



# Oakland Voter

League of Women Voters Oakland Area  
*Serving 60 communities and 27 school districts in Oakland County, MI*

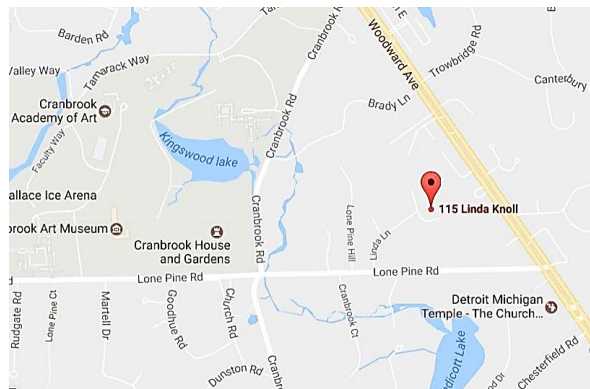
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Thank You! ..... 

2016 – 2017 Issue Four

February, 2017

**The League of Women Voters Oakland Area  
State and Local Program Planning Meeting and Brunch  
10:30 a.m., Saturday, February 18, 2017**  
At the home of Vicki Lange  
115 Linda Knoll  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034



*(Linda Lane is north of Lone Pine Rd. between Cranbrook Rd. and Woodward.  
Linda Lane dead ends at Linda Knoll and is the closest street to Woodward.  
Look for a yellow sign with an arrow; the house behind sign is Vicki's)*

This is our chance to take a look at the studies we already have completed, the positions we have developed, and whether they are still viable, and whether to consider studying a new issue. Do they need review or updating? A summary of state positions can be found at [LWVMI.org/positions](http://LWVMI.org/positions). Local positions can be found in the 2016 Annual Meeting Booklet

**Please RSVP** by calling the office at 248-594-6602 or send an email to [lwvoa@att.net](mailto:lwvoa@att.net). If you are bringing an item for brunch, leave a message with what you plan to bring – muffins, breakfast casserole, fruit, etc. New members, just bring yourselves. All are welcome!

LWVOA Board of Directors  
2016-2017

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Danyelle Amour – Board Rep.  
Eva Packard – Board Rep.

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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Valentine’s Day! We are into the New Year, and we are already hard at work. We cannot let our guard down or take a break. Here are some events we are working on:

- ✓ We have already held a successful meeting and did consensus on a LWVMI study on “Taxation and Budgeting”. (See pg. 3)
- ✓ Next week we have our Program Planning meeting at the home of Vickie Lange. (See pg. 1)
- ✓ Our Finance Drive is under way. If you are able, and have not sent a contribution, now would be a great time. Any amount is appreciated.
- ✓ In 2016, we had a request to start a LWV unit at Fox Run Senior Community. That is currently happening and they are now waiting for the city election so they can hold their own candidate forum in the Novi area.
- ✓ Since July, 2016 we have gained 29 individual new members and 4 household members. We are currently working on contacting the new members to plan New Member Meet-Ups. We are hoping to schedule the first in March. Watch for more details. (See pg. 6)
- ✓ We are in the planning stage for an educational program on Gerrymandering and Redistricting. It will be held on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bloomfield Twp. Library. This is a very important program for League to be involved in, and now is the time for everyone to step up and become engaged in this endeavor. (See pg. 6)
- ✓ First call to State convention was made. It will be in East Lansing, at the Kellogg Center, May 19-21. (See pg. 3)
- ✓ And finally, we have set the date for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 24, at Plum Hollow Country Club, in Southfield. There will be more details in the next Voter, but for now, save the date! This is also a great event to bring a friend who may have shown an interest in League activities.

As you know, last week the Ground Hog saw his shadow. But a long, cold winter doesn’t stop us from working for the benefit of all citizens.

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT**

**JERRY BURDEN**  
PRESIDENT LWVOA

## Member News:



Nadine Harvey, a long-time member of LWV Rochester Area and LWV Oakland Area, passed away in January 2017. Nadine often assisted with League voter service efforts. She will be missed.

*Dear Members of the League of Women Voters,*

*I would like to thank your organization, and Ms. Judy Bateman in particular, for putting together and presenting an excellent training for our youth at **The Children's Center of Wayne County**. The training helped our youth leaders to execute our first ever youth-led candidate forum in July, which hosted five House candidates and approximately 70 attendees. That success would not have been possible without your generous assistance!*

*Sincerely,*

*Kayla Roney Smith and all of us here at The Children's Center*

## Volunteers Needed:

March is when we begin our Legislative interviews. League members contact their legislators to ascertain their views on topics of interest to the League. The State Board will be developing the questions to be asked. This activity is a perfect time for a new member to team up with an old member. Meeting places can be the legislator's office, a library, or coffee shop. One member will ask the questions while the other takes notes. The information we obtain will only be used by LWV when we contact legislators about proposed legislation. It is not provided to anyone else. See pg. 5 for Oakland County's State Senators and State Representatives."

Please contact the office if you are available to participate in this interesting project.  
248-594-6602

## Government Finance Study Update:

On January 28, LWVOA held a consensus meeting for the Government Finance Study sent by the State League. Financing state and local government was the focus for this study which seeks to update the current LWVMI position on taxation and budgeting. The consensus questions were organized into three sections: state revenue, state expenditures and state/local fiscal relationships.

It was a successful meeting, and consensus responses were sent to State. Thank you to Judy Bateman for hosting the meeting!

### ***"Building A Strong Democracy"***

#### **FIRST CALL TO STATE CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN**

**East Lansing, MI  
MAY 19 – 21, 2017**

Delegates will:

- Adopt the 2017 - 2019 state program, including any state studies
- Adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years, including the per-member-payment
- Elect LWVMI Officers and members of the Board of Directors
- Consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws, if proposed

Oakland Area qualifies for 8 voting delegates to the State Convention based on our membership numbers. Contact Jerry Burden if you are interested in attending

*Registration deadline is April 19, 2017*

**View the details and agenda [here](#).**

## 2016 Voter Guide Information Provided for Oakland County Voters

Oakland County Voter Guide information appeared on 3 websites for 2016 elections and was also published in a 76-page printed guide distributed by the printer to all public libraries and all city and township clerk's offices in the county and mailed to all members and contributors.

### LWVOA.org contained:

- **139 candidate guides covering 243 General Election races:**  
Federal and state races: President\*, 4 Congressional districts\*,  
14 MI House districts\*, 4 State Boards, 2 Supreme Court, 1 Appeals Court  
Local races: 6 County Officers\*, 21 County Commissioners\*, 3 Circuit/2 Probate/9+2\* District Courts, 1 Community College,  
21 Townships with 91\* partisan races for Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees, Park Commissioners & Constable + 14  
nonpartisan Library Boards, 4 Cities/5 races, 10 Villages/21 races, 30 School Boards/38 races, and 4 District Library Boards  
in Oakland County.
- **69 guides covered 139 Primary races** for those races which also appeared on Primary ballot (marked with an asterisk\*).
- **42 proposal contests** for 1 county referendum and 41 local area ones.
- **Printed Oakland County Voter Guide covering all races also appeared on the website.**

*LWVOA linked to the federal and state guides on LWVMI.org prepared by LWV of Michigan. The other guides were prepared by **Deb Horner** and posted online by **Tera Moon**. Voters could click on the guides relevant to their personal ballot.*

***Ann Edwards** proofed the online voter guides, led members in proofing the printed guide, and handled mailing to members and contributors.*

**VOTE411.org** also contained guides covering all the candidate races and proposals on Oakland County ballots. Voters entered their voting address and were given a list of the races on their ballot and could select races and candidates (two at a time) to view. Thanks to **Cheryl Rozier** and **Eva Packard** for uploading the Oakland Area's local race data into Vote411.

**DetroitNews.com** also contracted with LWVMI to use LWV races at all government levels from VOTE411 for Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Washtenaw & Livingston County voters for viewing on the newspaper's website.

### How many viewed LWV Voter Guides in 2016?

- **20,000** print copies of the 76-page Oakland County guide were distributed throughout the county.
- **40,065** voters viewed the printed Oakland County guide online at **LWVOA.org**.
- **28,408** voters visited **LWVOA.org** to view the various guides available there.  
The individual LOCAL races had a total of 49,257 views with nonpartisan races especially popular.  
Oakland Community College with 13 candidates for 3 OCC seats had 13,173 viewers!  
Races where OA held candidate forums were also popular.
- **35,732** voters visited **VOTE411.org** to view guides available for races on ballots in Oakland County.  
(31,246 viewed by Oakland Area voters; 4,486 viewed by Troy voters.)  
In all of Michigan, 218,066 voters visited VOTE411.org to view guides available for races throughout the state, more than twice as many voters than in 2014 and in 2012.

These usage statistics show that **104,205 voters viewed races online in 2016 in Oakland County** and **at least another 20,000 read them via the printed guide** – more if the guides were shared with family and friends.



## STATE SENATE AND STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS

In March, Leagues throughout Michigan will be interviewing state legislators to learn their priorities for legislation and understand their views on various issues. The LWVMI Board will approve a set of questions to ask.

### **Oakland Area covers 5 State Senate districts and 14 State House Districts:**

SS11 Vincent Gregory (D)	SH26 Jim Ellison New (D)	SH40 Michael McCready (R)
SS12 Jim Marleau (R)	SH27 Robert Wittenberg (D)	SH41 Martin Howrylak (R)
SS13 Marty Knollenberg (R)	SH29 Tim Greimel (D)	SH43 Jim Tedder (R)
SS14 David Robertson (R) ***	SH35 Jeremy Moss (D)	SH44 Jim Runestad (R)
SS15 Mike Kowall (R) *	SH37 Christine Greig (D) **	SH45 Michael Webber (R)
*Senate Majority Floor Leader	SH38 Kathy Crawford (R)	SH46 John Reilly New (R)
*** District Shared w. LWV Flint	SH39 Klint Kesto (R)	SH51 Joseph Graves (R) ***
	**House Asst Minority Floor Leader	

## STILL ANOTHER PROJECT NEEDING VOLUNTEERS

### **They Represent You brochures:**

The 2016 election is over and it is time to update our They Represent You (**TRY**) brochures to reflect the changes in federal, state and local officials – names, contact information, and term expirations. At this time, the updates are about 50% complete.

### **There are 8 brochures covering our 60 communities:**

1. Royal Oak, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Hts, Pleasant Ridge
2. Southfield, Lathrup Village, Berkley, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Royal Oak Township
3. Farmington, Farmington Hills, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, West Bloomfield Twp.
4. Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, Southfield Twp.
5. Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Oakland Township
6. Novi, Northville, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom, Milford Village, Wolverine Lake Village, Commerce Twp., Highland Twp., Lyon Twp., Milford Twp., Novi Twp.
7. Pontiac, Clarkston, Lake Angelus, Lake Orion Village, Independence Twp., Orion Twp., Waterford Twp., White Lake Twp.
8. Villages of Holly, Leonard, Ortonville and Oxford; Townships of Addison, Brandon, Groveland, Holly, Oxford, Rose, and Springfield.

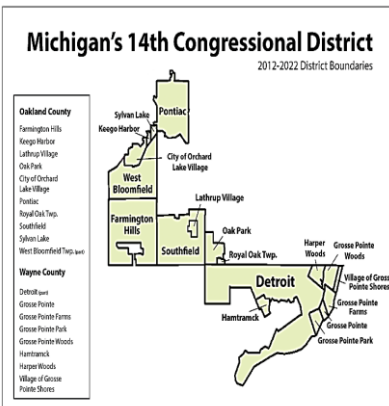
See our website [www.LWVOA.org](http://www.LWVOA.org) and click on They Represent You to see the online version of the brochures by clicking on a community in each. Online version has 6 screens of 2 columns each. The printed brochures do 4 pages of 3 columns each.

The team currently working on the updates consists of **Tera Moon, Sue Whalen, Karen Linnell, Dorothy Warren, Elizabeth Kern, Sharon Kelly, Ann Edwards, and Eve Ryan**. Additional volunteers are needed to contact communities and schools to verify all their data is current and to obtain contact information for the various newly-elected officials. If you know how to use MS Word, that is also helpful to help prepare the online and print versions of the TRYs. If you can help with the TRYs in either way, please call the LWVOA office at 248-594-6602 or email [league@lwvoa.org](mailto:league@lwvoa.org) or contact Tera Moon at [tlcmoon@gmail.com](mailto:tlcmoon@gmail.com)



## Women's History Month:

[Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame](#) is sponsoring a film screening and discussion of *Equal Means Equal* - an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today, on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the **Hannah Community Center with the East Lansing Film Festival**. You can view the movie trailer [here](#).



(Click on map to view larger)

## New Members:

Since July, 2016 LWVOA has gained 29 new members and 4 household members. We are planning a series of New Member meet-ups with LWVOA President Jerry Burden and other officers, starting in March. Watch for more information.

Welcome!

## Gerrymandering and Redistricting

In 2000, Arizona voters approved Proposition 106, which took away the map-drawing power from the Legislature and gave it to an independent bi-partisan group called the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. During the campaign to get Prop 106 passed, Jim Pederson, the Chairman of "Fair Districts, Fair Vote", wrote this:

*"Every once in a while, an issue comes along that makes so much sense and so clearly embodies the basic principles of democracy, people put aside their partisan differences and take action to protect the collective interest of self-government. The Citizen's Redistricting Commission Initiative is such an issue. A simple idea about giving citizens a central role in creating more representative democracy with so much common sense appeal that it enjoys the support of Arizonans statewide."*

The practice of Gerrymandering is not new, but following the 2010 Census, it was skillfully taken to a different level. Computer programs such as [Maptitude](#) have made it possible to use block by block precision when targeting specific neighborhoods. (Click to watch a demonstration of how the program works.) Combine that precision with the amount of data available today, and you can easily draw a district where your opponent can't win, or using a technique called "packing", (see map of Michigan's 14<sup>th</sup> CD on the left) you group as much of your opposition as possible into one district, to make the surrounding districts safe.

Last week, new legislation was introduced in Michigan hoping to address this very partisan process. [House Bill No. 4122](#) - *A bill to create a citizens redistricting commission and prescribe its powers and duties*. Click the link to read the bill.

**Join us for an informational meeting on this important topic and the League's plans to address it during the upcoming year on April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**@ The Bloomfield Township Public Library  
1099 Lone Pine Road**

**Guest speaker will be Judy Karandjeff, President of League of Women Voters Michigan**

**\*We are hoping to add other speakers. Watch for additional information in the next Voter.**

REMEMBERING WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:  
Article published in [The New York Times](#), November 7, 1917

**MISS ALICE PAUL ON HUNGER STRIKE**  
**Suffragist Leader Adopts This**  
**Means of Protesting Against Washington Prison Fare**  
**NOW IN JAIL HOSPITAL**  
**Threatens to Starve to death Unless Better Food Is Provided for Six Companions**






WASHINGTON, Nov. 6. – Alice Paul, National Chairman of the Woman's Party, now doing a seven months' sentence in jail here for picketing the White House, has gone on a hunger strike, and tonight she had been in the jail hospital without food for the preceding twenty-four hours, stolidly threatening to starve herself to death unless her six companions, serving time for the same offense, got better food.

So far the jail officials are taking the strike calmly and waiting for Miss Paul to get hungry enough to eat. Forcible feeding has not been discussed as yet. But inasmuch as Miss Paul made somewhat of a record for herself as a hunger striker in an English jail several years ago, while militating with Mrs. Pankhurst, headquarters of the Woman's Party is quite confident that she will give the prison officials a surprise if they expect her to yield quickly.

Miss Paul, a slight, little woman, weighing about ninety pounds and of delicate constitution, was taken to the jail hospital last night because she was ill. Miss Paul said she was ill because of bad food, bad air, and no exercise. Woman's Party officials say she and the other militants have been getting a coarse diet principally of salt pork and cabbage at the rate of eighteen times in thirteen days. When Miss Paul was taken to the hospital, a diet including milk and eggs and without the salt pork and cabbage, was offered her, but she announced she would have none of it unless her sisters got the same.

Tonight Dr. Cora Smith King, Miss Paul's physician, who was permitted to attend her, issued a bulletin saying Miss Paul was much thinner than when she entered the jail, Oct. 22, was refusing food, and would not touch a morsel until she and her companions received the same treatment as seventeen murderers, who have the privilege of special food, air, exercise, and the newspapers. "If we are to be starved, I prefer to be starved at once." was the message Miss Paul sent out to the Workers. "There is no use giving us special food today, and not tomorrow simply to keep us alive as long as possible."

Although the militants have announced they will not resume picketing the White House until Congress reconvenes in December, they consider that a hunger strike is a sufficient climax, for the present at least, to their efforts to force President Wilson to endorse women suffrage by Constitutional amendment.

<p><b>Salon Cardon</b> <b>Rita Trebble</b> 32352 Woodward Avenue Royal Oak, MI 48073 248.629.7522</p>	 <p><b>Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce</b> Rochester • Rochester Hills Oakland Township</p>	<p>Generous contributors like you.</p> 
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 <p><b>ME A</b> Michigan Education Association www.mea.org</p> <p>Rochester Education Association 200 East Silverbell Lake Orion, MI 48360 Ofc: 248-874-1832 Fax: 248-377-0520 Email: dhill@mea.org</p>		



**League of Women Voters® Oakland Area**

725 S. Adams Road, Suite L-144  
Birmingham, MI 48009

A Voice for Citizens,  
A Voice for Change

## Time Dated Material Enclosed

### Calendar of Events

**Sat., February 18, 2017**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**State and Local Program Planning Meeting and Brunch**  
@ the home of Vickie Lange, 115 Linda Knoll, Bloomfield Hills (See page 1 for details)

**March, 2017**

**Watch for information on New Member meet-ups**

**Thurs., March 16, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**LWVOA Board Meeting**  
25800 Northwestern, Real Estate One Bldg., Southfield

**Tues., April 18, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Gerrymandering and Redistricting**  
@ Bloomfield Twp. Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd.

**May 19 – 21, 2017**

**State Convention**  
@ The Kellogg Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI

**Sat., June 24, 2017**

**LWVOA Annual Meeting**  
Plum Hollow Country Club, 21631 Lahser, Southfield

**League Membership Dues are \$65.**

Go to [www.LWVOA.org](http://www.LWVOA.org) and click on **JOIN THE LEAGUE** to print a membership form to use for mailing a check payable to LWVOA to our office - or utilize PayPal to pay your dues online.