

Jackson Area Voter

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents



Shirley Zeller



Pam Schultz

Ann Green

Vice President



Laurie Campbell

Secretary



Susan Murphy

Treasurer



Debbie Killewald
Voter Services

Abbey Frew
Membership



Ken Hollingshead
Tech Support

Deborah Nagy
Historian &
Facebook



Deborah Herbert

Sharon
Pedersen



Bert Sexton

Co-Presidents Letter

Greetings to the LWV/JA members:

The summer is quickly disappearing. We hope you have or will have a good time – vacationing, with family, staying inside where it's cool, or whatever.

In May, five LWVJA members attended the LWVMI Convention in Lansing. Business was conducted, including election of a board of directors, approving budgets and a program through June of 2025 and approving amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws. We will use information from the six workshop sessions to advance our efforts and were inspired by speakers from the national league (Virginia Kase Solomon, the CEO of LWVUS), our state legislature (Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou, Chair of the House Elections & Ethics Committee) and Attorney Mark Brewer, an election attorney who has worked with LWVMI for many years. Awards were presented, which included our members receiving "Belle Ringer" awards. More details will be presented in the annual report. The information and inspiration from this convention will keep us engaged until the next state convention in 2025.

The LWV/JA board has not taken a break – we are busy with planning for the coming year, getting the annual report ready and sent to all of you, as well as the calendar and committee lists completed. We are delighted to welcome Sharon Pedersen and Deborah Herbert to the board following the election held at the May general meeting.

We have completed the application to have a "table" at the Civil War Muster where we can advertise the League and especially the voting rights that we have, thanks to those women of the Civil War years and beyond. We hope there will be some volunteers to staff the table those two days – August 26-27. Please let one of us know your interest in this.

Debbie Killewald and crew completed a successful candidate forum, featuring the three candidates for Jackson City Mayor in the August primary. If you haven't watched it, go to the website and take a look.

We look forward to seeing you at meetings coming up, starting in September – more news coming!!!

Pam and Shirley

LWVJA Events Calendar

August 2023

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8th(Tues) | Primary for Municipal Elections |
| 18th (Fri) | Board meeting: location TBD |
| 26-27th(Sat-Sun) | LWVJA booth on "The Boulevard" at the Civil War Muster, Cascades Park: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm both days |

September 2023

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 21th (Thurs) | Board meeting; Noon, location TBD |
| 28th (Thurs) | L WVJA General meeting, 6:00pm-7:45, Carnegie Library Auditorium |

October 2023

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 20th (Fri) | Board meeting; Noon, location TBD |
|------------|-----------------------------------|



The meeting was held on Thursday, May 25 at Steve's Ranch House. Eighteen members attended. The agenda and materials that would be discussed and presented for a vote had been sent to members prior to the meeting.

Shirley Zeller facilitated the meeting. The following information and business items were addressed:

- **Ann Green presented the program "Accelerate DEI within our local league".** She began by telling a story of diversity, then led the group in developing a list of ideas we could use to promote DEI in the coming year.



- In the **president's report**, Shirley shared information from the LWVMI state convention. Members who received Belle Ringer awards were recognized:

Abbey Frew for Voter Services, Debbie Killewald, for Advocacy, Bert Sexton for Member Recruitment and Engagement and Linda Furgason for Financial and Fund-raising. The LWVJA Board nominated Shirley Zeller for the Judy Karandjeff Advocacy Award and Sarah Welton for the Eva Packard Voter Services Award. These are competitive awards, awarded to one member from all nominations received. Although our members were not selected, we are proud of their efforts.

Mary Lee Clark was elected to the LWVMI Nominating Committee for elections to be held in 2025. She asked members to be thinking of members who would be good candidates for future elected positions at the state level.

- **Reports** were given from the Membership, Tea, Education, Voter Services and Observer Corps Committees
- Debbie Killewald presented the report of the **Nominating Committee**, which included nominations as follows:
 - o Secretary—Laurie Campbell
 - o Vice President—Ann Green
 - o Directors to the Board—Sharon Pedersen, Deborah Herbert

There were no nominations from the floor and the nominees were elected by acclamation.

- The **budget** for 2023-24 was approved as presented and recommended by the Budget Committee
- The **Program Plan for 2023-24** was presented. A motion was made and seconded and the proposed program was approved.
- Shirley reviewed the proposed amendments to the **LWVJA bylaws**. A motion was made and seconded and the proposed amendments were approved.



The annual meeting provides an opportunity for conversation with our league colleagues, reflection on issues of importance and setting the groundwork for the work we plan to accomplish in the year ahead.



Proposal 2 amended the Michigan Constitution with its passage in 2022

FAQ

What are the benefits to Michigan voters?

Proposal 2 enhances the security of our elections and protects the right of every eligible Michigander to vote. Proposal 2 passed with the support of 60% of Michigan voters. The Michigan Constitution has been amended to allow for the following voter rights which are now in effect:

Early Voting – As of the 2024 Presidential Primary election, all Michigan voters have the right to vote early in every state-wide and federal election. Early voting must be offered for at least nine consecutive days, for at least eight hours a day.

Permanent Voter List - The right to sign up to become a permanent mail voter, enabling voters to receive an absentee ballot before all future elections.

Voter Identification - Existing voter ID laws are now enshrined into the Constitution. In addition, the types of photo IDs that can be used for voting purposes has been expanded.

Absentee Voting improvements - New requirements to make absentee voting more accessible for all eligible voters including funding for prepaid postage on absentee ballot applications. Other issues addressed include:

- Enhancing the tracking system for absentee applications and ballots
- Inform voters of any deficiency in their ballots or applications.
- An equitable opportunity for voters to correct any signature-related issues with their ballot or ballot application.
- Provision of funding for secure ballot drop-boxes and their availability 24/7.

Military and Overseas Ballots – Must be counted if received within 6 days of Election Day.

Election Integrity – Secure election audits under supervision of the Secretary of State. Election results are determined solely by ballots cast and certified by the Board of Canvassers. No entity can override the will of the voters.

Charitable Contributions: Local governments may continue to accept publicly-disclosed charitable contributions for administration of elections, e.g. use of local Church hall for voting.

Fundamental Right to Vote: Provisions to prevent any person or legal entity from interfering with the fundamental right to vote, either by act of law or by harassment or intimidation.

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

LWVMI ADVOCACY UPDATE



Michigan Legislative Bills supported by LWVMI.

ELECTIONS

Eight election bills are on the way to the Governor for her signature. The bills will take effect 90 days after the end of the legislative session. Provisions include:

- At least nine-days of **early voting**. Preprocessing and the early tabulation of absentee ballots eight days before election in certain circumstances.
- Establish **signature matching** and curing process and prepaid postage for absentee ballots and applications.
- Establish **penalties** for disclosing early voting results.
- Require **drop boxes** for every 15,000 voters, one accessible drop box and video monitoring for certain drop boxes.
- Establish **permanent mail ballot list**, which allows voters to sign one application to receive an absentee ballot for every future election.
- Allow for an **increase in** the size of Election Day **precincts** to 5,000 from 2,999 active registered voters.
- Moving the **presidential primary** to February 27, 2024.

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BUDGET BILL

Allows for Implementation costs for Prop 2:

- ◇ One-time supplemental moneys to include early voting, drop boxes, prepaid postage, ballot tracking, permanent mail ballot list, personal finance disclosure
- ◇ On-going new Appropriation to include 20 new full-time employees and on-going costs related to early voting, prepaid postage, drop box replacement, drop box video monitoring, and other Prop 2 needs.
- ◇ Incentive grants to counties to coordinate the implementation of early voting by local governments within their jurisdiction in the most efficient manner possible.



League of Women Voters Jackson Area Snapshot

55 members: 44 Primary, 7 Household & 4 Lifetime

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

Email: Jewelry chair Linda Furgason @ lindafurgason@gmail.com or

Silent Auction Chair Shirley Zeller @ seztowne@gmail.com.

Donations accepted until November 4th, 2023

LWVJA Committees

Committees are an important and active part of the League. Listed below are some of the LWVJA ones

Budget Committee: The LWVJA Bylaws state that the Budget Committee shall consist of at least 3 members, including the Treasurer. Members of the committee are appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting, which is typically held at the end of May. The treasurer may not serve as chair of the committee, but plays a vital role providing information about income and expenses for the previous fiscal year. With that information, along with input from chairs of committees about anticipated expenses, the members of the Budget Committee balance the numbers and needs to develop a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget must be sent to all members at least 21 days prior to the annual meeting at which a vote will be taken. Over the last few years the Committee worked hard to update the Budget format to make it more easily understood by membership



Auditing Committee: The Audit Committee consists of two members appointed by the Board of Directors. Their task involves reviewing all financial records, including bank statements, vouchers and receipts for expenditures, dues collected compared to membership records, income, including dues, grants, receipts from fund-raisers and donations/gifts. Amounts reported in monthly financial reports are compared to check registers and bank statements. If there are discrepancies, the cause must be found and any necessary adjustments made in the financial records. Their report is presented to the Board of Directors at a meeting prior to the annual meeting. The report will be included in the annual report.



Nominating Committee: This committee consists of three people. One Board member is to be appointed to this Committee by the Board. The other two members are elected by the membership at the annual meeting. This committee is responsible for securing a slate of officers and committee members for the positions to be elected at the annual meeting. The report of the committee, which is the slate that will be considered for election at the annual meeting, must be sent to members at least 21 days prior to the annual meeting. Once the report is presented at the annual meeting, nominations may be taken from the floor. Members of the Nominating Committee may serve for up to 3 years.



Bylaws Committee: Bylaws are fundamental rules drawn up by organizations to govern their internal affairs and their dealings with members and others. They include rules that the organization considers so important that they cannot be changed without prior notice to members and the vote of a specified majority. Periodically it's necessary to update the bylaws to make sure they reflect the mission and goals of the group. The work of this committee includes review of state (LWVMI) and national (LWVUS) bylaws to ensure that local bylaws are in compliance as well as developing language to amend the bylaws based on local needs and trends. Proposed amendments to the bylaws are reviewed and approved by the membership at the annual meeting.



Election Calendar 2023

August 8: Primary for Municipal Elections

November 8: General Election

Don't join the book burners. Don't think you are going to conceal faults by concealing the evidence that they ever existed.

Don't be afraid to go into your library and read every book. Dwight D. Eisenhower 1953

View From Our Past

Honoring Jackson Area
LWV Pioneers



Article reprinted from the
Jackson Citizen Patriot archives
Dec 31, 1929

Delegates To Peace Parley Are Selected

Mrs. Helen B. Mott And
Mrs. Fred Steinhilber
To Represent Jackson
At Sessions.

Mrs. Helen B. Mott and Mrs. Fred Steinhilber were chosen as delegates of Jackson women's organizations to attend the fifth conference for the Cause and Cure of War to be held in Washington Jan. 14 to 17. They were named at a conference and luncheon of representatives of four organizations held Monday in the Y. W. C. A. building.

The following presidents attended the conference: Mrs. Florence Heberling, League of Women Voters; Mrs. Fred Steinhilber, American Association of University Women; Mrs. Helen B. Mott, Business and Professional Women's Club, and Mrs. P. O. Pinkham, Young Women's Christian Association.

These four organizations will assist in financing the expense of the delegates, with the League of Women Voters sponsoring the affair.

The conference at Washington will be held at the Hotel Washington and will be composed of 10 groups of women.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the organization, will preside. Four foreign women representing France, Germany, Great Britain and Japan will be guests. The banquet speaker will be Gen. Jan Christian Smuts of South Africa.

On the return of the delegates a mass meeting of all women's organizations of this city is planned that a report on the meeting may be presented.

CELEBRATING LWVJA MEMBERS

Bell Ringer Awards
Awarded at the LWVMI
Convention in May



Abbey Frew for Voter Services



Debbie Killewald, for Advocacy



Bert Sexton for Member
Recruitment and Engagement



Linda Furgason for Financial and
Fund-raising.



Jackson City Mayoral Election Forum

May be viewed at LWVJA website

<https://lwvjackson.org/jackson-city-mayoral-primary-election/>

LWVJA Contacts

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

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Facebook address: League of Women Voters Jackson Area

Email the newsletter committee at:
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Mary
Lee
Clark



Pam
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Linda
Furgason