



***League of Women Voters - Oakland Area, Michigan  
March 2024 Newsletter and Events***

With spring approaching, we may start to enjoy warmer weather and get outdoors more. So hopefully lots of members, friends, and colleagues will be at our events and meetings.

Here are this month's events to participate in via Zoom or in person.



***(1) LWVOA celebrates Women's History Month with a presentation by Rochelle Riley on March 20, 2024, at 1p at Bloomfield Township Public Library.***

Rochelle Riley is the Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit. She formerly was a nationally syndicated columnist for the Detroit Free Press in Detroit, Michigan, and recipient of numerous literary awards.

Ms. Riley has been a tremendous advocate for improved race relations, literacy, community building, and children.

Her presentation is certain to be enlightening, informative, and engaging.

The program is open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided

***(2) LWVOA Make Democracy Work/Town Hall Presentations on the 2022 new voting rights in the Michigan Constitution***

Members are requested to make presentations to local groups about Michigan's new voting rights by May 30, 2024.

Informational training sessions via Zoom by LWVMI for presenters are encouraged. A

PowerPoint presentation and brochures are available for distribution.

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



***(3) LWVOA with AAUW Observer Corps meeting: Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7p via Zoom***

LWVOA member, Karen Kudla, has prepared forms and directions for observers of Oakland County School Board meetings.

With nationwide frequent disturbances, local school boards have become targets of aggressive minority viewpoint groups. Through observation and reporting, it is hoped to stem the tide of extremism at the school level.

All LWVOA members are welcome to observe any of the 27 Oakland County local school board meetings.

A brief report form is available online for filing after meetings are attended.

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



**(4) LWVOA Community Engagement Committee (CEC): Wednesday, March 6th at 4p via Zoom**

This group plans and implements events and activities that members and the public may participate in. Ideas and connections for future presentations are always welcome.

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



**(5) LWVUS "HC4US" a/k/a "Healthcare for the United States" focus group: Sunday, March 10th at 1:30p via Zoom (Michigan group) AND Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 8p (nationwide group)**

LWV members from various states provide information on the present state of our healthcare systems. Monthly speakers have included professionals working to facilitate governmental initiatives for an equitable health system for ALL.

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

**(6) LWVMI Statewide Firearm Safety Network Group: Tuesday, March 12th at 7p via Zoom**

This group's focus includes Michigan laws that provide background checks, safe storage laws, and extreme risk protection orders (ERPO or red flag laws). Prior presentations by professional gun safety experts are available online.

Contact [firearmsafety@lwwashtenaw.org](mailto:firearmsafety@lwwashtenaw.org) for more info.

**(7) LWVUS Abolish the US Electoral College focus group: Friday, March 15th at 1p via Zoom**

This group, directed by LWV-Illinois, has monthly presentations by knowledgeable speakers regarding the history and present-day issues for electing the US President and Vice President. Previous presentations are recorded and available for viewing.

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.

A PowerPoint presentation and handouts are available for members to provide to the public and raise awareness of issues. Information and training sessions for presenters are encouraged.

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



**(8) LWVMI Environmental Network: Thursday, March 21, 2024 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 [advocacy@lwvwashtenaw.com](mailto:advocacy@lwvwashtenaw.com) for more info.

***(9) LWVOA Marketing/Communications Working Group: Thursday, March 21st at 1p at the Honey Tree Grill in Birmingham***

This group facilitates social media to increase awareness and participation in LWVOA activities. See the website below for forms to notify this group of upcoming events to publicize.

Contact Leslie Fleming

at [MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com](mailto:MarCom.LWVOA@gmail.com) for more info.



***(10) LWVMI Advocacy Group: Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7p via Zoom***

The LWVMI Advocacy Group's statewide quarterly meeting will report on important legislation currently pending and actions LWVMI has taken to support or oppose such legislation.

Topics will include reports on the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission, criminal justice reforms, environmental/climate change issues, etc.

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



***(11) LWVOA Book Club - Read Banned Books: Wednesday, March 27th at 7p at BTPL***

As the movement continues to censor literature, this month's selection is a banned book of your choosing. While reading, ask yourself, "Why is this book banned?"

The following are resources for banned books:

**Classic literature and fiction that has been challenged**

**Top 10 challenged books decade by decade**

**Most banned books of the 2022-2023 school year**

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

***LWVOA's February highlight event:***

Our in-person event on ***February 22, 2024, featured Anne Mervenne of Keep Our Republic.***

Founded in 2020, KOR is a bipartisan, nationwide group of past and present elected officials as well as citizens formed to combat the destructive elements perverting our politics.

The program included examples of Artificial Intelligence methods used to create false and damaging graphics of individuals and movements.

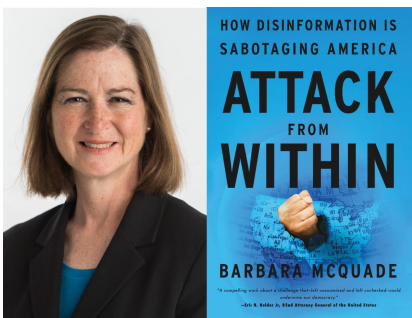
Suggestions for combating mis/disinformation included methods for checking the authenticity of information.

**Save the dates:**

**(1) LWVOA will present "Open Primaries & Rank Choice Voting" with speaker Katie Fahey on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:30p at Bloomfield Township Public Library**

Katie Fahey is Executive Director of The People, an organization committed to sharing the lessons learned in Michigan when she was the Founder/Director of Voters Not Politicians that took on gerrymandering. VNP facilitated the passage of a Michigan Constitutional Amendment regarding redistricting.

Ms. Fahey reaches out to voters across the ideological spectrum, bridging political divides and supporting nonpartisan good governance reforms nationwide.



**(2) LWVOA's Annual Meeting & Luncheon will feature speaker Barbara McQuade on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10a at the Heathers Club of Bloomfield**

Barbara McQuade's extensive legal career included serving as the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan from 2010-2017. Ms. McQuade now is a professor of Law at the University of Michigan, a legal analyst for NBC

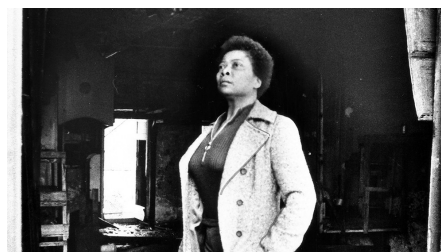
News and MSNBC, and recently authored the book **"Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America"**.

Her presentation will include identifying and combatting disinformation.

**Michigan women accomplishing great things:**

**Sarah Elizabeth Ray** (1921–2006) was an African American civil rights activist who, in 1945, was denied entry on SS *Columbia*, a ferry operated by the Bob-Lo Excursion

Company. She initiated a legal battle against the company via the NAACP which eventually ended up being processed by the United States Supreme Court. The court ruled in Ray's favor, setting her case as a precursor to *Brown v. Board of Education*. After the *Bob-Lo Co. vs. Michigan* court case, she went on to create the Action House in Detroit which helped to empower Black youth in the city and offered spaces for recreational activities.



***In memory of Kathy Henry***

LWVOA member, Kathy Henry, age 58, passed away on February 20, 2024, after a 17-month battle with cancer. Kathy is survived by her spouse, Karen Hager, and her two sons.

Kathy was an energetic member since 2016, organizing presentations, attending committee meetings, and encouraging active participation. One of her many accomplishments was organizing the Observer Corps where members monitor local school board meetings. After creating an informative tutorial video, Kathy recruited members to help with this important effort.

A celebration of Kathy's life will be held in the spring at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church.

Condolences may be sent to the NUUC at 23925 Northwestern Hwy;  
Southfield MI 48075.

***Maria Woloson***

***President, League of Women Voters, Oakland Area, Michigan***



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