

*Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, Michigan*

### Welcome New Members!

Stacey Cassis  
Susan Citraro  
Virginia Collins-Llope  
Mary Duenow  
Sylvia Dwire  
Sara Friedmann  
Shelly Gach-Droz  
Janice Haines  
Carolyn Heman  
Charles Hicks  
Cindi Leslie  
Justin Lin  
Mari Masalin-Cooper  
Arianna Morales  
Jennifer Reyntjes  
David Williams  
Susan Woodward

### LWVOA Board of Directors 2021-2022

#### CO-PRESIDENTS

Maria Woloson / Jim Treharne  
1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Judy Bateman - Voter Service  
2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Kathleen Maisner - Redistricting  
3rd VICE PRESIDENT  
Geri Rinschler - Community Engagement

SECRETARY Susan Learman

TREASURER Mary Howarth

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Deborah Ross - Administration  
Tera Moon - Webmaster  
Ann Megalizzi / Carla Barrow-Wiggins -  
Membership  
Kim Somsy - Voter Editor  
Eva Packard - They Represent  
You

#### PORTFOLIO MEMBERS

Ann Edwards - Mailings  
Susan Liebetreu - Vote 411  
Debra Horner - Voter Guides  
Kathy Henry - Advocacy

### Electoral College

The Electoral College and how the U.S. selects its President and Vice-President became center stage on Jan. 6, 2021 when a mob of more than 20,000 stormed the US Capitol, attempting to disrupt the election process.

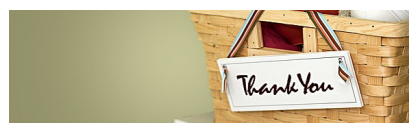
A PowerPoint presentation focusing on the mechanics and issues with the Electoral College has been prepared and delivered to groups with **rave reviews!!!** Contact Maria Woloson (email: [mywoloson@gmail.com](mailto:mywoloson@gmail.com) or cell 248-703-6236) to help with this vital program.

### From the Treasurer

While member annual dues support our Per Member Payments to the LWVMI and to LWV(US), there is little left for operational expenses. Donations are really the financial backbone of LWVOA. The following is a wish list – which can be funded partially or totally by gifts (cash, checks and PayPal thankfully accepted) to either LWVOA or to the Ed Fund, LWVEF.

- Rent Angels - \$285 office rent per month
- Communication Benefactor – \$108 per month (telephone and internet)
- Postage Paragon – Bulk Mail Permit. \$245 per year
- Web Site Wonder – \$400 per year
- Stationary Stalwart – \$60, envelopes

Of course, largesse of any amount helps to keep LWVOA operating to support members and the public alike.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Henry - Chair

Jenny Alvarez - Member

Kathleen Maisner - Member

## Election for Italian American Club of Livonia

On October 20, 2021 The League of Women Voters of the Oakland Area was asked conduct an election for the Italian American Club of Livonia.. Since our League's reputation and brand is fair and non-partisan, We have been asked for many years to provide this service for the Livonia Club.

I would like to thank our LWVOA members who volunteered to conduct this democratic exercise.

- Chuck Sonquist
- Geri Rinschler
- Deborah Ross
- Maria Woloson
- Jerry Burton (vote counter)
- Ann Megalizzi (vote counter)
- Jerry Megalizzi(vote counter)
- Mary Howarth (vote counter)

Many thanks to all, Jim Treharne.

## Advocacy

The LWVOA Advocacy Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30.

- Join Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/LWVOAAdvocacy>.
- Contact: [lwvoa.advocacy@gmail.com](mailto:lwvoa.advocacy@gmail.com)

Your Advocacy Committee is currently working to support a pre-trial bill package that was introduced and referred to the Michigan House Judiciary Committee on October 20, 2021. The bills are sponsored by a bipartisan set of Representatives and align to LWVMI's recently adopted Criminal Justice Position. These bills specifically address decriminalizing poverty. Join us on **Wednesday, November 17** at 5:30 to learn more.

## Voter Services Summary

The Fall 2021 election cycle centered on city elections with LWVOA holding virtual candidate interviews in 9 cities: Berkley, Clawson, Royal Oak, Birmingham, Pleasant Ridge, Lathrup Village, Southfield, Novi, and Farmington.

Further details include:

- Questions were given to the candidates in advance.
- Technology was handled by LWVOA members: Kathy Henry, Kim Somsy, Debra Horner, and Tera Moon.
- LWVOA member interviewers included: Judy Bateman, Kathy Henry, Neil Zechman, Maria Woloson, and Kath Maisner.
- LWVOA member Ann Edwards hosted 2 forums: one live in the city of Rochester with Mary Howarth moderating and a Zoom event in Rochester Hills.

We welcome and encourage all members to join this roster of volunteers to facilitate candidate forums. Preparations for the summer primary election cycle should start now. Technology is available for live forums that show all candidates, each answering the same question, generated by the community.

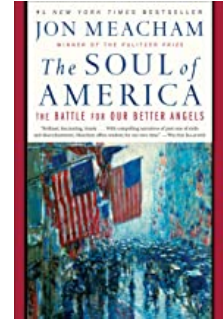
Contact Judy Bateman at [judybateman@comcast.com](mailto:judybateman@comcast.com) to help with this important LWV activity.

## Book Club

This is a great way to get to know other League members and expand your mind by reading and talking about what you read. If you've never been part of a book club before, it's okay! Your take on the reading is important. Anyone can join the discussion any time. This book should be available at your local public library in a variety of formats: print, audio, and digital!

***The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels*** by Jon Meacham  
Published 2019

"Gripping and inspiring, *The Soul of America* is Jon Meacham's declaration of his faith in America. . . . Meacham, by chronicling the nation's struggles from revolutionary times to current day, makes the resonant argument that America has faced division before—and not only survived it but thrived."



**Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

Email Tera Moon [tlcmoon@gmail.com](mailto:tlcmoon@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

Stay tuned for a list of books for 2022. Book club meets 6 times per year.

## LWVOA Group Descriptions

See the list below for the many ways you can become active in the League and help with our mission. You can contact the person listed for a specific activity or Carla Barrows-Wiggins (248-390-7845, [carlabw@comcast.net](mailto:carlabw@comcast.net)) for more information.

Activity	Contact Information	Meeting Information
<b>Candidate Forums:</b> The League runs Candidate Forums for contested Oakland area elections. You can help with planning or running a Candidate Forum, including coordinating with local clerks, screening questions, or interviewing candidates.	Judy Bateman 248-399-2815 <a href="mailto:judybateman@comcast.net">judybateman@comcast.net</a>	Work is typically 3 to 4 months prior to primary and regular elections. Meetings are irregular. Contact Judy Bateman.
<b>Voter Guides &amp; Vote411.org:</b> The League collects biographies & policy platforms from every candidate in a contested Oakland Area election and provides that information online to voters on VOTE411.org & (in even-numbered years) in print. You can help with preparing and sending candidate questionnaires, transcribing & formatting candidate responses, preparing online guides for posting to the LWVOA website, and proofing or distributing printed guides.	Debra Horner 248-594-9468 <a href="mailto:dhorne@umich.edu">dhorne@umich.edu</a>	Work is typically 3 to 4 months prior to primary and regular elections. Meetings are irregular. Contact Debra Horner.
<b>They Represent You Brochures:</b> After elections, TRYs are updated with current contact information	Eva Packard 248-473-5595 <a href="mailto:packardeva@gmail.com">packardeva@gmail.com</a>	Work is typically for 2 to 3 months after regular elections. Meetings are irregular. Contact Eva

for elected officials at the local, county, state, and national level for Oakland. You can help with gathering and verifying the information for a community, which is then made available at LWVOA.org and provided in printed guides.		Packard.
<b>Community Engagement:</b> Help with organizing and publicizing educational programs developed for the Oakland Area community.	Geri Rinschler 248-646-2809 grinschler@comcast.net	Meets year-round on an irregular schedule. Contact Geri Rinschler.
<b>Book Club:</b> The book club discusses books from a list developed by the book club at the end of each year.	Tera Moon 248-376-9368 tlcmoon@gmail.com	Meets roughly every-other-month. Contact Tera Moon.
<b>Observer Corps:</b> Attend local government meetings as a League member and report items of interest.	Carla Barrows-Wiggins 248-390-7845 carlabw@comcast.net	The Michigan League has recently started monthly meetings for people interested in Observer Corps. Contact Carla Barrows-Wiggins.
<b>Membership:</b> You can help get the word out about League activities; we're looking for ways to make sure members get the information they need to be involved and have opportunities to meet other League members.	Ann Megalizzi 248-624-3993 amega1212@aol.com	Meetings are irregular; contact Ann Megalizzi.
<b>Advocacy:</b> Organize interviews and follow up with legislators. Look at local issues to bring to LWVOA's attention and suggest action to be taken. Work with LWVMI on state issues. In future, we hope to create an active Observer Corps.	Kathy Henry 415-307-5513 lwvoa.advocacy@gmail.com	Meetings are every 3rd Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm on Zoom: <a href="https://bit.ly/LWVOAAdvocacy">https://bit.ly/LWVOAAdvocacy</a>
<b>Electoral College:</b> Help with presenting information on the Electoral College and educating the community on the national and state League position and activities.	Maria Woloson 248-703-6236 mywoloson@gmail.com	Meetings are irregular; contact Maria Woloson.
<b>Finance &amp; Fund-Raising:</b> You can help with finance reporting and light fund-raising (we keep it simple).	Karen DeGrendel 248-651-0774 hkdegrendel@gmail.com	Meetings are irregular; contact Karen DeGrendel.



## LWVOA Summer Celebration

Some photos from the LWVOA Summer Celebration at the pavilion in the City of Lathrup Village...



## Upcoming Events

Future important dates in January 2022 include:

- Make Democracy Work presentation via zoom
- LWVOA Program Planning meeting

Dates and times are TBD. **All** members encouraged to participate. More information will be sent when available.

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Thank you to  
our sponsors!

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