



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of the Ann Arbor Area  
P.O. Box 3832 · Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3832  
[www.lwvannarbor.org](http://www.lwvannarbor.org)

## Annual Report 2019-2020

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Distributed by email for the Annual Meeting  
May 2020  
Virtual Meeting

## *Table of Contents*

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area	
2019-2020 Officers and Directors	4
Annual Meeting Agenda	5
LWV-AAA Annual Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2018	6-9
Annual Reports	
President	10
Vice President	11
Treasurer	12
Proposed Budget	13-15
Approval of Proposed Budget	16
Education Fund Report	16
Tecumseh Unit	16
Brighton - Howell Unit	16-17
Advocacy Committee	18
Census Project	18-19
Centennial Planning Committee	19-20
Communications Team	20
Membership Committee	21
Program Committee	
Winter Party	22
Lunch and Learn	22-23
Brews and Views	23-24

Voter Services	25
Voter Registration Working Group	25
Vote411.org	25-26
Special Events Registration	26-27
Your Elected Officials	27
Voter Guides	27
Candidate Forums	27
Voter Registration for Underserved Populations	27-28
Clerk Engagement Project	28
“WE WOULD NOT BE DENIED” – Centennial History of the Ann Arbor League of Women’s Voters.	29
Slate of Nominees	30
LWV-AAA 2019-2020 Officers and Directors Biographies	31-33

# League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area

## *2019-2020 Officers and Directors*

### **Board Members**

President	Joan Sampieri
Vice President	Donna Crudder
Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Secretary	Susan Smereck

### **Directors**

Communications	Susan Wooley
Membership Secretary	Barb Brown
Voter Services	Geoffrey Smereck
Member at Large	Lynne Kochmanski
Education Fund	Barb Brown
Advocacy	Carolyn Madden
Jan Salsberry	Tecumseh Unit
Ellen Lafferty	Brighton Unit

### **2019-20 Nominating Committee**

Dee Dishon
Paige Silence
Susan Smereck (Board Appointed)

League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area Annual Meeting  
May, 2020  
Agenda

Each member will review the Annual Report independently.

Members will then virtually vote:

1. to approve Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting
2. to approve the 2020-2021 Budget
3. to approve the Slate of Officers and Directors for LWVAAA 2020-2021.

Business is complete

# **League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area**

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Touchstone Co-Housing

May 15, 2019

## **Social Hour:**

**Program:** Zoe Clark and Rick Pluta, Michigan Public Radio

The Guests discussed pending legislation, the political climate in Lansing and questions from the audience.

## **Call to Order:**

Sue Smith, President, at 8:07 P.M.

## **Welcome by:**

Sue Smith, President

## **Board Members**

President	Sue Smith
Vice President	Joan Sampieri
Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Secretary	Susan Smereck

## **Directors**

Program	Barbara Billings
Communications	Susan Wooley
Membership	Barbara Brown
Voter Services	Donna Crudder
Advocacy	Carolyn Madden
Tecumseh Unit	Jan Salsberry
Brighton/Howell Unit	Ellen Lafferty
Development	Diana Neering
Director at Large	Sally Allen

## **Appointment of Parliamentarian**

Betty Bishop

**Approval of Agenda and Standing Rules**

Joan Sampieri moved and Harvey Somers seconded the motion to approve the Agenda and Standing Rules. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Annual Meeting Minutes**, May 15, 2018 were provided for information.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Betty Bishop

Betty Bishop reviewed the Annual Treasurer’s Report. There was a sizable bequest by Judy Mich, a long-time member. Some of this money will be used for the 2020 Centennial.

**President’s Report:**

Sue Smith

Sue Smith summarized the LWVAAA activities for “Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy”:

Voter Registration

Voter Education

Get Out the Vote posters

Obtaining 20,000 signatures for Proposition 3 which passed

Supporting activities for Proposition 2 which also passed

Fundraising for the LWVMI lawsuit

Introduction of current Board members.

Recognition of Board Members:

Nancy Schewe for her work on Vote411.org

Nan Elder and her committee for their work on the high school poster contest

Sally Allen for her years of service to LWVAAA and as a Board member. She will continue to work with the Membership Committee and new member orientation.

**Proposed Budget:**

Joan Sampieri

Joan Sampieri reviewed the proposed budget for 2019-2020.

The Finance Committee moved and Geoff Smereck seconded the motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Proposed Amendments to Bylaws:**

Susan Wooley

Susan Wooley moved on behalf of the Bylaws Committee approval of Amendments to the LWV-AAA Bylaws. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.

**Report of Nominating Committee:**

Dee Dishon

Election of 2019-2020 Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Sue Smith

**Nominating Committee Report:**

Dee Dishon, Chair

Paige Silence

Susan Wooley (Board appointed)

The slate of officers was presented. There were no nominations from the floor.

Members approved the slate for 20219-2020 as presented unanimously.

**Officers:**

President	Joan Sampieri
Vice President	Donna Crudder
Treasurer	Betty Bishop
Secretary	Susan Smereck

**Directors:**

Advocacy	Carolyn Madden
Voter Service	Geoffrey Smereck
Membership	Barbara Brown
Communications	Susan Wooley
Program	Roxanne Chan
Development	Diana Neering
Representative	Jan Salsberry, Tecumseh Area Unit Ellen Lafferty, Brighton/ Howell
Nominating Committee:	Dee Dishon Paige Silence Member appointed by the Board

Updates and Announcements:

1. Nan Elder reported on the high school poster contest. There were 104 entries that were shown in a slide presentation after the meeting. There was be an award ceremony on June 23, 2018 at the Pittsfield Branch Library with a top prize of \$500. Posters were displayed around the community including on AATA buses.
2. The high school voter registration project was described by Roddy Wares. Many volunteers assisted in going to area schools to register students in a classroom setting. It is expected registrations will grow from 795 to 1000. A major benefit was having a city/ township clerk present so that the students would not be required to vote in person the first time they vote.
3. Barbara Billings reported on the Art Fair Booth. Volunteers worked 2 hour shifts at the Ann Arbor Art Fair from 7/19/18 – 7/22/18.
4. Claudette Snow reported on the efforts to organize LWVAAA participation in the Ann Arbor 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Bring family, wear your t-shirts or suffragette costumes. There will be a sign making activity. Members will congregate at 9:00 AM on the Diag.



5. Sue Smith reported on the Redistricting ballot initiative. This all volunteer effort collected 425,000 signatures with a 92% validation rate. The Secretary of State's office is still validating signatures. Then a 100 word summary will be developed for the ballot. Opponents have filed a lawsuit to prevent this ballot initiative. Members are encouraged to continue the education for the initiative.
6. Sue Smith also reported the LWVMI has filed a lawsuit against Secretary of State Johnson claiming that the current district map is unconstitutional. There is a hearing in Detroit before a 3 judge panel regarding the lawsuit.
7. Sue Smith reported on the Promote the Vote initiative. Signatures continue to be collected. At the end of May it will be determined how many professional petition gatherers will be needed to obtain the required number of signatures.

The meeting was adjourned for further conversation and review of the poster entries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smereck

Susan Smereck, Secretary moves the acceptance of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes.

All members are to respond to the Survey Monkey which will be sent by email to approve or disapprove the minutes.

## ***Presidents' Report***

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

-- Mission Statement of the LWV-AAA

The mission defines the work of the League, and serves as a guide for all that we do. To oversee the work, members elect a board that has a two-fold function: it is both a governing and a working board. Each board member heads a committee, and also has a responsibility to ensure fiscal health, conformance to the League of Women Voters US and Michigan requirements of local Leagues, to maintain best practices of a not-for-profit, and to hold ourselves to the same standards we expect from our elected and appointed officials. That's a lot of work for a volunteer!

In the following pages, you will see just how much the working board has done this year. You'll learn how Census presentations throughout the county helped our residents understand how much Michigan relies on a complete count in order to get its fair share of federal dollars, and to determine its representation in Congress. You will see the work the Centennial Committee did to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our right to vote, and the founding of the League. The Voter Services Committee has much to tell you of its successes in registering voters, and educating our residents about changes in the voting laws. The Advocacy Committee, Lunch & Learn, and Brews and Views all made sure members and supporters learned of League positions and efforts through a wide range of well-informed speakers. The Membership Committee reached far into our diverse community to connect us with the concerns of our residents. The Communications Committee helped to keep us all informed through a full website, a bi-monthly newsletter, Facebook, and Twitter. We said goodbye to one geographic unit – Tecumseh – which in January began a Member at Large of the State League but continued to mentor the Brighton/Howell Chapter as it prepares to do the same.

On the governance side, we made our work more transparent. We began publishing our board meeting agenda so that members of the community could see, and comment on our work. We began holding board meetings around the county to allow residents in all our communities to have a better understanding of what we do, and why what we do is so important.

This has been a very productive year of service and I'm grateful to those who serve on the board and committees as well as to those of you who add value through your participation in our forums and programs. This year I'd especially like to thank Donna Crudder, our VP, who stepped into the presidency when an illness made it necessary for me to be out of commission for several months.

I'm looking forward to a full year of service coming up when our focus will be on voting rights and the elections. Please consider this your invitation to join us.

Submitted by Joan Sampieri, President

## ***Vice Presidents' Report***

It has been a very different kind of year for this position. I spent the first several months determining the breadth and scope of the job and then took on various activities that were both interesting and challenging.

Our Harvard Project, a National League activity, had us identifying 2 teachers from Ypsilanti and Chelsea to send to Harvard in August (2019) to learn a new methodology, the Case Study method, created by Professor David A. Moss, for teaching American History and Civics. Both teachers and their students were enthralled by the new methodology, and taught case studies on James Madison, the Federal Negative, and the making of the US Constitution (1787), and Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights (1965) to name a few. The culmination of that project was to end with a large gathering of community folks, teachers and students to learn and participate in a learning activity. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the pandemic/numbers/infections from the corona virus. More to follow on that..,

I was also involved in a partnership planning event, showcasing Woman and their Role in Politics and the Community, cosponsored with the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Women, inviting the Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General of the State of Michigan. Dates and acceptances were secured until the virus related restrictions.

I had an initial meeting with University of Michigan Museum folks to flesh out an event they were planning on sponsoring for the fall, which included an almost focus group kind of format in which students, community, faculty were to engage in conversation re the election and communication strategies that enhanced dialogue and understanding. We are not sure where any of that is right now.

In early 2020, it became apparent our President would be stepping down temporarily due to illness, so in February I began to assume some of her duties and responsibilities. The easy part was running meetings, creating agendas, etc-very easy and prescribed methods-Robert's Rules were secure. Unfortunately, things shifted as the pandemic struck and since March we all have been struggling to see how we could move our league forward. Knowing that May was looming and with it the Annual Board meeting, we worked on the budget and slate of officers (thanks to Susan Wooley and her committee and Dee Dishon and her committee, we have created solutions through technology! Budget done by two main ZOOM meetings (and plenty in between) and will be sending out electronically to our full membership the slate and budget to be voted on through Survey Monkey.

Our President is slowly but surely making her way back to her position with 'a little help from all her friends' and I am winding down my Vice President position, heading toward Program Management. It's been a scary but beautiful 'ride' and I couldn't be prouder of the Board and its ability to manage change, be one voice and keep our goals and vision secure.

Submitted by Donna Crudder, Vice President

## *Treasurer's Report*

The format of the report is rather different this year since projected expenses for the fiscal year running July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 are included in the proposed budget which follows this report. That report includes the approved current budget for 2019-2020, the projected actual receipts and disbursements for 2019-2020, and the proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 20, 2021. The budget committee (Donna Crudder, Joan Sampieri, Susan Wooley, Lynne Kochmanski, and Betty Bishop) met in late March 2020 and tried to take the Covid-19 pandemic into consideration in planning the budget. We realize this is an unpredictable year in terms of both income and expenses, and expect that the Board will need to adjust the budget during the fiscal year as we see how the League can best function in these changing times.

### LWVAAA Fund Activity for Calendar Year 2019

	Checking	Ed Fund	Reserve/Memorial Fund	PayPal
Balance				
1/1/2019	19,305	727	96,476	300
Income	30,084	62,250	29	11,963
Outgo	30,364	2,538	500	11,280
12/31/2019	19,029	60,439	96,005	577

Notes: During the calendar year 2019 the Education Fund received a total of \$60,000 from the Speyer Foundation; \$40,000 in January and \$20,000 in December. This is further discussed in the Education Fund Report. PayPal is used for collecting dues and payments for events (parties, Lunch and Learn) as well as donations. A balance is maintained in the PayPal account so refunds can be made if necessary (i.e. cancellation of an event). The Fund Activity report is done for the calendar year 2019 since the Ed Fund reports from LWVUS come out 4 times a year in March, June, September, and December and cover through the quarter which ended three months before.

Submitted by Betty Bishop, Treasurer

**LWVAAA 2020-2021 BUDGET**

	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>PROJECTED</b>	
	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>7-1-19 to</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>6-30-20</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Dues \$70/\$100 Household	18,000	22,000	22,000
Gifts	2,500	1,500	3,000
Grants	400	400	400
Your Elected Officials Program	200		500
Lunch & Learn	0	498	700
Holiday Party	0	2,200	3,000
Centennial Committee		4,200	1,000
Convention: State			
Sales	1,000	500	1,000
Interest	20	26	20
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>22,120</b>	<b>31,324</b>	<b>31,620</b>

<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
<b>LWV Support</b>			
LWV US (Per member pmt.)	8,000	7,920	8,160
LWV MI (Per member pmt.)	5,700	5,693	5,865
Lake Michigan LWV	25	50	50
Brighton Howell Unit	500	442	500
Tecumseh Unit	500	1,507	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14,725</b>	<b>15,612</b>	<b>14,575</b>

<b>Conventions/Workshops</b>			
National Convention	3,000		
State Convention			3,000
Workshops	500		500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,500</b>

	<b>Approved Current Budget 2019-2020</b>	<b>Projected Actual 7-1-2019 to 6-30-20</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2019-2020</b>
<b>Administrative</b>			
Annual Report	100	100	125
Board	800	600	566
Insurance thru LWV-MI	250	249	300
PO Box	70	80	80
Quick Books			250
Paypal Charges	250	310	400
Postage	300	55	150
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>1,746</b>

### COMMITTEES

#### Advocacy Committee

Room Rental			400
Speakers/Transportation			300
Publicity/Refreshments			150
Miscellaneous			40
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>890</b>

<b>Centennial Committee</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>0</b>
-----------------------------	--------------	--------------	----------

#### Communications

MyLO (My League Online)		400	400
Constant Contact	700	588	600
Sign-Up Genius		99	99
G Suite		96	288
Domain Registration	20	22	22
Zoom			150
Videography	500		600
Technology	700		200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>2,359</b>

#### Development

Meeting Expense	500		300
Printing/postage	400		200
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>

	<b>Approved Current Budget 2019-2020</b>	<b>Projected Actual 7-1-19 to 6-30-20</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2020-2021</b>
<b>Membership</b>			
Meeting Expenses	400		550
Printing	600	580	600
T-Shirts	1,000	1,000	1,000
Tabling Events			500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>2,650</b>
<b>Program</b>			
Annual Meeting	300	300	200
Holiday Party	300	3,111	2,000
Lunch & Learn		830	500
Other Meeting Expenses	200	198	2,100
Printing	500	2,431	300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>6,870</b>	<b>5,100</b>
<b>Voter Services</b>			
Miscellaneous		329	500
Advertising - GOTV	500		7,000
Art Fair	200	242	400
Candidate Forums	100		200
Special Events	200	100	500
Printing	1,000	814	2,800
Your Elected Officials	200		500
Voter Guides			500
Vote 411	100	497	2,300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>1,653</b>	<b>14,700</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>30,815</b>	<b>34,034</b>	<b>46,020</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(8,695)</b>	<b>(2,710)</b>	<b>(14,400)</b>
Draw from Education Fund	3800	3800	14,400
Draw from Reserves	4895	0	0
Increase (decrease) in checking	0	1,090	0

## **Approval of the Proposed Budget:**

**Betty Bishop**

Betty Bishop, on behalf of the Budget Committee, moved the acceptance of the budget for 20120-21. The membership will have a short time to review and consider this budget. All members are to respond to the Survey Monkey which will be sent by email to approve or disapprove this motion.

Members of the Budget Committee included Betty Bishop, Donna Crudder, Lynne Kochmanski, and Sally Allen.

## ***Education Fund Annual Report 2019-2020***

The Education Fund allows donors to make tax-deductible donations to the LWVAAA if the checks are made out to the LWVAAA Education Fund. This fund is used for public education including voter registration and voter education. During the past year the Education Fund was used to help with presentations on Census 2020 to over 3000 people in Washtenaw, Livingston, and Lenawee Counties. It also was used to support some of the Votes for Women 100 activities, celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage, and voter education. Withdrawals during the past year came to \$2538. Contributions to the fund during the past year totaled \$22,100 which included a wonderful gift of \$20,000 from the Speyer Foundation. This foundation was established by Judy and Tom Mich; Judy was the LWVAAA Treasurer for over 25 years before her death in 2017.

Submitted by Betty Bishop  
Education Fund Treasurer

## ***Tecumseh Unit Report***

The Tecumseh Unit has been mentored by the League of Women Voters for the past several years. Members and leadership have a successful history of developing a variety of programs and implementing voter service activities. Recognition of this success has resulted in Tecumseh becoming an independent Member at Large of the League of Women Voters. Congratulations to Jan Salsberry, Carolyn Vertin and all the members!

Jan Salsberry,  
Director for the Tecumseh Unit

## ***Brighton-Howell Unit Report***

We had another successful year for the Brighton/Howell Unit in Livingston County.

During the 2019 year, our volunteers were proud to have hosted one important candidate forum for the only open race in Livingston County, registered new voters in high schools across the county in addition to adding Cleary College to our outreach, and also hosted five public forums



with the intent of educating voters on issues from the 2020 Census to meeting their public officials.

We continue to rely on our social media and emailed newsletters to keep our followers updated on State and National LWV level information along with keeping our own Livingston County members informed on what's happening next. Our "Your Elected Officials" pamphlet continues to be updated and distributed to local libraries and clerks offices for use by the general public. Work on Vote411 was light in the 2019 election cycle, which allowed our dedicated team to prepare ahead of time for the labor-intense 2020 workload.

Our guest presenters in 2019 included; Livingston County Road Commissioner Steve Wasyk who covered how our roads are funded along with how those funds are allocated, Pinckney Superintendent Rick Todd, who covered the challenges our current school funding places on all districts in the State, 2020 Census presenters Margaret Leary and Ellen Lafferty, informed our audiences on the importance of being counted, once, in the right place. Changes to Voter Rights and updates on the Independent Redistricting Commission was well attended, including guest appearances by our County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley and election coordinator Joe Bridgman.

Our very first, native plant fundraiser took place in June and was a huge success. Along with introducing more of our community members to the LWV at the Brighton Farmer's Market, we were also able to sell hundreds of native Michigan plants cultivated by our talented league volunteers. We hope to duplicate this fundraising event later this summer, once conditions are determined safe.

Finally, our work on the Livingston County Complete Count Committee allowed our representatives to have a voice on the best use of Federal grant funds in getting information out to county residents. It was an opportunity for county officials to meet and interact with our informed League volunteers, and for us to build a strong partnership with the official Census workers in our area. That partnership extended to sitting with us at the voter registration table at Cleary College, and participating in our public forum. The higher than average response rate in Livingston County is something to be very proud of. Our thanks go out to LWV-AAA member Margaret Leary for providing the valuable information that was so vital in spreading the word.

We continue to prepare for the 2020 election cycle with creating the Voter Guide, plans to host candidate forums, registering voters and spreading the word on absentee voting. Many of our League members are also committed poll workers, working hard to defend Democracy at every election.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon (and not in a Zoom meeting:).

Submitted by Ellen Lafferty,  
Director for the Brighton-Howell Unit

## *Advocacy*

The Advocacy Committee was formed this year and the job description for Advocacy Director was updated. The Committee includes: Sally Allen, Donna Crudder, Carolyn Madden, Susan Smereck, and Jackie Wolfe. Its mission is to:

- provide information to league members and to the public about our national, state and local positions and needed action;
- build public opinion to support our position;
- raise awareness of the scope of our advocacy;
- build connections and collaborate with community organizations.

The committee meets monthly to provide articles for the newsletter and the website (e.g. ERA update, the Michigan State task force on jails and pretrial incarceration), to provide website information about local, state issues and national issues and to plan topical forums. Focus was on voter suppression, gun safety, health care and criminal justice. Carolyn and Kathie Friedrichs presented at a Lunch and Learn on the role of the prosecutor in Washtenaw County. They are also scheduled to present at Brews and Views. Sally and Carolyn attended the voter suppression presentation at the Washtenaw County Learning Center facilitated by Justin Hodge, University of Michigan, Professor of Social Work. Forums on gun safety and health care will be determined at a later date, but plans are still on schedule to present a nonpartisan film/event on voter suppression in early fall.

The committee has begun to collaborate with organizations such as the Dispute Resolution Center, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and Parkridge Community.

Submitted by Carolyn Madden,  
Director for Advocacy

## *Census Project*

The 2020 Census Education Project got stopped in its tracks, but we did make pretty big tracks. We presented to, or provided Census Bureau handouts in person to, about 3,200 people. We approached about 150 different groups of all kinds and did about 140 actual presentations or in-person handout distribution.

We built potential new partnerships for future education efforts, paying special attention to the LWV commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These groups included the alumnae association of Delta Sigma Theta, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, Girls Group, Avalon, and Neighborhood Watch groups on the east side of Washtenaw County. We kept a spreadsheet of organizations and contact people which could help future DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) efforts.

Covid-19 UPDATE:

We are also distributing the "Census 101" 2-sided basic Census information, along with phone numbers to call to get a paper Census form, or answer questions, one for English and one for

Spanish to people who receive food from Food Gatherers. This brilliant idea came from Cathy Whitaker, who had first thought of providing information about voter registration, and then thought of the Census. Cathy purchased EIGHT HUNDRED of the bags Food Gatherers uses. I cleaned out the trunk of my car and found more than enough "Census 101" in English, and some of the Spanish version. Then 10 of the "Census 2020 Education" team members volunteered to staple the Handout to the outside of the bags. The distribution will be done at several different locations to spread the word around the area as much as possible.

Submitted by Margaret Leary  
Chairperson of the Census Project

## ***Centennial Planning Committee***

The Centennial Planning Committee began working in early 2019 toward a big celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and the ratification of the 19th Amendment. LWVAAA brought together an ad hoc consortium of organizations across Washtenaw County to encourage wide-spread education and celebration of this important achievement. District libraries, historical museums, women's organizations, and educational institutions joined LWV in planning activities across 2020. Thus Votes for Women 100 was born.

The Votes for Women 100 website, which housed information about the suffrage movement as well as events and exhibits, was a central source of information for the year's activities. Scheduled events included movies at the Michigan Theater, a hat-making workshop at the Dexter Historical Museum, lectures at the University of Michigan, presentations at libraries and museums, photo exhibits, and more.

The centerpiece of the LWVAAA outreach was our excellent exhibit, *Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County: When Women Won the Vote*. Curated by League members Zoe Behnke and Jeanine DeLay in 2010 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage movement, *Liberty Awakes* describes the role that the women of Michigan and specifically Washtenaw County played in achieving the right to vote. Four new boards were contributed by the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County focusing on the role of African Americans in the movement. The refurbished exhibit was on display at the Chelsea and Dexter District libraries in January and February and was scheduled to travel to South Lyon, Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor libraries later in the year.

Summer events were to include a large presence in the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades in Dexter, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti, with hopes for 100 marchers wearing white. The Ann Arbor Art Fair would be another opportunity for education and celebration.

In March, the Covid-19 pandemic brought many of the planned events to a stand-still when libraries were closed and public meetings cancelled. The consortium is working to find ways to take some of the events online and plans to make some changes to the website to allow visitors to share family voting stories. *Liberty Awakes* may be moved to the website as well.

One project unaffected by the pandemic is *We Would Not Be Denied*, a history of LWVAAA written by League member Doris Lemcke that is expected out soon.

If planning is half the fun, that was certainly true in celebration 100 Years of the League of Women Voters and the 19th Amendment. We have much to be proud of.

Submitted by Nancy Schewe,  
Chairperson of the Centennial Planning Committee

## ***Communications Team (2019-20)***

### COMMUNICATIONS TEAM 2019-2020

The communications team manages the LWV-AAA newsletter, website, email, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Signup Genius, Zoom, publicity development and placement, video recording and Google Drive. We keep members and supporters informed about League activities and tell the larger community about the League and what we do.

Team members in 2019-20 were: Jeff Bieszki, Julia Caroff, Cheryl Depner, Rachel Greenwood, Brian Greminger, Myrna Hadwick, Anne Jackson, Linda Jeffries, Lois Kramer, Al McCord, Anne McKee, Jesse Miller, Laura Noble, Charles Roth, Shelley Schanfield, Mary Seelhorst, Susan Woodard, Susan Wooley.

Notable developments this year:

- Responding to the social distancing imposed by the pandemic, we turned to Zoom to hold meetings on-line. The first public event was the April Virtual Brews & Views with special guest Barbara McQuade talking about the impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 elections. Ninety-six people attended and were able to ask questions via Zoom.
- Our partnership with WEMU Fm89.1 came to an end after almost two years of interesting interviews airing bi-weekly. When doors close, others open – we are increasing our outreach on Facebook and Twitter. Because Twitter can include audio and video, and its audience is larger than Facebook or radio, it's a powerful tool for growing and engaging our followers.
- During 2019 we completed a successful migration of our website onto the new platform hosted by the California League.
- We are starting to use Google Drive and Calendar to manage day-to-day League administrative matters.

**Not new, but thoroughly reliable, the LWVAAA digital newsletter “The Voter” is published bi-monthly.**

#### **Useful links:**

**Website** [www.lwvannarbor.org](http://www.lwvannarbor.org)

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LWVAAA/>

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/lwvaaa>

**YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXmXQDq2UGntHGjD5-Qr5fw>

Submitted by Susan Wooley,  
Director for Communications

## ***Membership Committee Report***

The Membership Committee was very active in 2019. We created a subcommittee on Diversity, with Jackie Wolf and Chris Samida as members, and they have been actively reaching out to underserved communities. In addition to “tabling” for the Diversity committee at the Juneteenth celebration, we also brought people and materials from Voter Registration, so that we could answer questions and make contacts with other groups needing help with Voter Registration. After the success of that foray, we intend to increase our tabling efforts at other local celebrations in 2020. Jackie and Chris have also been in contact with the Ginsberg Center and other groups, such as the Parkridge Community Center and the ICPJ Caucus on Racial and Economic Inequality, and have been instrumental in choosing our keynote speaker for our Annual Meeting (assuming we have one). They were also asked to take part in a review of LWV-MI materials through a Diversity/Equity/Inclusion lens, thus influencing state LWV policies on D/E/I. As if that wasn’t enough, they have been helping the LWVAAA Census project to identify opportunities to give Census talks in underrepresented communities. Based on these beginnings, we expect to have a very successful impact on Diversity in 2020. Way to go, Chris and Jackie!

Meanwhile, Barbara Billings took charge of creating a new brochure for 2020. After some initial “in house” brainstorming and layout, Barbara convinced Anne Hendrick, a member who also happens to be a professional graphic artist, to volunteer her time to design and edit (repeatedly) the final product. As of this writing, we have 1,000 brochures printed AND DELIVERED. If anyone needs to have any brochures, please contact Barbara Billings (babillings@comcast.net), and we can arrange pick up or drop off delivery. Many thanks to Barbara and Anne!

Finally, in an attempt to find and inform members who want to volunteer in our election and Centennial activities, we have scheduled Orientation meetings every month. We have been averaging 3-4 meetings a month, although the Coronavirus has forced us to cancel some of them until the lockdown is over. In the meantime, we are investigating the possibility of creating Zoom orientations, in case the lockdown goes on much longer.

We are looking forward to helping get members involved in our many upcoming activities in this election and Centennial year, and we want to thank all the members and committees that have helped us have such a busy and productive year.

Submitted by Barb Brown,  
Director for Membership

## ***Programs***

### **Winter Party**

To launch the new season of programs and events, Roxanne Chan and Dee Dishon planned a winter party at The Standard Bistro and Larder. The restaurant even created a “suffragist” cocktail. A large group of members and friends joined in celebrating the accomplishments of the 2019 League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area. In addition, there was a launch of the Centennial Year of the League of Women Voters. Nancy Schewe dressed in costume and highlighted the Exhibit of Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County. Board members and committee chairs discussed plans for this amazing year of celebration, implementation of new voting rules, and an amazingly complex election.

### **Lunch and Learn Programs**

LWV-AAA began offering informational fourth Friday lunches each month but August and December at the Cedars of Dexter Clubhouse in the spring of 2017. Over sandwiches and salads, fruit and cookies, sometimes to standing-room-only crowds, we covered topics as wide-ranging as the Frances Perkins and the New Deal to why the participation in the Census is crucial to Michigan’s future.

For a brief period this year Lunch and Learn was packed with interesting topics and knowledgeable presenters. John Chamberlain spoke about the Electoral College; Evan Pratt, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner gave us an in-depth look at the impact of his office; League member Terri Wilkerson updated us on Line 5. We also had a book discussion about *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR'S Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience* by Kirstin Downey, and League member, Margaret Leary, spoke about the importance of the Census.

Then the Coronavirus changed all our plans. We had to cancel an expanded March meeting at Weber’s with Rochelle Balkam who was going to talk about Michigan women’s contributions to equality. Doris Lemcke, a local author who is penning a brief history of the Ann Arbor League, had planned to give us a preview of the book. Both of those presentations will be rescheduled to a time when we are able to host in-person gatherings again.

We’ve moved to Zoom for the next few months so that we can continue to bring you the high quality information you’re used to; for now, you’ll just have to pack your own lunch. The May Lunch and Learn will be held on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. Our guest speaker will be Edward R. Golembiewski, Washtenaw County Director of Elections. Ed will talk about the scope of the work of his office as he (and we) prepare for the August primary, and the November general elections.

In June we’ll be discussing Chris Whipple’s book, *The Gatekeepers: How the White House Chiefs of Staff Define Every Presidency*. Join us for an inside look at what Publishers Weekly calls “a vibrant narrative of the real-world West Wing...confident and fast-paced...In

this page turner of a history, readers will discover new facets of historical events they felt they already knew.”

Watch your inbox for details on how to sign up for the Zoom Lunch and Learns, and plan to join us.

Submitted by Joan Sampieri and Dee Dishon  
Chairpersons for Lunch and Learn Programs

## **Brews & Views**

Brews & Views which began in June 2017 has continued as a monthly evening education series with the goal of engaging new people to participate in the League of Women Voters. We try to host speakers who present a wide variety of thought-provoking topics relevant to our community, democracy and current events.

### 1. Topics during the past year:

4/15/20 - Elections during a health emergency – a conversation with Barb McQuade – Zoom video call.

2/19/20 - Does social media really impact elections? Panel discussion with U of M Professors Mark Ackerman (Information Science) and Walter Mebane (Political Science) at HOMES Brewery

1/15/20 - Sorting out the isms: What is fascism, really? Socialism? Speaker Judith Kullberg, Professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University. Pointless Brewery & Theatre

12/11/19 - What the heck is “Line 5” and why do you care? with League member Terri Wilkerson at HOMES Brewery

11/20/19 - It's Time You Draw the Line! Q&A session about applying to serve on Michigan’s first independent citizens redistricting commission. Pointless Brewery & Theatre

10/16/19 - Prop 3 Implementation & Impact / What does Prop 3 mean to me? Presentation by Ed Golembiewsk, Chief Deputy Clerk/Register & Director of Elections at Washtenaw County. Pointless Brewery & Theatre

9/18/19 - Follow your (political) heart - Ranked choice voting presentation by U of M Political Science Professor Lisa Disch at Pointless Brewery & Theatre.

8/21/19 – What does the Water Resources Commissioner do? A conversation with Evan Pratt, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner at HOMES Brewery

5/17/19 – Update from Tara McManus, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, on juvenile criminal justice reform; follow up from 2018 presentation. Pointless Brewery & Theatre

3/20/19 - Implementation of the Redistricting Commission. Pointless Brewery & Theatre

2/13/19 - Dark money and its affect on our politics. Presentation by Craig Mauger, the executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network at Pointless Brewery & Theatre

1/16/19 - Lame Duck Session in Michigan, presentation by League member Jennifer Schlitt

2. Attendance – Varied greatly – from as low as 6 participants at one event to 96 participants at our first Zoom Brews & Views. It was noted that the lower participation events (~15 people) were repeats (juvenile justice reform and redistricting reform). Some topics generated standing room only crowds such as the panel on social media and the lame duck session.

3. Future – a full schedule of presentations was planned for 2020, but the COVID pandemic emergency has led to some changes. For example, the March event was supposed to have been about the citizens’ initiative process in Michigan, but that was cancelled. Instead of that topic, our next event on May 20 is Attorney Patrick Rose discussing why it’s important to save the US Postal Service.

In June we will be hosting Havard political scientist author Steven Levitsky, author of How Democracies Die.

In July we hope to have an event focused primary election issues and/or the election of local judges. In the fall, Brews & Views hopes to host speakers on big policy issues (such as healthcare, first amendment rights, environmental justice, etc), and at the end of the year have a panel discussion on how Prop 3 (and now possibly other current events such as the pandemic) impacted elections administration in November.

Submitted by Rena Basch,  
Chairperson for Brews and Views Programs



## ***Voter Services***

The Voter Services Committee and its sub-groups have spent this year organizing and preparing for the 2020 elections. Given the success of Proposition 3 to increase access to voting for all Michiganders there is much to accomplish in registering and educating voters. The committee members and each group have worked very hard to identify how to achieve our goals given the constraints of the pandemic restrictions. Each group has demonstrated hard work, creativity and commitment.

Submitted by Geoffrey Smereck  
Director for Voter Services

### **Voter Registration Working Group 2020**

#### **Voter Registration Training**

Over 100 LWVAAA members were trained to register voters at two training sessions in January 2020.

#### **WCC Voter Registration Project**

Trained LWV volunteers spent 180 hours registering 300 people at WCC. Volunteers handed out over 150 absentee ballot applications and provided important voting information to students and staff. LWVAAA plans to return to WCC in the fall of 2020 to register students and help them vote in the November election.

#### **High School Voter Registration Project**

In the spring of 2018 and 2019 we visited most of the Washtenaw County public high schools to register students. This year, we decided to register students in the fall so they would be eligible to vote in the March presidential primary. Even though many seniors were not yet 17 ½ year's old we were able to register 786 students. Our plan was to revisit the schools this spring; however, because of coronavirus, this was no longer an option. As an alternative, we made videos of our presentations that schools can send to their seniors to guide them through how to register to vote, how to vote in person and by mail. We are also asking students to share this information with friends and family to encourage others to vote and to register to vote.

Submitted by Roddy Wares

### **Vote411.org Report**

In 2019 both Brighton/Howell and Tecumseh separated out of the Ann Arbor Area Vote411.org account into their own accounts.

Vote411 launched a new updated website, with fresh logos and portals that include improved and additional resources for voters. Voters when they visit Vote411 can now:

- See what's on their ballot
- See candidate and ballot information
- Check voter registration

- Find a polling place
- Discover upcoming debates
- Register to vote
- Registration deadlines
- First time voter checklist

While the election season for 2019 was limited, our local Vote411 team was able to contact every candidate personally and encourage them to upload candidate information. A majority of candidates participated in Vote411 last year.

Here are some statistics from 2019:

- Saline and Chelsea doubled their voter use of Vote411.
- Ann Arbor had the highest user rate of any community in the state for 2019.
- Across the country 1.2 million sessions were recorded on Vote411, which is a 264% increase from 2015 (the next most comparable election year to 2019)

While these are all very impressive, the local League acknowledges there are gaps in terms of voter use of Vote411. Our work continues with educating the public about candidates and voting. The 2019 election year was very small, with some communities having no elections at all. LWVAAA promotions included social media, bookmark distribution, and Facebook. We recognize that 2020 is a major election year, and are planning best how to get the word out given our current social distancing.

Our current plans include, but are not limited to:

- Bookmarks, posters
- Car clings
- Lawn signs
- Digital Ads in local online publications
- Partnership with MLive
- News articles, letters to editors

Our goals for 2020 are to increase voter traffic to Vote411, communicate with candidates to achieve 100% participation in the Vote411 online voter guide, and educate voters about candidates and issues through Vote411.

Submitted by Lynne Kochmanski

### ***Special Events Voter Registration2019-2020***

The first event for the Group during 2019 was on 9/24/2019 with National Voter Registration Day, the last public event was on March 10<sup>th</sup> on Harriet Tubman Day. At this point all planned special events were cancelled due to restrictions enacted due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Special Events Group and Volunteers participated in at least eight events during 2019/2020. Activities included Voter Registration, Absent Voter Ballot Application distribution, and Voter Education on New Rights for Michigan Voters. A Power-Point presentation on New Rights for Michigan Voters was given at a Circles Meeting for the Organization Friends in Deed.

Registration forms, Absent Ballot Applications and information sheets were offered in English and Spanish

Submitted by Trudy Hughes and Jeff Bieszki

## **Your Elected Officials Brochure**

These brochures have been requested at some events. Committee members have learned that the LWVAAA distributed all 5,000 that were available in 2018. After this election, the brochures will be updated and a plan for distribution will be implemented. The committee will also develop a plan to have brochures available digitally and in printed form throughout 2020-2022.

Submitted by Sue Smereck

## **Voter Guides**

The Voter Services Committee has been in touch with the LWVMI Voter Services with the plan to order 15,000 Voter Guides to area libraries, senior housing locations, senior centers, campus gathering places and other venues trying to focus on underserved areas. Volunteers will also deliver Vote411.org bookmarks. At this point, LWVAAA will not have to pay printing costs for Voter Guides.

Submitted by Sue Smereck

## **Candidate Forums**

This year the Candidate Forums will be conducted by Zoom. Susan Wooley, the Communications Team Director, is assembling a team of 6-8 people who will lead and be the hosts for all Zoom meetings and Candidate Forums. The August primary election will involve 17 forums. A schedule is being created for dates and moderators. The person who introduces the forum will be the time keeper. Much help is still being sought to develop questions for each of the local, state and national forums. The primary experience will help with preparation for the General Election.

Submitted by Donna Crudder

## **Voter Registration for Underserved Populations**

The Outreach to Underserved Voters team strives to increase voter participation by reaching out to community centers, social service agencies and affordable housing complexes to empower clients with information on voting logistics as well as the current issues and campaigns on the ballot. To build relationships with individual voters, we were planning to create teams of volunteers to stage voter registration drives at the same venues repeatedly during regularly held food pantry days. The pandemic disrupted this plan as it has everything else, but, everyone needs food. We are experimenting with purchasing the same grocery bags that our major food bank

(Food Gatherers) uses, attaching messages supporting League issues to the bags, and donating them for use at these food distributions. Our initial effort, focused on the Census, has been encouraging. Crucial to this project is a receptive staff person or volunteer at each agency, and we would love to hear from you, if you have such contacts, or have other ideas for our outreach efforts.

Submitted by Cathy Whitaker

### **Clerk Engagement Project, LWV-MI**

The Voter Services Committee has recently agreed to participate in the “Clerk Engagement Project”, spearheaded by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Michigan LWV, and other local community-based organizations. We hope to work with the clerk in Ypsilanti Township (and other Washtenaw municipalities), to help address issues which the ACLU identified, such as having low voter turnout, having a high proportion of minority and very low resourced citizens, and possibly needing tightening in the processing of Absentee Ballots. Our work will be along two dimensions: (a) to survey the Township Clerk’s Office needs in order to understand the issues they face as they try to improve voter registration and absentee ballot applications and processing, and (b) to present to the LWV-AAA Board our Committee’s recommendations as required by the Community Agreement, as requested by LWV-MI. The ACLU and other partners have produced recommendations for helping with problems our communities face – insufficient staffing that may be overwhelmed by all the recent changes to the voting law of Michigan, tight budgets, and a surge in absentee voter registration and voting.

Submitted by Geoffrey Smereck

## **“WE WOULD NOT BE DENIED” – Centennial History of the Ann Arbor League of Women’s Voters.**

**Doris Lemke**

As a retired Human Resources executive, commercially published author of four Historical Fiction novels, and a new member, I was pleased to accept Nancy Schewe’s request to write a brief history of the activities and accomplishments of the LWVAAA in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

### **Overview**

“We Would Not Be Denied”, is a 50-80 page book intended as an informational tool to provide new, current, and prospective league members, as well as the community, with a brief summary of the LWVAAA’s origin and its affiliation with the National and State leagues in supporting America’s commitment to “Life, Liberty and Justice for all.”

### **Structure**

Beginning with a forward honoring lifetime member, Sunny Morse (1948 – 2019), it is organized chronologically by twenty-year periods, beginning with an overview of challenges faced and surmounted by the early suffragists on National, State and Local levels. While including the activities of the National and State organizations, the book highlights those issues in which the LWVAAA played a role, including but not limited to groundbreaking work on: zoning, conservation, voter registration and training, health and human services, municipal expansion and fiscal responsibility, and the Michigan Constitutional Convention.

Interviews with current and/or past LWVAAA members provide personal insights on the benefits of membership, projects and issues addressed by the league, as well as ongoing programs. With member permission, photos of activities and featured members may be included as appropriate and affordable.

### **Sample Resources:**

1. “Portrait of a league” furnished by Naomi Gottlieb, President of the league in 1974. providing background information for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
2. Background information from Diane Rockall’s history of the State League.
3. Internet search of AA/State/National League websites.
4. Michigan History Magazine.
5. Interviews with long-standing key members of the LWVAAA league.
6. Bentley Historical library archives.
7. Ann Arbor News archives.
8. Internet and article search on key activities and organizations during the various time periods.

## *Slate of Nominees for Officers and Directors 2020-21*

2020-21 Slate of Candidates for:

LWV-AAA Officers, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

### Officers:

President:	Joan Sampieri	2019-2021
Vice President:	Lynne Kochmanski	2020-2022
Secretary:	Sue Smereck	2019-2021
Treasurer:	Betty Bishop	2020-2022

### Directors:

Advocacy:	Carolyn Madden	2020-2022
Communications:	Susan Wooley	2019-2021
Membership:	Barb Brown	2020-2022
Programs:	Donna Crudder	2020-2022
Voter Services:	Geoffrey Smereck	2019-2021
Ellen Lafferty:	Brighton/Howell Unit	

### Nominating committee:

Dee Dishon (Chair)  
Margaret Leary

### Submitted by 2019-2020 Nominating Committee

Dee Dishon (Chair)  
Paige Silence  
Sue Smereck, Board liaison

# LWV-AAA

## 2020-2021 Officers and Directors Biographies

Submitted by Nominating Committee:  
Dee Dishon, Chair; Paige Silence; Susan Smereck, Board Liaison

### **President – Joan Sampieri**

I joined the LWVAAA in 2016, and was appointed to the board in 2017. I've had the honor of serving as president since last year.

With League member Dee Dishon, I have run the Lunch and Learn series since the spring of 2017, and have presented to the group on topics such as the history of voting rights in the U.S. and the world, and the background of the Equal Rights Amendment.

I retired in December 2019 from a business I owned that worked with not-for-profits and have taught college-level classes in board development, grant writing, nonprofit finance, and fundraising. I've served on nonprofit boards since 1976 and am currently the Treasurer for a North American Quaker organization, Friends General Conference.

I am the mother of four grown children and share a home in Bridgewater Township with my youngest daughter, Jennifer Fairfield, who is also a League member. I am an avid genealogist, a writer, and a voracious reader.

### **Vice President - Lynne Kochmanski**

I am originally a west Michigan gal, born and raised in Grand Rapids (and, yes, I am Dutch). I came to Ann Arbor to attend UM in the 70s. I taught in Milan for 36 years in 5th and 6th grades, retiring from the classroom in 2015. We live in Saline, where we raised our two sons. As a young woman at UM, I was involved with political action on campus and have remained involved politically throughout my teaching career, both as a union rep and also contract negotiator for Milan Education Association. I joined the league in 2017 and immediately found a niche registering high school students to vote. I worked on outreach to out-county area high schools and connected our voter services group with teachers who are now key partners for our voter registration work. In addition, I currently chair our Vote411 committee, work with LWVAAA orientation outreach, serve on the budget committee, and assist at candidate forums. I was appointed to the Board in 2020 and feel as though I am home with LWVAAA. I look forward to pouring my energies into all our great work. Some of my favorite past-times include spending time with our sons and their wives, traveling, hiking, biking, reading knitting and Jazzercise, plus relaxing on the shore of Lake Michigan in summer. I also collect Nancy Drew books, am a Jane Austen fanatic, and am an amateur mixologist.

### **Director of Program – Donna Crudder**

Donna Hanley Crudder came of 'age' in the 60's and 70's, attending schools in Chicago and Detroit, culminating in a BA from the University of Michigan. She raised 2 strapping boys, volunteering for every event, club and non-profit she could get her arms around. She began her real work life in her early 40's and worked on education (EMU and WCC), the non-profit world, business (Ford Motor Company), and government. She was lucky to have travelled extensively throughout the world (Japan, Europe, India, etc.) in her business life, all in the name of Organizational Development.

The League, Retirement and the 2016 Election all converged to give her a new lease on life as she faced retirement. And the rest is history!

**Secretary – Sue Smereck**

I was a member of the LWV as a young woman in Toledo, Ohio in the 1970's; yet I lost touch due to marriage, family and work. I re-joined LWVAAA in 2015. I have learned so much through my involvement with many activities, including chairing the group delivering the printed Voter Guides in 2016 and 2018, moderating and timing at the Candidate Forums (often with my husband Geoff), collecting signatures for Proposal 3 for the 2018 election, delivering some of the high school Get Out the Vote winning posters to local businesses and registering voters. Since 2017 I have served on the Board as Secretary. I have thoroughly enjoyed working so many people committed to our democracy in a non-partisan way.

**Treasurer – Betty Bishop**

Betty Bishop has been a member of the LWVAAA since 1991 and Treasurer since 2017. She is a retired clinical psychologist and enjoys traveling, gardening, and bird watching. Her mother was active in the local League from about 1952 until 1979.

**Director of Voter Service – Geoff Smereck**

I've been honored to have been a member of the League since 2015. I co-moderated several LWV televised forums, in 2016 and in 2018, with my wife and LWV member Susan Smereck. I've assisted with the Voters Guides, served as support in several community programs, and participated in several voter registration events in the community. Also, perhaps relevant: I was co-founder and president of a nursing company in 3 states for 12 years, having more than 250 women employees. I learned much -- especially how to listen -- and feel that I can work well with this wonderful group of heroes for our Democracy.

**Director of Advocacy – Carolyn Madden**

A League member for over 20 years, Carolyn previously served on the LWVAAA Board as VP of Membership, then served on the State Advocacy Committee for three years. She is pleased to be nominated for a third term as Director of Advocacy on the LWVAAA Board. She is a retired faculty member of the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan.

**Director of Membership – Barb Brown**

A member since 2017, I'm passionate about getting all our new members as excited about the League as I have become. In 2018, I helped with recruiting our new members into the various election-year projects. This year, we are developing a Member Engagement and Diversity Committee to make the Ann Arbor League even more efficient during the election year of 2020. I lived in Boston for 30 years, during which I had my own high-end Cabinet and Furniture-making business. After moving here, I did woodworking as a sideline while I worked elsewhere, but now that I am semi-retired, I am planning to expand my woodworking again, into areas I didn't have time for when I was running my business.

**Director of Communications – Susan Wooley**

A League member since retiring 14 years ago, Susan's career included biological research, family leave, then CPA, bank loan officer, and finally office manager for the Huron River Watershed Council. She has participated in moving LWVAAA into the modern age of websites and Facebook pages, but freely admits that she's no expert. She enjoys learning new things



which is easy to do if you live in Ann Arbor and participate in League activities. Her husband Jon is also a member of LWVAAA.

**Director of the Brighton-Howell Unit – Ellen Lafferty**

Chairperson of the re-activated (January 2018) LWV of Brighton/Howell Area/Livingston County. I am a retired special education teacher, formerly a para-educator, and have worked my entire career in Brighton Area Schools. During that time, I was actively involved in the Brighton Education Association, culminating in a four-year term as the BEA President.

**2021 Nominating Committee –**

**Dee Dishon**

I joined LWV in the spring of 2017 after deciding where to put my time and energy to improve voting conditions after the 2016 elections. My first league event was Lunch & Learn, where I learned about gerrymandering in Michigan. I was so impressed by the quality of the presentation and the women at my table at lunch, that I decided then and there to join this dynamic group of people. I am currently cochair of Lunch & Learn with Joan Sampieri and chair of the Nominating Committee. I am a retired teacher, educational consultant, and am now a contented resident of Touchstone cohousing in Ann Arbor.

**Margaret Leary**

Margaret Leary, retired as director of the U of M's Law Library, joined the LWV in 2012 and LWVAAA in 2017. She led our Education efforts on Ballot Issues in 2018 and on the 2020 Census in 2019-20. Educated as a librarian, lawyer, and historian, she has served as a Trustee of the Ann Arbor District Library, the City Planning Commission, and various state and national organizations of lawyers and librarians. A part-time writer--a biography of Law School donor William W. Cook, and occasional pieces for the *Ann Arbor Observer*--Margaret has lived in Ann Arbor since 1973.