



***League of Women Voters Oakland Area, Michigan
February 2025 Newsletter***

As we survive cold, snow, and ice, there are lots of events and working groups happening.

LWVOA presents:

Structural Racism in Metro Detroit

Prof. Peter Hammer, Wayne State University,
Professor of Law
Director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights
and A. Alfred Taubman Endowed Chair



Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Time: 1:00p

Location: Bloomfield Township Public Library

Prof. Hammer has taught at Wayne Law since 2003 and is the director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights which is dedicated to promoting the educational, economic, and political empowerment of under-represented communities in urban areas.

The structural racism presentation will focus on the totality of ways in which societies foster racial discrimination by reinforcing systems of housing, education, employment earnings, benefits, credit, media, health care, and criminal justice.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

(1) Community Engagement Committee (CEC) work group: Tuesday, February 4th at 4p via Zoom

CEC plans activities and functions for all members and the community to participate in. CEC is always open to ideas and welcomes all members to help plan and facilitate programs.

Contact Geri Rinschler at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(2) LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study Info Session: Tuesday, February 4th at 7p via Zoom

The LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study Committee has been hard at work preparing materials for League members to consider as we move toward consensus meetings on the federal judiciary.

To ensure League members are as prepared as possible, we have arranged a Town Hall meeting with leading experts, including Alicia Bannon of the Brennan Center, Thomas Berry of the CATO Institute, and Errin Martin of NVG LLC.

The Town Hall will allow League members to learn more about the Federal Judiciary and pose questions to the speakers.

WHAT: Town Hall on the Federal Judiciary

WHEN: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
at 7 pm ET

WHERE: **Online via Microsoft Teams**

Please note that this is a direct link to the event that will be hosted on Microsoft Teams. You may want to create a calendar invitation with this link for future use. If you are unfamiliar with Microsoft Teams, **instructions on how to join the meeting** are also available.

At LWVUS Convention 2024, delegates voted to proceed with a study to develop a position on the federal judiciary as an essential component of US democracy. The study's purpose includes addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. For additional information about the study, including the study guide, policy papers, timeline, League discussion group, and scope, please visit the **League Management Site**. Please direct questions about the study to **progplan@lww.org**.



(3) Program Planning and Review of Positions follow-up meeting: Saturday, February 8th at 2p at BTPL

At the PP/RP meeting on 1/25/25, two requests for concurrence of new positions were presented - Medical Aid in Dying and Ranked Choice Voting/Nonpartisan Primaries.

By voting to adopt these positions, LWV members will be allowed to educate and advocate for these issues with their government representatives. After review of these proposals please indicate your support or opposition for the positions by email or attending the in-person meeting on 2/8/25.

Contact Maria Woloson at **LWVOAMi@gmail.com** for more info.

Click **here** to review the Medical Aid in Dying document.

(4) LWVOA Marketing/Communication working group: Wednesday, February 19th at 1p at BTPL

Utilizing social media as well as conventional communications, this group works to publicize and promote LWV events and programs.

Contact Leslie Fleming at MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com for more info.

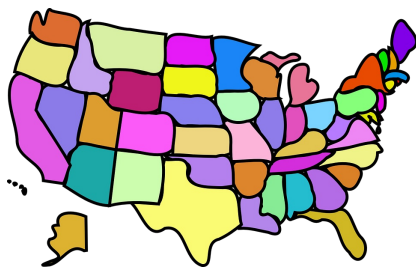
(5) LWVOA with AAUW Observer Corps: Wednesday, February 19th at 3p at BTPL



With the present political climate in the state and nation, LWVMI considers the Observer Corps a priority for local leagues. The LWV's mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. The Observer Corps is a key initial element of this mission.

Presently, Observer Corps members focus on monitoring local school board meetings. A brief post-meeting online form is requested after each observation. All LWVOA members are welcome to observe any of the 27 Oakland County local school board meetings.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(6) LWVUS Eliminate the Electoral College working group: Friday, February 21st at 1p via Zoom

Monthly presentations provide information as to the necessity of abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment which is now one of the League's top priorities. Speakers

have provided in-depth analysis of current issues with the Electoral College and the history of facilitating change.

This month's focus will be on the process of amending the US Constitution and the 27 times that it has been accomplished. Past presentations may also be viewed.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(7) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, February 24th at 5p via Zoom

LWVOA's board manages and facilitates the business and activities of our local league. Monthly meeting minutes are posted on our website. All members are welcome to attend.

Contact Maria Woloson at LWVOAMi@gmail.com



(8) LWWUS new payment system begins February 2025

Please see the LWVOA website [here](#) for more in-depth information.



Save the Date:

***Women's History Month Speaker
Ann Doyle, pioneer of
women's rights.***

Date: Wednesday, March 26th

Time: 1p

**Location: Bloomfield Township Public
Library**



Highlights of January 2025 programs:

Cassandra Ulbrich, Chancellor for Institutional Advancement at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and LWVOA member, presented on 1/15/25 about Michigan's public and charter schools. The presentation was informative and insightful. Many professional educational personnel attended and provided additional information on this important topic.



To view the January program, please click [here](#).



Program Planning & Position Review Brunch on 1/25/25 at the home of Christine & Mike Allen was enjoyed by all with a special recognition of Judy Bateman for her many years of facilitating Candidate Forums. Her efforts helped create a system that facilitates more local communities learning about their elected officials and issues in their districts.



"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Maria Woloson
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