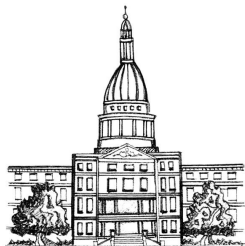




## Empowering Voters Defending Democracy



# CAPITOL VOTER

## FEBRUARY 2019

### CAPITOL VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

#### TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

#### VOTER SERVICE NEWS

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

#### CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

#### 2019 STATE CONVENTION

#### PUB NIGHT FEB. 7

#### FEBRUARY 11 LUNCH

#### MARCH LUNCH FOCUSES ON GUN

#### VIOLENCE PREVENTION

#### HEADS-UP ON RECYCLING

#### BOOK GROUP NEWS

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Thursday, February 7** - "Pub Night" is an opportunity to meet other League members and learn about upcoming League activities. 5:30 -7:30 pm, at Jimmy's Pub, Chandler Road in East Lansing.

**Monday, February 11** - League lunch, featuring Bettie Landauer-Menchik. *What Do We Mean by Schools of Choice?*. Hall of Fame Café, East Lansing. 11:30 am - 1 pm.

**Tuesday, February 12** - League book group: *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* by Rebecca Traister. 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing.

**Monday, March 11** - League lunch, featuring Dr. April Zeoli from MSU, speaking on the prevention of gun violence, Hall of Fame Café, East Lansing. 11:30 -1pm

**Wednesday, April 24** - An evening community forum (time and location TBA). Featuring Dr. Josh Cowan and a panel of educators discussing the impact of schools of choice policies.

**Wednesday, May 15** - LWVLA Annual Meeting and dinner, Eagle Eye Conference Center, East

## DID YOU RENEW YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP?

The reminder about renewing your League membership may be hiding under a pile of bills and unread magazines! Even though January 31 is the official deadline for finalizing the membership list for 2018-19, we will very much welcome your renewal. You can mail a check with the form sent earlier, or print out the form from the website, or join on-line using the PayPal option on the [LWVLA website](#). We value your membership, whatever level of involvement fits your current circumstance. In addition, we want to continue to be able to share current information with you about events and issues.

### VOTER SERVICE NEWS

#### Municipal Elections

Several municipalities in the tri-county area will be holding city council elections in

Lansing. Dr. Marjorie Sarbaugh Thompson from Wayne State University, speaking about term limits in Michigan and other states. 5:30 - 8pm. **May 17-19** - LWVMI State Convention at Embassy Suites by Hilton in Livonia.

Note: Other programs are in the planning stages. Watch your email and the Voter for more information.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

#### "Sowing the Seeds"- Educating the Citizenry



Two recent speakers at LWVLA events have acknowledged the role that the League of Women Voters played in laying the groundwork for overwhelming voter approval of Proposals 2 and 3 on November 6. Journalist Chris Christoff said that 10 years ago, he would never have thought it possible for Michigan voters to approve a ballot proposal that changes the way we draw legislative and congressional districts. A few weeks ago, political consultant Jean Doss thanked the League for its important role in educating the citizenry related to the issues of gerrymandering and expanding voting opportunities.

The League did this work through a series of educational programs in communities throughout the state, articles in League and other publications, educating the membership so they could speak out - in formal and informal settings, etc. The latter is a role that each of us can play on many policy issues.

*Beth & Margo*

**STATE CONVENTION WILL CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHIGAN LEAGUE**



November, 2019. Because these are usually non-partisan positions, there will generally be no primary. The League will provide VOTE411 coverage for the candidates in these races as well as for any proposals that may be on the ballot in May, August or November.

**New voting procedures and rules** - The Secretary of State's office is developing the rules and procedures to implement online voter registration (new law passed by legislature in 2018) and the specifications of Proposal 3 (Promote the Vote). Information will be announced on the SOS website.



### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

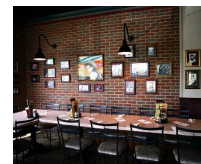
We welcomed two new members in January.

**Jean Doss**, Okemos

The 2019 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Michigan will be held May 17 - 21 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Livonia. All League members are welcome to attend, as a delegate or guest. There will be special recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Michigan League of Women Voters. The featured banquet speaker will be Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Also at the convention, delegates from all local Leagues in the state will conduct the organization's business. Everyone attending will have opportunities to participate in workshops and learn more about the League. Contact a local board member if you are interested in attending.

### JOIN US AT PUB NIGHT ON FEBRUARY 7

Come to Jimmy's Pub, 16830 Chandler Road, East Lansing, 5:30 - 7:30pm on Thursday, February 7. This is a great opportunity to meet current members and learn more about the League in a relaxed, social setting. Attendees can order food and/or beverages and we will each pay for our own selections. Reservations are not necessary but appreciated. Contact Camilla Davis at [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com).



### FEBRUARY 11 LUNCH: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SCHOOLS OF CHOICE?

Bettie Landauer-Menchik, a longtime member of LWVLA, will be the speaker for the League lunch on Monday, February 11, 11:30 - 1:00 pm at the Hall of Fame Café, 1601 Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing. Bettie's presentation will focus on:

- What types of school programs are included as "schools of choice?"
- How did Michigan come to have the largest schools of choice program in the US?
- What impact has choice had on Michigan's



**Patricia Quinn**, East  
Lansing

educational system?

The February 11 lunch discussion will provide background information in preparation for a more comprehensive program on April 24. Dr. Josh Cowan, a nationally recognized expert on school choice will lead a panel discussion on what choice has meant for both students and districts over the 25 years it has been in existence.

Bettie retired from MSU after spending more than 30 years as a demographer involved in public policy issues. For 15 years, she evaluated the charter schools program for Michigan Department of Education.

All League members and guests are encouraged to attend the lunch. We will order from the menu and each pay for our own meal. Reservations are recommended because we have a limit of 40 attendees. Contact Camilla Davis at [cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis.lwvmi@gmail.com).

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HAPPENINGS!**

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US!**

**SHARE LEAGUE  
NEWS WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS!**

### **MARCH LUNCH SPEAKER WILL FOCUS ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

The Gun Violence Prevention study group has invited April Zeoli, PhD as the speaker for the March 11 LWV Luncheon at the Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing, 11:30am - 1pm. Dr. Zeoli is a researcher in the field of prevention of gun violence through the use of policy and law. The Study Group encourages members to read a background brief (LWV March 2018) to better understand the pervasive nature of firearm violence as a major health and safety issue. Find this paper in the [documents section of the LWVMI web site](#). Scroll down to Gun Violence Briefing.

The study group continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month at the East Lansing Public Library, 10:30 am - 12 noon. The dates for the first three months of 2019 are January 19, February 16, and March 16.

The group is continuing to study the research that defines the relationship between domestic abuse and firearm violence. We propose to organize this information into a brief that will be shared with the League. For more information please contact Melinda Frame, [mframe80@gmail.com](mailto:mframe80@gmail.com) or Marty Couretas, [couretam@comcast.net](mailto:couretam@comcast.net).

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### **QUICK LINKS**

[LWVLA WEB SITE](#)  
[LWVMI WEB SITE](#)  
[LWVUS WEB SITE](#)  
[LWVLMR\\*\\*](#)

**\*\*LWVLA is a**

**member of the LWV - Lake Michigan Region. Click on LWVLMR for an update of the organization's initiatives.**

## A HEADS-UP ON RECYCLING

*Note: This article submitted by Ellen Link, chairperson of the LWVLA Environment Work Group was written to introduce the issues related to recycling, in preparation for an upcoming evening meeting. Knowledgeable speakers will provide solid information and answer questions, and attendees will leave with a more comprehensive understanding of recycling and, hopefully, a determination to reduce their waste and help green the environment. Stay tuned.*

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According to Recycling Across America (.org), "Recycling is collapsing in the U.S. due to public confusion." That is certainly one major reason. What can be recycled in one county or city, be it books or batteries, may be totally unacceptable in another. Instructions on how to recycle various items keep changing, and the myriad recycling numbers on packaging seem designed to create confusion.

That's why the move to single-stream recycling increased participation. Cities and other waste haulers handling large amounts allowed folks to dump everything in one container, to be sorted later at their facilities. But what sounded simple, and did increase recycling rates, hasn't really worked out. Too many people toss in non-recyclable items, and sorting machines can't handle it all. The result has been a contaminated product which often is good only for the landfill. China used to buy our recyclables but no longer wants to pay for our garbage and neither does anyone else. Hence, the future of recycling here is in doubt.

Presently the national average for recycling is about 30 percent; Michigan is only at about 15 percent.

Our state has done virtually nothing to encourage recycling since 1976, when it became one of the first to adopt its landmark bottle deposit bill. Given that, according to fivethirtyeight.com, "a full 66 percent of people surveyed by Harris Poll last October said that

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they wouldn't recycle at all if it wasn't easy to do." Increasing recycling rates and waste reduction will be challenging. New legislation could help change this unacceptable situation; so could education.

**BOOK GROUP  
TO DISCUSS  
GOOD AND MAD**



On Tuesday, February 12, the League Book Group will discuss *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* by Rebecca Traister. All book group sessions are at 10 am in the meeting room at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. The book selected for discussion on March 12 is *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Donna Mullins at [mullinj@outlook.com](mailto:mullinj@outlook.com) for more information.