

## Board of Directors

### Co-Presidents



Shirley Zeller



Pam Schultz

### Ann Green Vice President



### Laurie Campbell Secretary & Communications Chair



### Susan Murphy Treasurer



### Debbie Killewald Voter Services



### Roberta Sexton Membership



### Ken Hollingshead Tech Support



### Deborah Nagy Historian & Facebook



### Abbey Frew Director



## League of Women Voters Jackson Area April 2023 Newsletter

Dear Members,

### Co-Presidents Letter

Is it really spring or is it just a test? The year has gone by quickly and we've accomplished some good things with the LWV/Jackson Area. Voter Services were provided in the fall for the election and we will be planning soon for elections in the summer and fall. The Friendship Tea was a smashing success –again – which will provide funds for us to take on projects for the coming year. We've done some good work on the website and refinements are on the way. As a member, you can see minutes of our meetings, financial reports, and schedule of events under the "Membership" tab, then "Current Members."

Action alerts are important and provided to us by LWV/Michigan. If you don't get a personal email announcing an alert, you can go to [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org) and click on Action Alerts. Everything is there for you to sign in and the message will automatically be sent to your Michigan House Representative and Senator. If you want to create your own message, feel free to do that. Our legislators rely on constituents to let them know our issues and our opinions. Please take advantage of this.

May 19-21 are the dates for the LWV/Michigan convention. Four delegates are authorized from Jackson and we will bring information to the annual meeting as a result of that meeting. There are workshops to attend and our delegates will be covering all of them. Delegates are Debbie Killewald, Laurie Campbell, Pam Schultz and Shirley Zeller. Deborah Nagy is working at the convention as a volunteer (thanks, Deborah).

Your board has met in a planning retreat and has prepared the program plan for 2023-2024. We'll have the budget, the proposed bylaw changes, nominations, and the program plan for approval at the Annual Meeting on May 25 – Steve's Ranch – 5:30 p.m. If you want dinner, you can order from the menu.

Looking forward to all the happenings of our League. Thank you for supporting us as your co-presidents.

Shirley Zeller & Pam Schultz

Co-Presidents

### Save the Date and Plan to Attend

The LWVJA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Steve's Ranch House in Jackson.



The annual meeting provides the opportunity to review our accomplishments over the past year and to prepare for the coming year. The agenda will include:

- President and Treasurer reports for 2022-23
- Election of Vice President, Secretary and Directors to the LWVJA Board
- Adoption of a budget and program for 2023-24
- Adoption of amendments to the LWVJA Bylaws
- Reports from Committees

Ann Green will present a program titled "Accelerate DEI within our local League". It promises to be enlightening and engaging.

This is a dinner meeting and each person will order individually from the menu. "Social time" begins at 5:30, and will provide a chance to chat and place your beverage and dinner order. There isn't a set time for the meeting to begin, but enough time will be needed to conclude our business before the restaurant closes at 8:00 pm. An agenda and information related to the business to be conducted will be sent by April 25. Please RSVP by May 18th to:

Shirley Zeller ([seztowne@gmail.com](mailto:seztowne@gmail.com)) or Pam Schultz ([psch54@comcast.net](mailto:psch54@comcast.net)).

# February 16th Zoom General Meeting

February decided to be a bit fickle and even though our winter had been mild we managed to have a very snowy day, so thank goodness for Zoom. This mighty group stayed snug & warm and conducted our business with much efficiency without having to encounter any weather.



**LWVJA Snapshot**  
 54 members: 43 Primary, 7 Additional & 4 Lifetime

## MICHIGAN HAD LARGEST YOUNG VOTER\* TURNOUT IN 2022

**National** youth average participation: 23%

**Michigan** youth average participation: 36.5%

**Michigan** young voter turnout in 2022 was 4.3% higher than 2018

Major motivating issue for young voters: Abortion and **Michigan's** accessible voting registration.

\*Voting-eligible residents aged 18-29 casting ballots in the November 2022 election

<b>May</b>	<b>LWVJA Events Calendar</b>	<b>June</b>
<p><b>19-21</b> LWVMI convention, Kellogg Center - Lansing</p> <p><b>25th</b> Annual LWVJA Membership Meeting, 5:30pm, Steve's Ranch</p>	<p><b>2nd</b> Tea Committee, 10:15 a.m., Steve's Ranch</p> <p><b>5th Education Committee</b> Bella Notte 11a.m.-noon</p> <p><b>12th</b> Observer Core, noon location TBD</p>	

# FAQ

What are "**ACTION ALERTS**" that I receive from LWVMI?

How do they further our mission of Defending Democracy?

**ACTION ALERTS** are easy opportunities for you to connect with your legislators and have your voice heard!

LWVMI board takes a position on legislation during the legislative process, based on recommendations from the LWVMI-Advocacy Committee. Some of this legislation advances to the point that LWVMI Co-President sends out an "**ACTION ALERT**" urging League members to send a message to their legislators. The **ACTION ALERT** provides a description of the bill or issue; to follow through just click on "**Take Action Now**". A letter appears addressed to your legislator from you. You can review it and then just click to send or print out to send in the mail.

This is one of the easiest ways for League members to exercise advocacy power. **NUMBERS COUNT** and **ACTION ALERTS** are an easy way to show legislators that many citizens do OR do-not support specific legislation. Use your power and follow through when you receive an **ACTION ALERT**.

To learn more about **ACTION ALERTS**, watch this short video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_rHZDmBlMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_rHZDmBlMw)

**FAQ** will appear regularly in The LWVJA Newsletter to answer Frequently Asked Questions from members.

## LWVJA ADVOCACY IN ACTION



LWVMI has an Advocacy Committee that tracks bills as they make their way through the Michigan legislative process. They identify bills that touch upon LWV positions and mission, monitor them and take action in a number of ways. We are fortunate to have our state Advocacy Committee headed by two former LWVMI State Presidents: Judy Karndjeff and Sue Smith. The Committee meets once a month and is responsible for many of the "Support-Oppose" recommendations that the state board votes on. The LWVMI Board must decide on all requests for league action or opposition to governmental decisions or proposed decisions at the state level. Some of this legislation advances to the point that LWVMI sends out an "**Action Alert**" urging League members to send a message to their legislators. This is one of the easiest ways for League members to exercise their advocacy power.

## UPDATE: MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE BILLS SUPPORTED BY LWVMI

### WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AND ABORTION RIGHTS

**Support for bills to repeal anti-abortion laws:** Numerous bills repealing old laws that adversely impact reproductive choice continue moving through the process. LWVMI supports these bills. HB 4006 and HB 4032 have been sent to the Governor and more are pending in the Legislature. Governor Whitmer recently signed into law, several bills **repealing** sections of Penal Code.

HB 4006 (Awaiting Governor's signature) would repeal Sections 14 of the MPC which prescribes a *felony for administering to a pregnant woman any medicine, drug, or substance, or employing any instrument or other means, with intent to procure a miscarriage, unless it is necessary to protect the life of the mother, and **repeal** Section 15, which prescribes a misdemeanor penalty for a person who advertises, publishes, or sells any pills, powder, drugs or combination of drugs, designed expressly for the use of females for the purpose of procuring an abortion.*

SB 93 would **repeal Section 15** of the Michigan Penal Code (MPC), which states *any person who advertises, publishes, or sells any pills, powder, drugs or combination of drugs, designed expressly for the use of females for the purpose of procuring an abortion is guilty of a misdemeanor unless the drug or medicine was sold upon the written prescription of a practicing physician, and the dealer or druggist registered certain information pertaining to the purchaser, medicine, and physician in his or her records.*

SB 147 would **amend** the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to **delete** a provision specifying that *the prohibition against an employer treating an individual affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition differently from another individual does not apply in the case of a nontherapeutic abortion not intended to save the life of the mother.*

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## Abortion Pill Prescription Access

April 7, Federal District Court Judge in Washington State, Thomas O. Rice, granted a request from 17 states and D.C., in State of Washington v FDA, to block FDA from making changes to mifepristone's access in the states that sued. Michigan was one of the 17 states. Governor Whitmer also issued a press release saying mifepristone is available in Michigan.

## Gun Legislation

**Background Checks and Safe Storage of Firearms:** Governor Whitmer signed into law a package of bills requiring background checks and safe storage of firearms. The bills *extend the criminal background check to all firearm sales* including those online and at gun shows, *requiring gun owners to store their firearms in a secure location, provides penalties for storing/leaving a firearm where it may be accessed by a minor, offers sales and use tax incentives for safety devices to encourage safe storage, provides the pathway for Extreme Risk Protection Orders that temporarily prohibit a person who is at risk of harming themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm.*

**Red Flag bills:** The Michigan House of Representatives and the Senate passed the Red Flag legislation allowing courts to order gun seizures under certain circumstances. The legislation has been sent to Gov. Whitmer for her signature and would create new *"extreme risk protection orders"* in state law that would allow a judge to order temporary confiscation of weapons if a person was deemed a significant threat to themselves or others.

**Prohibiting Guns at Election Locations:** The House Elections Committee recommended the passage of HB 4127 and HB 4128 which *will prohibit guns at election locations*. The bills are on the second reading in the MI House of Representatives. LWVMI supports these bills.

So far, the passage of this legislation has been supported by Democrats with little or no support of the Republicans. None of this legislation has been given immediate effect, so they will go into effect 90 days after this year's session ends.

**TO ADD YOUR VOICE FOR ANY OF THESE BILLS NOT YET SIGNED INTO LAW**, you may access **ACTION Alerts** at the state website: [www.LWVMI.org](http://www.LWVMI.org) and click on tab in upper right corner marked **TAKE ACTION**.

## Gov. Whitmer Signs Lowering MI Costs Plan into Law

### Pension Tax Repealed—Tax Cuts for Working Families

The plan rolls back the retirement tax to save 500,000 households an average of \$1,000 a year. The plan also quintuples the Working Families Tax Credit to put an average of \$3,150 back into the pockets of 700,000 Michiganders, directly benefiting nearly half the kids in Michigan.

#### Election Calendar 2023

May 2 : Special Election Proposals  
June 5: Intermediate School District Election  
August 8: Primary for Municipal Elections  
November 8: General Election



L to R Bert Sexton & Renell Weathers members of the LWVJA with other supporters in Lansing.



LWVJA member, Isabell Nazar pictured immediately in front of Lt Governor Garlin Gilchrist II

**LWVJA Committees** are an important and active part of the League. Listed below are some of the LWVJA committees, with descriptions of their work and their activities over the past year.

### Newsletter Committee

A LWVJA newsletter is published quarterly. It is intended to provide members with a review of recent events as well as information about upcoming activities. While the focus is on local members and actions, it includes articles about state and national programs and initiatives too. If you have the interest and skill in researching and writing articles that will inform and engage members, please contact Linda Furgason. You can be involved as a regular or "guest" contributor.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

*"LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy."*

This excerpt is from the National and State LWV DEI Policy that LWVJA fully supports. The DEI committee will meet as need to determine ways that we can embrace and implement the policy in our activities and outreach. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Shirley Zeller or Pam Schultz.

## April 15 Board Retreat and Meeting



Members of the LWVJA board met at the Mary Sheldon Ismon House, a Historical and Architectural landmark in Albion. This beautiful building was originally built in 1898-99. After 100 years of use, "deconstruction" and rebuilding began, floor by floor, under the guidance of the "Friends of the Mary Sheldon Ismon House". This group oversaw fundraising efforts, received grants and directed the work of many volunteers and local businesses. Work on the entire building was completed in 2019 and the "Lady Ismon" is available for rental for groups up to 250. ([www.ismonhouse.org](http://www.ismonhouse.org))

In this historic venue, plans were made for the future. The morning included reports on current events, including the upcoming LWVMI convention, legislative and organizational activities at the state and national level and efforts to register eligible high school students to vote. In addition reports submitted by the Budget, Bylaws and Nominating committees were reviewed and discussed and final proposals approved to submit for member consideration at the Annual Meeting on May 25.

It was back to work after a delicious lunch at the Palmer House B & B. The afternoon discussion focused on how to best organize, or perhaps re-organize to enhance our future efforts. Topics included restricting committees and seeking members to serve on them, engaging with our state representatives and senators through interviews (the format and questions being outlined by the state league), efforts we can take to advance the National Popular Vote and determining a program plan for 2023-24.

Everyone who attended learned more about themselves by taking the Hershey Personality Test. Did you know that someone who prefers Mr. Goodbar is "analytical, logical and serious" and those who choose Krackle as a favorite candy are "messy but organized"? The "test" results showed that members of the LWVJA Board possess a variety of skills, interests and talents that work together to lead and serve members.

At the end of the day, everyone felt that our time had been well-spent. The board retreat has become a valuable part of the annual meeting schedule. It allows time for in-depth conversations about what has been accomplished and for developing thoughtful plans for the upcoming year. The personal conversations that occur during the day develop internal connections and bring more unity to this leadership group.



## LWVJA Annual Friendship Tea

Saturday, November 11, 2023

What a perfect time to purge your jewelry box and home for silent auction items as well as jewelry

New or nearly new condition is preferred

Scarves, fancy handkerchiefs and all kinds of jewelry are welcomed And don't forget male jewelry

Ask your friends and neighbors to donate Everything has new life so this is a truly "green" event

Please bring your jewelry or other donated items to any meeting of the LWVJA such as the annual Meeting on May 25th

Email Jewelry chair Linda Furgason @ [lindafurgason@gmail.com](mailto:lindafurgason@gmail.com)

or Silent Auction Chair Shirley Zeller @ [seztowne@gmail.com](mailto:seztowne@gmail.com) to arrange drop off or pick up

Donations accepted until Nov 4th, 2023



## April General Meeting



Shirley Zeller & Pam Schultz

The April 20 General Membership meeting was held in the Carnegie Library Auditorium. In addition to conducting business, the theme of this meeting was to present information about the LWV. The 18 members who attended included

Sharon Pedersen and Nancy Connell, our "newer" members, and Marge Duane, with over 50 years of membership!

Sharon Pedersen, Carlene Lefere, Marge Duane & Deborah Nagy



Sarah Welton & Mary Lee Clark

Shirley presented updates about the "Action Alerts" LWVMI provides via email and on the website. These are quick ways to get a message to elected officials when they are considering issues on which the league has a position. An example is the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which the Michigan legislature is currently considering.

Delegates to the LWVMI Convention in May will be asked to consider an amendment to the current Advocacy Position on Public Libraries. The amendment would strengthen the League position to oppose banning books and support the ability of library staff to do their work without political interference. After explanation and discussion, Isabell Nazar made and Sharon Pederson seconded a motion that our delegates support the proposed amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairs of Observer Corps, Membership, Voter Services, Communications, Tea and Education committees gave 2 minute updates about the work of the committee.



Debbie Killewald, Isabell Nazar, Sharon Pedersen & Laurie Campbell



Ann Green & Marge Duane



Nancy Connell & Bert Sexton

The Hershey Chocolate Personality Test and League Lingo Bingo combined learning and laughter. It's always a good time when business and pleasure bring a group together.



Carlene Lefere & Ken Hollingshead

# View From Our Past

## Honoring the LWV Pioneers



Article reprinted from the Jackson Citizen Patriot archives from Oct 9, 1927

# Jacksonian Leads County's League of Women Voters

Jackson County League of Women Voters will receive a new impetus with Mrs. DuBois H. Loux as the recently elected president.

Mrs. Loux brings to the association a wide experience along civic and educational lines combined with a rare insight of character and a deep religious spirit.

She was president for some time of the State Child Study Clubs and is now honorary president of the local club.

In the First Presbyterian church her activities include secretaryship of missionary education and a teacher of the Scovel Guild.

She also is a member of the American Association of University Women and of Sarah Treat Prudden Chapter D. A. R.

Mrs. Loux was a student for two years at Wooster College, Ohio, and a senior at the University of Chicago. Just before the closing semester of her last year she was married to Dr. DuBois H. Loux, well known writer. They have one daughter, Miss Genevieve Loux, a student at Holyoke College.



MRS. DUBOIS H. LOUX.

## CELEBRATING LWVJA MEMBERS

Bert Sexton



Two LWV/JA members were honored at the annual Susan B Anthony Award Celebration sponsored by the Jackson Women's History Council on March 12, 2023. Roberta Sexton received the prestigious Susan B. Anthony Award for her outstanding work with the League and her commitment to working for issues in the community. Her nominator said "When Bert commits to doing something, you never have to wonder if she will complete the task."

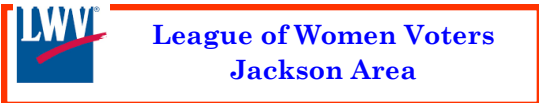
Congratulations to Bert.

Abbey Frew



Abbey Frew was honored with the Emerging Leader Award at the event. Her nominator says, "I...have had the opportunity to witness her giving spirit, courage and care for others." She is a graduate of Jackson College, is currently an RN in the surgical intensive care unit at Henry Ford Hospital in Jackson. She has received numerous awards for her outstanding work.

Congratulations to Abbey.



### Contacts

**Mailing address:** LWVJA P O Box 1886 Jackson, MI 49204

**website address:** LWVJackson.org

**Facebook address:** League of Women Voters Jackson Area

### Newsletter Committee

Email us at: [leaguewvjackson@gmail.com](mailto:leaguewvjackson@gmail.com)



Mary Lee Clark



Pam Schultz



Linda Furgason