asked to elect new LWVMI officers, pass a 2-year budget, and vote on bylaw amendments and program.

Recognize League volunteers for their great work. LWVMI will award the Belle Brotherton Award, the Eva Packard Voter Service Award, and the Judy Karandjeff Advocacy Award. Additionally, each League has the opportunity to name four "Belle Ringer" awardees.

Hear some great speakers. In addition to some experts who will speak at our workshops, we will host Michigan Election **Attorney Mark Brewer** as our keynote speaker at our Saturday night banquet. **Rep. Stephanie Tsernoglou**, Chair of the House Elections Committee, will speak about her very busy committee's work at our Sunday morning breakfast. We are also honored that the **CEO of LWVUS, Virginia Kase Solomon**, will be spending the weekend with us. She will share news from the national office and many of you will have the opportunity to meet her.

Network. This is probably the best part of the convention – being able to spend the weekend with others who share the same League values. Meet new friends, connect with people you've seen on Zoom for four years, learn about other Leagues' successes and challenges, and reinvigorate your commitment to working with the League to improve our democracy.

Have FUN! There are plenty of opportunities to have fun, beginning with a list of Lansing area attractions on Friday afternoon. Tour of the capital anyone? You can also participate in a “dine around” on Friday night with small groups of League members, a League trivia game, a silent auction where you will surely find treasures, and delicious meals shared with other League members over the weekend.

Dates to remember:

- **April 19:** Reserve room @ the Kellogg Hotel by this date to get the LWW discount.
- **April 30:** Register online to avoid a late fee
- **May 11:** All convention attendees are invited to a pre-convention Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. to learn about the key issues. A recording will be sent out to those who cannot attend.

More information can be found on the Convention page of the League’s website. <https://lwvmi.org/miscellaneous-league-resources/>

-- Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President

LWV Tri-Level Transformation

National Transformation Process Update

The four transformation workgroups are winding up their sessions with the information gathered to be reviewed and assessed by consultants. This aggregate will be discussed at the total workgroup review meeting in early May.

In the meantime, a survey has been made accessible to all 70,000 LWV members to answer. The link follows:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVmembersurvey>

This is another avenue of input to this process and it is requested from League members via the survey just noted. According to results so far, around 5000 members have responded. Do you want 7% to speak for you?

The transformation is in process. No going back. One membership source for becoming a member is not an opt-out option. Your input now and that of the workgroups will be taken to the council in June for further discussion.

For more information, go to <https://www.lwv.org/transformation>. There is an FAQ that might provide the answers you seek.

In League,

-- Christina Schlitt, LWVMI Co-President.

Voter Services

May 2 Election Reminders

- Michiganders who want to vote in the May 2 election in their community have less than one week left to register to vote [online](#) or by mailing a [paper application](#) to their city or township clerk. Beginning April 18, Michiganders must register to vote or update their registration in person at their city or township clerk's office with proof of residency to vote in the May election. Visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote) for more details on registering to vote.
- Voters who wish to vote from home before the May election, but who haven't yet applied for an absentee ballot, are encouraged to apply for a ballot [by mail](#) or [online](#) as soon as possible to ensure they have sufficient time to receive the ballot, complete it, and return it to their city or township clerk.
- Voters may also vote before Election Day in person at their city or township clerk's office using an absentee ballot. Voters can go to <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>, click on "your voter information" and enter the required information to see their clerk's hours and location(s), and whether there's a May election in their community.
- Visit MichiganVoting.org for more details on voting before Election Day.

The next Voter Services team meeting is Thursday, April 27, at 7 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent the day before the meeting.

-- Judy Florian, LWVMI VP Voter Services jflo@comcast.net

April 27: Lobby Day for Campaign Finance Reform

Campaign Finance Reform Lobby Day

Come join League members and other concerned citizens for a Campaign Finance Reform Lobby Day on Thursday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Capitol in Lansing. There will be opportunities for you to meet with your Representative and/or your Senator. Meetings will be organized in advance by the Lobby Day planning team, and you will be notified of your time slot ahead of time.

You are welcome to come for the whole day or half a day, depending on your schedule. There will be a Press Conference at noon and Lunch at 1 p.m.

Two identical, virtual training opportunities will be available; you can sign up when you register to attend Lobby Day.

- Friday, April 21, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 24, 6-7 p.m.

Talking points for your meeting with your Legislator will be provided. We are not lobbying for a specific bill at this time. We are advocating for increased transparency and asking legislators to support campaign finance reform.

Make your voice heard. [Sign up now!](#)

-- Sue Smith, LWMI VP Advocacy

Advocacy

Legislative Interviews

Local League presidents have recently received the materials for legislative interviews. If you want to be involved, please contact your local League president.

Citizen's Guide to State Government

A new resource is available, the Citizen's Guide to State Government, 102nd Legislature 2023-24. It is available on the Legislature's website

<https://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/CitizensGuide.pdf> You can also get printed copies from your local legislator.

Action Alerts

LWVMI has been sending out Action Alerts. We urge you to open the emails and email your legislators when asked. You can edit the letters. It is important that legislators who support as well as oppose our legislation hear from constituents. Remember the other side is contacting them so it's important both sides participate. You can also check out all of our action alerts at the LWVMI website under the Take Action button.

Update on State Laws

Governor Whitmer signed into law, Public Acts 11, 12, and 13 of 2023.

- PA 11 repeals sections 14 & 15 of PA 328 of 1931 (MCL 750.14 & 750.15) that provide a penalty for administering with intent to procure miscarriage and advertisement or sale of certain drugs.
- PA 12 repeals section 40 of the Michigan Penal Code (MCL 750.40) that makes it a misdemeanor offense to publish or sell in Michigan a circular, pamphlet, or book that contains either of the following recipes for abortion or contraception.
- PA 13 repeals the sentencing guidelines for a crime of administering drugs to procure a miscarriage, sec. 16a, ch. XVII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.16a).

Governor Whitmer signed into law Public Acts 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 of 2023 that will require background checks and safe storage of firearms. The Michigan House of Representatives also passed the Red Flag bills, HBs 4145-49 and SB 83 and sent them to the Senate. So far, the passage of this legislation has been supported by Democrats with little or no support of the Republicans. None of this legislation has been given immediate effect, so they will go into effect 90 days after this year's session ends.

Abortion Prescription Access

April 7, Federal District Court Judge in Washington State, Thomas O. Rice, grants a request from 17 states and D.C., *State of Washington v FDA*, to block FDA from making changes to mifepristone's access in the states that sued. The states that sued the FDA in Eastern Washington are Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Governor Whitmer also issued a press release saying mifepristone is available in Michigan.

National Popular Vote

Between now and the summer recess, LWVMI is working to make sure the National Popular Vote bill passes in the House and Senate. Also, we are anticipating legislation to be introduced to implement Promote the Vote 2022, pay equity, and campaign finance

For a complete list of legislation, the League has a position, go to www.lwvmi.org under Advocacy 2023.

-- Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI Advocacy Committee Chair

Healthy Climate Conference

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was the keynote speaker at the sold-out MI Healthy Climate Conference held in Detroit on April 11 and 12. The conference was organized to focus action on how to protect Michigan from the most significant impacts of climate change, while seizing the economic opportunities of a clean energy transition.

The [two-day conference](#) brought together nearly 600 stakeholders from across the state and nation to help implement key actions in the [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#). The conference was organized by the State of Michigan through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

The MI Healthy Climate Plan released last year, outlines strategies for slashing Michigan carbon emissions by 52% in 2030 and developing a carbon-neutral state economy by 2050. These strategies included:

- Making our buildings more efficient
- Expanding the use of electric vehicles
- Generating power from renewable sources and
- Focusing funding in disadvantaged communities.

The MEMJ (**M**ichigan **E**nergy, **M**ichigan **J**obs) Coalition, a coalition of environmental groups rallied before the Conference to urge Michigan lawmakers to take action to fight climate change.

Specifically, the Coalition called on state lawmakers to:

- Pass a standard requiring 100% of Michigan's energy to be carbon-free by 2035.

- Create energy conservation policies to save money for customers and drive down pollution related to power generation.
- Allow and require the Michigan Public Service Commission to hold utility companies accountable for the equity, health, affordability and climate impacts of their operations.

The Coalition also supports community solar access, which would allow people to buy shares of nearby solar installations and be credited on their power bills for their portion of renewable energy.

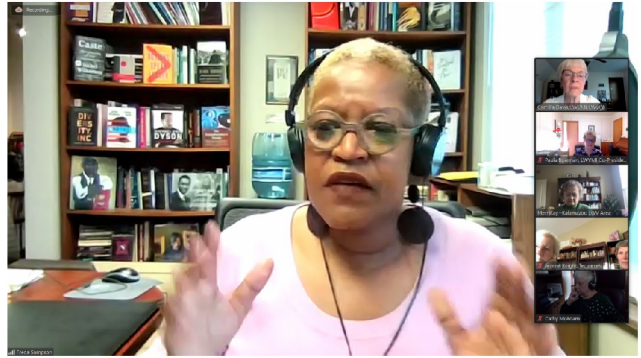
-- Sandra Sorini Elser, LWMI Advocacy Committee

Membership: DEI Focus on "Having Difficult Conversations"

The April 12 Membership Leaders' Network Zoom focused on the topic of *Having Difficult Conversations*. Freda Sampson (pictured above), an experienced facilitator in diversity, equity, and inclusion discussion, and our guide during the November Implicit Bias 101 presentation, was the presenter and discussion leader.

The presentation included a PowerPoint with slides listing suggestions for initiating conversations, asking questions to encourage discussion and strategies to deal with those who hold an opposite opinion. The meeting was recorded. The link to the Zoom recording was sent to local membership leaders. Those who would like to see the program can contact Camilla to receive the link.

-- Camilla Davis, LWMI VP Membership cdavis.lwmi@gmail.com



Spotlight on Local Leagues

Berrien/Cass held a Town Hall on climate change featuring the president of LWV Lake Michigan Region Elizabeth-Guscott Mueller and her husband David Mueller. They presented an overview of the watershed system that flows into Lake Michigan, with examples of how climate change affects rainfall, lake levels, erosion, and runoff.

Lansing Area's April program, *Let's Do Citizen Science*, was held at the Fenner Nature Center in Lansing. Led by LWVLA member Laura Rogers, participants learned how they can contribute to scientific data by making observations or participating in nature-related activities.

LWVMI Communications Committee



LWVMI Communications Committee

Local League Communications Network

Fifteen of the 33 local Leagues in Michigan have a voice in the communication process. Is yours one of them? LWW Crawford, LWW Dearborn-Dearborn Heights, LWW Detroit, LWW Grand Traverse Area, LWW Grosse Pointe, LWW Holland Area, LWW Kalamazoo, LWW Lansing, LWW Leelanau, LWW Macomb, LWW Marquette, LWW Midland Area, LWW Northern Lower Michigan, LWW Oakland Area, and LWW Washtenaw have at least one member in the Network.

We discuss many aspects of communications, including presentation development, website design, social media, and the proper use of League event recordings. This is a place for you to express your views and get your questions answered. We meet via Zoom on the third Monday of the month at noon.

If your League is not on this list, we want it to be (and you should, too). Our goal is to join forces to share experiences and our expertise in communicating League messages. We can help each other promote League events, too. To send a representative from your League, or, for more information, contact Kathy Poore kpoore@wowway.com.

Local League Events

It's easy to get the word out about your League event to the entire state of Michigan! Just complete the Event Notification Form, and we'll share it with the Local League Communications Network who can help spread the word. If time permits, we'll try to get it in League Links, too. Send to Kathy Poore.

- [Notification form in Word](#)
- [Notification form as a PDF](#)

Action Alerts

A quick reminder about the importance of your participation with Action Alerts. A few clicks and a few minutes of your time provide an opportunity for you to connect with your legislators in Michigan and have your voice heard!

Action Alert emails come from the LWVMI Co-President. If, for some reason, you do not receive emails from LWVMI, please check the LWVMI website regularly for Action Alert notices. Go to <https://lwwmi.org> Click on the TAKE ACTION button in the upper right-hand corner.

-- Kathy Poore, LWVMI Communications Committee Chair

kpoore@wowway.com

You Are Invited...

LWV Oakland Area Monday, April 27, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Bloomfield Township Public Library

1099 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Twp. 48302

Gun Safety: Keeping Kids Safe!

Speakers: Michigan Legislator **Senator Rosemary Bayer**, Co-Chair, Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention Caucus and **Jeff Bozel**: Volunteer, Be S.M.A.R.T., Organization protecting families by securing firearms using Secure Model Ask Recognize Tell.

- In-person, free, and open to the public. No registration required.
- For more information, contact [Maria Woloson](#)

LWV Washtenaw Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Online presentation, registration required

Preserving our Waters: Regulating Michigan's Failing Septic Systems

Michigan's lakes, streams, and groundwater are being polluted by human waste leaking from our failing septic systems. Michigan is the only state in the nation with no statewide law regulating private septic systems.

Learn more about the problem and solutions at an LWVMI Statewide Zoom presentation on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** Jennifer McKay, Policy Director of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will be our speaker.

- [Register to attend](#) the Zoom meeting or to view the recording.
- For more information, contact: advocacy@LWVWashtenaw.org

LWV Oakland Area, Monday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Bloomfield Township Public Library
1099 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Twp. 48302

Money in Politics: Stop Dark Money in Politics

Speaker: Henry “Hank” Mayers, Rise Up Mi!

- In-person, free, and open to the public. No registration required.
- For more information, contact [Maria Woloson](#)

LWW Washtenaw County, Wednesday, May 10, 9 a.m.

Governor’s Juvenile Justice Task Force: *Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit’s Implementation Plans*

Join LWW Washtenaw County Juvenile Justice Working Group via Zoom to learn developments addressing the Governor’s Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform recommendations. Prosecutor Eli Savit will discuss how they affect Washtenaw County

- Free and open to the public. **[Register for the Zoom meeting.](#)**
- For more information, contact the Juvenile Justice Working Group: justice@lwwashtenaw.org

Local Leagues

Berrien/Cass Counties

Copper Country (with Gogebic Geographical Unit)

Dearborn/Dearborn Heights

Delta County

Detroit

Eastern UP MAL State Unit

Flint Area

Grand Haven Area

Greater Grand Rapids Area MAL State Unit

Grand Traverse Area (with Crawford County Geographical Unit)

Grosse Pointe
Holland Area
Jackson Area
Kalamazoo Area (with Calhoun County Geographical Unit)
Lansing Area
Leelanau County
Livingston County
Macomb County MAL State Unit
Manistee County
Marquette County
Midland Area
Mt. Pleasant
Northeast Michigan (formerly Alpena County)
Northern Lower Michigan
Northwest Wayne County
Oakland Area
Saginaw County
Tecumseh/Lenawee County MAL State Unit
Troy
Washtenaw County

For more information go to www.lwvmi.org
or check out Facebook pages for state and local LWWs

LWVMI Leadership 2021-2023

Co-President: Christina Schlitt (Grand Traverse Area)

Co-President: Paula Bowman (NW Wayne County)

VP Voter Services: Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe)

VP Advocacy: Sue Smith (Washtenaw County)

VP Membership: Camilla Davis (Lansing Area)

VP Program: Maria Woloson (Oakland Area)

Secretary: Carla Barrows-Wiggins (Oakland Area)

Treasurer: Denise Hartsough (Kalamazoo Area)

Directors

Voter Services: Carolyn Vertin (Tecumseh/Lenawee)

Voter Services: Anna Scott (Lansing Area)

Membership: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)

Membership: Rebeka Islam (Detroit)

Communications: Vicki Granger (Grosse Pointe)

At-Large: David Allen (Marquette County)

Communications Chair: Kathy Poore (Macomb MAL)

Calendar

April 2023

- **April 19** Last day to reserve room with LWW discount for Convention
- **April 27** Voter Services Network mtg.
- **April 30** Last day to register for convention without penalty

May 2023

- **May 11** Pre-Convention Zoom call for all attendees
- **May 13** LWWMI Board meeting
- **May 19** Convention starts!



Connect with us! League of Women Voters of Michigan

Phone: 517-484-5383

Email: office@lwvmi.org

Website: lwvmi.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvmichigan/>

Instagram: [#lwvmich](https://www.instagram.com/lwvmich)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LWVMichigan>

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