



***League of Women Voters - Oakland Area, Michigan -  
July 2023 Newsletter and Events***

There are always things happening with LWVOA, LWVMI, and LWVUS. See below for working group meetings and activities.

***(1) LWVOA's office is on the move:***

LWVOA is moving to a virtual office by July 31, 2023.

Members are welcome to furniture and supplies that are no longer needed including file cabinets, stationery, books, etc. The LWVOA phone number will remain the same - (248) 594-6602.

***Our new mailing address is:***

***LWVOA  
48660 Pontiac Trail  
PO Box 930038  
Wixom, MI 48393***

Contact Maria Woloson at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

***(2) LWVMI Statewide Firearm Safety Network Group: Thursday, July 11th at 7p via Zoom***

This group's focus is with info on Michigan laws that provide background checks, safe storage laws, and extreme risk protection orders (ERPO or red flag laws). Presenters have included Michigan Senator Rosemary Bayer, Moms Demand Action, and other activist groups. LWVMI will prepare educational materials regarding these laws and their enforcement for distribution.

Contact [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.



***(3) LWVOA Candidate Forums :***

***\*Southfield, July 13th, 7p at Southfield Civic Center***

***\*City of Rochester, September 27th, 7pm at Public Library***

Volunteers are needed to help with these forums. Busy on 7/13 or 9/27 and unable to help then? There are plenty more in store. Planning,

organizing, and facilitating candidate forums is vital to promoting participation in local elections. Volunteers are needed in our county with over 60 municipalities and 27 school districts.

Contact Judy Bateman at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

***(4) LWVMI - Money In Politics Network: Thursday, July 13th at 7p via Zoom***

This statewide group informs and encourages awareness of the finances and dark money involved in politics. Monthly speakers provide insight into the secret money in politics. See the website for a copy of prior presentations. Contact Robbi Duda at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

**(5) LWVMI Environmental Network group:  
Thursday, July 20th at 11a via Zoom**

Information about rain gardens, septic fields, PFAS contamination, and legislation are a few issues discussed by this knowledgeable and dedicated group. This monthly meeting features professionals in the field dealing with climate change, etc. Prior presentations are available for review.

Contact Sandy Sorini-Elser at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.



**(6) Abolish the US Electoral College focus group with LWVUS and local Leagues nationwide: Friday, July 21st at 1p (Michigan time) via Zoom**

This focus group is led by LWV-Illinois with monthly presentations by knowledgeable speakers regarding the history and present-day issues for electing the US President and Vice President.

As set forth by LWVUS at its 2022 National Convention, abolishing the Electoral College by US Constitutional Amendment has been elevated to one of the League's top priorities.

Prior presentations are available for review.

Contact Maria Woloson at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

**(7) LWVOA Marketing/Communications working group:**

Communication is vital to informing members and the public about important topics in today's world. This group facilitates social media to increase awareness and participation in LWVOA activities. Next in-person meeting TBD. Two forms have been created that describe the process and notify this group of upcoming events to publicize. See the thumbnails below for links to printable forms.

Contact Leslie Fleming at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

**(8) LWVOA Advocacy Committee and Observer Corps:**

Reports from the LWVOA Observer Corps, attending more than 8 local school district board meetings, are informative and insightful. All members are welcome to assist after a brief online information session. Next Zoom/in-person meeting TBD.

Contact Deborah Macon and/or Deborah Ross at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more info.

**(9) LWVOA Board Meeting: Monday, July 24th at 7p via Zoom**

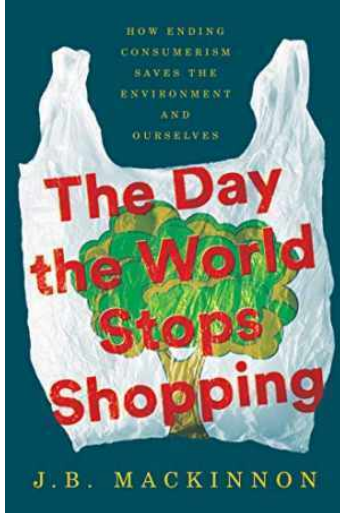
Monthly LWVOA meetings discussing business, programs, and events.

All members are welcome and may participate.

Contact Maria Woloson at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com)

**(10) LWVOA Book Club: Thursday, July 27th at 7p  
at Bloomfield Township Public Library**

All are welcome to join the discussion. Zoom is



available by request. Please email Tera by 7/26 to request Zoom: [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com)

***The Day The World Stops Shopping: how ending consumerism saves the environment and ourselves (2021) by J B Mackinnon***

Journalist MacKinnon delivers an intriguing report on the “consumer dilemma”: in order to prevent ecological disaster, humans must significantly reduce their consumption of the planet’s natural resources, yet doing so would be disastrous for the world economy as it’s currently structured.

***(11) LWVOA Annual Outdoor Event: August 23rd, 6-8pm at Beverly Park, 18801 Beverly Road; Beverly Hills, MI 48025***

Mark your calendars so you may enjoy this gathering with friends and family of LWVOA.

Speakers will provide updates on various topics focusing on Michigan's environmental issues.

More details will follow.

***(12) LWVOA interviews with US Congressional and Michigan Legislature Representatives***

Here is your chance to meet with your representatives in both US and MI.

Details will be sent about how to take advantage of this opportunity.

Contact Gloria Sirosky at [LWVOAMi@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOAMi@gmail.com) for more information.



**Welcome new member. We're glad you're here!**  
**Carolyn Lowe**



***Reminder for Membership Renewal – online payment or printable forms can be accessed via [LWVOA.org](http://LWVOA.org).***

***LWVOA Annual Meeting/Luncheon on 6/3/23:***

After completing our yearly business meeting, a wonderful luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Prof. David Dulio, OU Political Science Distinguished Professor, gave an interesting and engaging presentation regarding the 2022 and 2024 elections.

LWVOA 50+ year member honorees included: Virginia Abbott, Mary Ann Barkach, Karen DeGrendel, and Jerry Burden, Michigan's FIRST 50-year MALE member.

Hopefully, many more of us may join this illustrious group.



*Maria Woloson, LWVOA Co-president, and event MC.*

## **Highlights from the 2023 LWVOA Annual Meeting**



*Jerry Burden accepted the honor of being Michigan's first 50+ year, male member. Other 50+ year honorees at the event included Virginia Abbott, Mary Ann Barkach, and Karen DeGrendel.*



*Geri Rinschler introduced the keynote speaker, Professor David Dulio.*



*Oakland University Professor, David Dulio, led an informative discussion on Election Challenges for 2024.*



***Farewell and best wishes to Mary Howarth, a 50+ year member, as she relocates to her children on the East Coast.  
Your many years of service for LWV including President, State Board member, and Treasurer are greatly appreciated and will be missed.***

***Printable, click-on publicity forms:***

## Proposed Event Communications Checklist

1. Upon finalization of event, complete an event publicity form\*, send to Marcom Committee at [LWVOA.Marcom@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOA.Marcom@gmail.com) no later than two weeks prior to event.
2. These steps will always be taken to assure the event is:
  - ☐ posted on LWVOA website calendar.
  - ☐ posted on Facebook page as post and on FB Events Calendar (also discuss posting on LinkedIn, Instagram or other social media sites)\*\*
  - ☐ included in LWVOA newsletter.
  - ☐ optional steps, depending on event or as requested or agreed upon by Community Engagement or Marcom Committee:
    - ☐ flyer or fact sheet produced.
    - ☐ post on community calendars, media calendars and event pages
    - ☐ press release prepared/distributed.
    - ☐ special email blast
    - ☐ direct mail
    - ☐ cross promotion with other LWV chapters
    - ☐ signage and/or banners created.
    - ☐ phone tree and/or text tree
    - ☐ Other

\*Suggest using "Event Notification Form"

\*\*Suggest revisiting use of Twitter



For help promoting your event, complete and email to:  
[LWVOA.Marcom@gmail.com](mailto:LWVOA.Marcom@gmail.com) two weeks or more before date of event. Thank you!

Event Name	
Event Date/Time	
Event Location (address, room & if online, include link)	
Contact Person Email/phone	
Event Description Include: - speaker (attach or send bio, photo, graphics, or other info if available) - subject - cost (or is it free?) - contact for more information	
Target Audience	e.g. LWVOA members as well as general public, or, LWVOA members only
Registration or RSVP details	Include RSVP or registration telephone number and/or weblink (e.g. Eventbrite or other web-based link)



***"Everyone is important and may make a contribution to society."***

Sometimes called "the first Indian woman botanist," Janaki Ammal (1897-1984) made substantial contributions to the study of plant chromosomes and botanical geography. After graduating with honors in Botany in her native India, **Ammal traveled to Michigan to continue her studies.** She went on to become the first woman ever to obtain a Ph.D. in botany in the US. These accomplishments were all the more remarkable at a time when literacy rates among Indian women were less than one percent, and fewer than 1,000 women in total were enrolled in education above the age of 16.

***James Treharne and Maria Woloson  
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters, Oakland Area,  
Michigan***

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