

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

Welcome New Members!

Wendy Goldberg
Linda Robinson
Claudia Sills



Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership at the annual meeting or before. Renew your membership today!

Your dues payment covers candidate forums, voter guides, and all the other work we do that no one else does

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LWVOA Board of Directors 2019-2021

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Letter From the President

Greetings and happy summer!

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped this year with our Annual Meeting on June 8, 2019 and to all of you who were able to join us. My congratulations to our new board and especially our new co-presidents, Maria Yar-Woloson and Jim Treharne. I am very confident their strong leadership skills will provide new opportunities working together in collaboration with our board. At our board meeting on June 24, I was appointed as a director and will remain on the board working with our new Community Engagement Committee (CEC). So, check our regular *Voter* newsletters for information about upcoming programs and events.

This year at our Annual Meeting, we took the opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI) which took place on April 4, 1919 at the 33rd convention of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association. We displayed a replica of the original suffrage flag with its 36 stars which was given to our league by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

A few days later, on June 14th, I had the privilege to be included in a celebration at the county commissioners' kick-off of a year long celebration with events and projects which are in the planning stages. We will share the details with you when they become available. Our many thanks to all the commissioners choosing to recognize this historic event. I'm looking forward to a fun year!

For those of us who were able to attend the LWVMI convention this past May, a booklet, *A Collection of Michigan's Local League Histories* was included in our convention packet. Mary Howarth and Eva Packard collaborated and submitted a short history of the League of Women Voters Oakland Area (LWVOA) for us. I did read a very short summary of it at our Annual Meeting. The LWVOA was organized in 1991 by the merger of numerous communities in our county and represents 60 municipalities and 27 school districts. However, in 1932, Birmingham-Bloomfield league formed the first league in Oakland county and became the second league to be formed in the state of Michigan. In the 1930's,

Kim Somsy - Voter Editor
Geri Rinschler - Program
Eva Packard - At Large

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anyone could vote in a Birmingham school election. The Birmingham LWV petitioned the Board of Education to require that voters be registered. The league and PTA members canvassed neighborhoods to register voters. And the first candidate forum was held in the fall of 1932.

As you can see, we continue to be a dedicated league registering folks to vote and providing public candidate forums for all to attend. I don't know of any other organization that provides this service free of charge or that does it as well! My sincerest thanks to all of you who continue to volunteer, attend our forums and programs and make a donation when you can. Our work does make a difference!

Geri Rinschler

Michigan Government Celebration of Woman's Suffrage on June 14

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners celebrated woman's suffrage with a flag raising event outside of the Board of Commissioners Auditorium. Board Chairman David Woodward welcomed the crowd and Vice Chairwoman Marsha Gershenson led the proceedings. Own Geri Rinschler explained some of the history of Michigan suffragettes and suffragists. The remaining speakers were all elected women: Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper, State Senator Ruth Johnson, State Representative Brenda Carter, Oakland County Commissioner Gwen Markham, Oakland County Clerk, Lisa Brown and State Representative Mari Manoogian. Read more in the [article by the Oakland County Times](#) - a local independent news source, the female owner of which was present at the event.

On the same day, Michigan Supreme Court (MSC) Justice Elizabeth T. Clement led a celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Justice Clement was joined by Judy Karandjeff, president, League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMI), as well as LWVMI members and Supreme Court staff with their daughters, mothers, sisters, and other guests who assembled around a resplendent 19th Amendment Victory Flag in the main floor rotunda of the Michigan Hall of Justice.

"Today we gather to mark a milestone that changed history for women across our great nation. This amendment not only opened doors for women at the polls, but it also opened up opportunities for women to officially hold leadership positions that were previously unavailable to them," said Justice Clement, who is the 11th woman to serve on the MSC and one of three women currently on the bench.



Our Geri Rinschler before she speaks at the event.

Western Oakland County High School Voter Registration

In the fall of 2018, a group of enthusiastic and creative people met for the purpose of developing plans to register high school seniors. It was decided to divide into teams to register students in five school districts. Agreement was reached to follow the Dearborn /

Dearborn Heights League of Women Voters program/handbook, *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow*, Third Edition.

This is a very thorough guide, complete with ideas and examples to implement the endeavor.

Teams met, organized their approach and started contacting school boards, district public relations personnel and principals. In almost every case, the program was met with enthusiasm (it helped that two of the districts had school related ballot proposals in 2019).

Team leaders maintained constant contact with the appropriate school personnel. Districts chose to handle the registration in different ways. Walled Lake allowed the team to go into the senior English classes (three schools), Huron Valley principals suggested all senior assemblies and the South Lyon team registered during lunch time. The school personnel agreed to allow us to repeat the voter registration program in 2020.

The total number of high school students registered was 878.

Upcoming Oakland County Events Celebrating a Century of Women Voting

Following the 100th anniversary of Michigan ratifying the 19th Amendment, the Progressive Women's Caucus (PWC) launched a Listening Tour to celebrate a century of women making their voices heard. The first event of the listening tour will be hosted by Rep. Padma Kuppa on **Monday, July 8 from 6-7 pm** at Troy Historic Village Church, 60 W. Wattles Rd, Troy, 48098.

On **Tuesday, August 20 from 6-7 pm** Representative Kyra Bolden (SR35) and Senator Rosemary Bayer (SS12) will co-host a celebration at the Birmingham Public Schools Education and Administration Center – Hawthorn/Sycamore Rooms at 31301 Evergreen, Beverly Hills, 48025.

The LWVMI, AAUW and other women's organizations are sponsoring a Women's Equality Day luncheon on the topic - *How Suffragists Changed Michigan* on **Thursday, August 24 at 11:30 am - 2:30 pm**. Historian, **Elizabeth Homer** is speaking about 1919 Michigan women's suffrage. The event is at St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center in Livonia and costs \$30.

Paving the Way to Better Roads - Concrete Solutions

The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) is partnering with the City of Lathrup Village to offer a program on fixing Michigan roads.

Panelists include:

Craig Bryson - Senior Communication Manager, Road Commission for Oakland County,

Eric Lupher - President, Citizens Resource Council and

Dr. Ron Fisher - Economics Professor, Michigan State University.

This current issue affects us all. Please attend the event for a lively discussion on **July 25, 2019 from 7-8:30 pm** at the Lathrup Village Community Center, 27400 Southfield Road Lathrup Village, 48076.



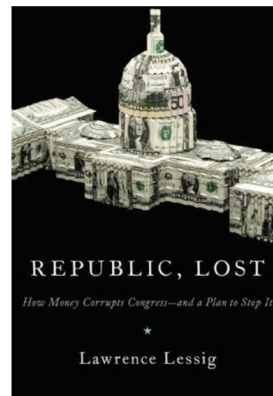
Do you love to read and talk about books as much as you love League? Join the LWVOA book club! This group is just getting started reading books that connect to LWVOA's positions and other issues important to our organization. This is a great way to get to know your fellow League members.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress — and a Plan to Stop It by Lawrence Lessig

Milford Public Library, 330 Family Dr., Milford, MI 48381

Let Tera Moon know you're coming. Email tlcmoon@gmail.com or call/text 248-376-9368.



Upcoming meetings and books:

- Wednesday, September 25 - *Can Democracy Work?: A Short History of a Radical Idea, from Ancient Athens to Our World* / James Miller
- Wednesday, November 27 - *Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations* / Amy Chua

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, July 8 PWC Listening Tour

6-7 pm, Troy Historic Village Church, 60 W. Wattles Rd, Troy, 48098

Friday-Sunday, July 19-21 [Back to Our Roots](#)

Annual Commemoration of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, NY

Wednesday, July 24 LWVOA Book Club - *Republic, Lost* by Lawrence Lessig

6:30 pm, Milford Public Library, 330 Family Dr., Milford, MI 48381

Thursday, July 25 Paving the Way to Better Roads - Concrete Solutions

7 pm, Lathrup Village Community Center, 27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, 48076

Tuesday, August 6 Primary Elections

Rochester Hills Council At-Large

Birmingham, Bloomfield Twp., 2 Oxford Twp. and 2 West Bloomfield: proposals

Tuesday, August 20 PWC Listening Tour

6-7 pm, 31301 Evergreen, Beverly Hills, 48025

Thursday, August 24 Women's Equality Day luncheon

11:30 am - 2:30 pm, St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center in Livonia

**Thank you
to our
sponsors**



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