



Happy New Year 2025! Another year with lots going on.

Hope you may join any or ALL of the activities and working groups occurring in January. LWVOA is pleased to begin this year's in-person monthly events as follows.

Casandra Ulbrich

***Chancellor for Institutional
Advancement at the University of
Michigan-Dearborn***



Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Time: 1pm

**Location: Bloomfield Township Public
Library, 1099 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Twp.**

Casandra Ulbrich is the immediate Past President of the State Board of Education, elected to serve for 16 years, the last 6 as President.

Outspoken public education leader, advocate, and activist.
Promoter of high standards and positive outcomes for all.

Event is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to Geri Rinchler at LWVOAMI@gmail.com.



***(1) LWVOA Rank Choice Voting presentation:
Thursday, January 2nd at 7p via Zoom***

LWVOA member, Christopher Wiggins, will provide a concise overview of the Rank Choice Voting method that is being proposed here in Michigan.

Working with RankMiVote, LWVOA is facilitating presentations to local LWV groups so it may become a position of LWVMI at the State Convention 2025. With LWVMI support, it will become a statewide ballot initiative to the Michigan Constitution in 2026.

Contact Chris Wiggins at LWVOAMI@gmail.com for info and the Zoom link for the presentation.

(2) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday, January 8th at 4p via Zoom

LWVOA members plan events and activities with a focus on LWV mission goals.

Contact Geri Rinchler at LWVOAMI@gmail.com for more info.



(3) LWVUS Eliminate the Electoral College working group: Friday, January 17th 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.

There was a lot of speculation that the 2024 election may have resulted in an electoral count tie, requiring a contingent election in the U.S. Congress. **Daniel Feller**, University of Tennessee, Distinguished Professor of Humanities *Emeritus* and Editor/Director *Emeritus* of *The Papers of Andrew Jackson*, will discuss the Presidential election of 1824. This promises to be an eye-opening talk and fun, too! Our country has been through a lot of tumultuous times, lest we forget!

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



(4) LWVOA Marketing/Communication working group: Thursday, January 23rd at 12:30p at Honey Tree Restaurant

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 Program Planning/Position Review & Brunch: Saturday, January 25th from 10-12noon at home of Christine & Mike Allen

ALL members are encouraged to help review LWVMI and LWVOA positions to determine whether they need updates or revisions. Prior to the meeting, visit the LWVMI website for link to a PowerPoint that describes the process.

Please bring a food and/or drink brunch item to



share.

RSVP your attendance to Christine Allen at LWVOAMi@gmail.com and additional info will be provided.

(6) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, January 27th at 5p via Zoom
NOTE: Time change to FIVE (5) pm

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 for more info.



(7) LWVOA Book Club: Thursday, January 30th at 7p at BTPL

This month's book selection, *The Secret Life of Groceries* by Ben Lorr, is fascinating and disturbing. What does it take to run the American supermarket? How do products get to shelves? Who sets the price? And who suffers the consequences of increased convenience and efficiency? In this alarming exposé, author Benjamin Lorr pulls back the curtain on this highly secretive industry.

Contact Tera Moon at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

(8) LWVOA ChapterSpot/Membership Dues working group:

In February 2025, LWV is instituting a new method of collecting membership dues. When you join the League, you are a member of all three levels: national, state, and local. Our membership dues have always supported all three levels.

Currently, dues are collected at the local level. You pay your dues to the LWVOA and the treasurer pays a portion of those dues to the LWV of Michigan and the LWVUS. Under the new system, members will pay their dues through a portal on the internet and those dues will immediately be split to all three levels of the League.

This change in the method of membership dues payment should have many positive results. For members, the payment should be easier. For the LWVOA, our treasurer and membership director will be relieved of many of the bookkeeping chores. For the League as a whole, this new method is expected to increase membership at all levels, thus increasing our ability to empower voters and defend democracy.

NO IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

If you are uncertain about your current membership status, please email Carla Barrow-Wiggins at LWVOAmembership@gmail.com. You will be receiving further details by email as they become available.

Contact Deborah Ross at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.



(9) LWV Name Badges available for purchase.

Members may order an LWV name badge from Midwest Graphics, at midwestgraphicsawards.com or call them at 734-424-3700. Orders are also being taken by LWVOA's Deborah Ross.

Payment options include PayPal or check for \$10.50. For PayPal, visit our website; click the donate button; enter the amount of \$10.50; and write 'nametag' in the special instruction section.

For payment by check: make checks payable to LWVOA and mail to our office at PO Box 930038, Wixom, MI 48393 with the name to appear on the badge.

Order will be placed on January 2, 2025.

Contact Deborah Ross at LWVOAMi@gmail.com for more info.

Save the Date:

Wednesday, February 26th at 1p at BTPL

***Prof. Peter Hammer, WSU Law Faculty
Presentation: Structural Racism in the
Detroit Metro Region***

Watch for details to follow.



December Event Highlight:

***LWVOA's 2024 Year End Member
Appreciation Celebration was enjoyed by all.***

The event included a buffet of chocolates and desserts, beverages, and featured ***French-culinary-trained presenter and LWVOA member, Geri Rinschler***, who provided insights on chocolate cuisine.



The best chocolate was determined using Rank Choice Voting.

Attendees most enjoyed the companionship of fellow LWVOA members and

friends.

"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

President, League of Women Voters, Oakland Area, Michigan



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