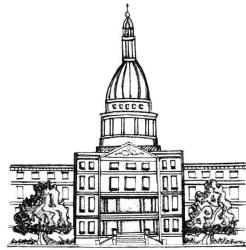


## DEMOCRACY ON THE MARCH IN 2018



## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LANSING AREA**

### **CAPITOL VOTER FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018**



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! LWVLA EVENTS MARCH through MAY 2018**

Two interesting speakers will be talking with League members at upcoming lunches at Hall of Fame Café, 11:30-1:00 p.m.

- March 12 - Perspectives on the Policy-making Process - Nell Kuhnmuensch, former legislative staff member and former lobbyist
- April 9 - Social media and transformations in youth political

participation-- Dr. Kjerstin Thorson, MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Details about these upcoming events are highlighted in *Capitol Voter* articles:

- Wednesday, February 28 - Promote the Vote training
- Thursday, March 1 - Promote the Vote training
- Thursday, March 8 - Voter registration and voter ed training
- March 13 - LWVLA Book Discussion Group
- March 24 - Fate of the Earth Conference
- May 15 - LWVLA Annual Meeting

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

### DEMOCRACY ON THE MARCH

Democracy on the March is the title from a recent New York Times article about initiatives in several states, including Michigan, where there are efforts underway to expand voting rights. The title also perfectly describes our League's plans and priorities for the months ahead. This issue of the *Capitol Voter* describes several opportunities for member involvement. These are compelling times, with greater interest in policy issues and greater need for the kind of citizen education that the League can provide.



We hope that each of you will find the role that best fits your current circumstance. For example: your financial contributions are always appreciated and used for providing more educational materials; members are needed to circulate petitions and educate voters about **Promote the Vote**; helping educate and register high school students; helping with the many other voter service activities. Read the articles below and then volunteer!

**Beth & Camilla**

### JOIN THE PROMOTE THE VOTE CAMPAIGN

Leagues throughout Michigan are involved in an exciting campaign that is tied directly to the





reason that the League was founded 98 years ago: protecting the right to vote. This is a petition drive to place a constitutional amendment on the November 6 ballot to make voting in Michigan more accessible and convenient and to ensure the integrity of the vote.

**PROMOTE THE VOTE** is supported by a broad coalition of groups including LWVMI, ACLU, NAACP and Michigan League for Public Policy. It would increase the opportunities for voter registration and for voting prior to election-day and it would constitutionally protect other voting practices that are currently in law but that could be changed by the legislature

League members are beginning to circulate petitions for signatures and **YOUR** help is needed. We need members to circulate petitions to friends, family and neighbors to place the Promote the Vote amendment on the November 2018 ballot. About 400,000 signatures will need to be turned in by June 30.

Be a part of **PROMOTE THE VOTE**. Attend a training session to learn facts that will give you the information to be an effective advocate for the initiative. Become familiar with the petition so you can gather valid signatures. Petitions will be available at the training sessions.

Two sessions are scheduled;

- Wednesday, February 28 at 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company (Orchard Room) on Grand River Avenue in East Lansing.
- Thursday, March 1 at 5:00 pm at the LWVMI office (on the Garden Level), 600 W. St. Joseph, Lansing

## HELP REGISTER YOUNG VOTERS

Come join the LWV's ***Democracy on the March*** initiatives as we plan voter service activities in the greater Lansing area for this spring! We need many volunteers to help register voters, plan educational programs, and generate interest about the 2018 elections. We are looking for volunteers willing to contribute a bit of time to the voter service activities described below:



1) High school voter registration classroom visits and/or lunch-hour voter registrations in high schools across the tri-county area. Our League has a \$700.00 grant from the national LWV Education Fund to expand our high school, vocational school, and alternative school voter registration activities this spring in order to reach as many young people as possible. You can sign up for just one type of activity or for both, and for one or more high school visits. The dates will be scattered throughout March, April, and May. High school classrooms are not intimidating-they're actually fun!

A voter registration training session will be held on March 8, 4:30 to 6 pm, at the Meridian Township Community Room in the Okemos Road Fire Station, where you will become familiar with voter registration forms, learn how we organize voter registration drives, and see the Power Point we use in high school classrooms. Attending the workshop does not require a commitment, but it will be useful for anyone interested in helping register voters.

2) Other volunteer opportunities for the months ahead:

- Planning Get Out the Vote activities
- Coordinating with other community groups for voter registration and voter education
- Distributing Voter Guides before the general election
- Planning candidate forums

Please contact Marilyn Wilson at [wilsonmlwvla@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonmlwvla@gmail.com) or 517-927-7164 if you want to participate in any of these initiatives for Making Democracy Work!

## WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE!

**We extend a welcome to three new League members:**

- **Jessica Fowler, Lansing**
- **Paul Klein, on a household membership with Evelyn Quiroga Klein, from St. Johns**
- **Lynn Wilson, Haslett**



## LEAGUE BOOK GROUP SELECTS BOOK



## TITLES

The LWVLA book group recently selected titles for the next three months:

- March 13 - *NO is Not Enough* by Naomi Klein
- April 10 - *Trumpocracy* by David Frum
- May 8 - *Enlightenment Now* by Stephen Pinker

All meetings of the book group are at 10 am at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in East Lansing. Books will be available at Schuler's. Everyone is welcome.

## LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED STATE BUDGET

Check out "Budget Briefs" on the Michigan League for Public Policy's website ([www.mlpp.org](http://www.mlpp.org)) for helpful information about the proposed 2018-19 state budget and the issues facing the legislature.

## FATE OF THE EARTH CONFERENCE

The 2018 MSU Fate of the Earth Conference will be held on March 24 at Kellogg Center in East Lansing. League member Terry Link will be offering a workshop titled "From Couch Potato to Change Agent." Check out the [conference website](#) for more information.



## LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 15

LWVLA's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at the Eagle Eye Banquet Center. Craig Mauger, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, will be the featured speaker, focusing on dark money in Michigan politics.

Watch future editions of the *Capitol Voter* for event details.

## UPDATE ON LINE 5 PIPELINE

*Ellen Link, LWVLA Environment Work Group*

Some members may not be aware that LWV-MI is one of the 21 members in the Oil and Water Don't Mix (OWDM) coalition, "Michigan organizations dedicated to the protection of Michigan's water, natural resources, public trust in those resources, the environment, communities, and the health, safety and general welfare of citizens." Last June, the Coalition sent a letter to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the US Army Corps of Engineers, requesting that MDEQ and the Corps require a comprehensive review of Line 5 in the Straits that included an assessment of adverse environmental impacts, risks, and feasible and prudent alternatives. It also asked them to temporarily halt the transport of crude oil in Line 5, and to hold a formal public hearing. [READ MORE](#)

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