



Co-Presidents Spring Letter



Dear Members,

Is it really spring? We believe it is, with the trees budding, the flowering fruit trees in full blossom and elections beginning to be in full swing.



It's been a busy new year already with early voting being implemented for the February primary election. Elections this year will provide opportunities for you, our members, to get involved as election workers. There are many positions to be filled. The Jackson County Clerk, Cierra Sowle, has been recognized recently as working her way from the youngest legal secretary at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office in 2007 to the high post of County Clerk. Your co-presidents met with her, Jenny Crews (Elections Coordinator) and the Deputy Clerk recently to just talk about elections and how the early voting is working, and what we might be able to do to help.

The Brain Health Symposium held at Cascades on April 16, sponsored by the League, was a smashing success. Over 100 people attended and were very positive with the results. Thanks to the committee of Mary Lee Clark, Linda Furgason, Roberta Sexton and Abbey Frew for their work organizing this.

CONGRATULATIONS to our member, Martha Petry, for receiving the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Jackson College Board of Trustees and the Jackson College Foundation Board of Directors. The award is to be presented at The Jackson College Honors evening on May 4, 2024.

High school students in Jackson County are invited to submit original artwork for our "Go Vote" poster contest. The LWVJA is seeking creative and inspirational entries as a call-to-action, focusing on the importance of voting and using our votes to influence the direction of our democracy. Cash prizes of \$250.00 each will be awarded to three winning posters to be selected by a panel of judges based on criteria defined in the contest guidelines. The deadline for submitting entries is June 14 and an awards ceremony will be held on June 24. Information about the contest is available on our website (lwvjackson.org/poster-contest).

Don't forget the League of Women Voters/Jackson Area annual membership meeting to be held May 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson District Library in the Carnegie Auditorium. There will be time for socializing with some snacks and then a meeting with some important business to handle. Hope to see you there!!

Co-President's Letter

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LWVJA Calendar, May – July 2024

May 2024

- 1 (Wed) Law Day
- 7 (Tues) Election Day (local elections)
- 11 (Sat) LWVMI Board Meeting
- 16 (Thurs) Local and LWVMI Presidents meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- 17 (Fri) LWVJA Board meeting, noon, Meijer Library Community Room
- 23 (Thurs) Annual Membership Meeting, 6:00pm, JDL Carnegie Auditorium

June 2024 Pride Month

- 8 (Sat) LWVMI Board Meeting
- 13 (Thurs) Local and LWVMI Presidents meeting, 7pm, Zoom
- 19 (Wed) Juneteenth
- 21 (Fri) Board meeting, noon, Location TBD
- 24 (Mon) Go Vote Poster Contest Awards, 6:00 pm, location TBD
- 27-30 LWV National Convention—Washington D.C.

July 2024

- 1 (Mon) LWVJA Fiscal Year and leadership terms start date
- 4 (Thurs) Independence Day
- 13 (Sat) LWVMI Board Meeting
- 18 (Thurs) Local and LWVMI Presidents meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Future board meeting dates and times TBD following elections

LWVJA Events Calendar

April 25th General Meeting with the Jackson County Clerk



The League had a general meeting on Thursday April 25th. Our guest speakers were County Clerk Cierra Sowle and Elections Director Jenny Crews. They gave a very informational talk about the new in-person Early Voting Law that was put into practice for the primary. They graciously stayed for a long question and answer period afterwards.



League of Women Voters Jackson Area Snapshot

56 members: 44 Primary, 7 Additional Household, 1 Student & 4 Lifetime

LWVUS Convention in Washington D.C.

The LWVUS National Convention will take place June 27 – 30 at the Washington Hilton in Washington D.C. All league members are invited to attend. Each league is entitled to be represented by voting delegates based on the number of members in the league.

Beginning with registration that opens at 9 am on June 27, through the closing Plenary session the morning of Sunday, June 30, delegates are engaged in non-stop activities, including breakout sessions, plenary/business sessions, and keynote speakers. And, while it is not an official item on the agenda, opportunities for networking with league members from across the U.S. are perhaps the most enjoyable and valuable part of the convention experience!

Attendees can choose to participate in Lobby Day on Thursday before the official start to the convention. They will schedule appointments with their representatives and travel with other league members for an exciting day on Capitol Hill.

Business to be conducted at the convention includes votes on the Program, budget, Board of Directors and nominating committee for 2024—2026. Votes will also be taken on submitted bylaws amendments.

LWVJA is eligible for 2 voting delegates to the LWVUS Convention. Deborah Nagy and Rosemary Edgar have been approved by the board to represent us. Deborah says it is an honor to be selected. She looks forward to networking opportunities, and says "Sharing information on issues that affect their local leagues, learning what platforms are of greater importance, and sharing ideas on how to implement and improve our league, is in my opinion, crucial to the greatness of the LWV as a whole entity. This is a crucial year on so many issues, and sharing knowledge to bring back to our local league is of such great importance and empowers us even more."



The \$2,500 approved in the LWVJA budget will be split between the two delegates, however it will cover only a small portion of their expenses. On behalf of all LWVJA members, a big "THANK YOU" to Rosemary and Deborah for dedicating the time and resources to represent us! We look forward to hearing about the convention experience.

Advocacy Update

With two seats recently filled via special elections in the 13th and 25th House Districts, the Michigan House once again has full representation with 56 Democrats and 54 Republicans.

BILLS currently making their way through the Michigan Legislature concern:

Bringing Reforms in Integrity, Transparency and Ethics, the *BRITE* Act: Seven bills are currently with the House Ethics and Oversight Committee

Requiring legislators to wait one year after leaving office to become a lobbyist.

Requiring organizations affiliated with state officials and candidates to register those accounts with the Secretary of State's Office and adding disclosure of more gifts received by elected officials

Bringing Greater Transparency to Government by putting the Governor's Office and the Legislature under the Freedom of Information Act.

A complete list of the almost 250 bills LWVMI is following is available on the LWVMI website



LWVJA

Carnegie Auditorium

Annual
Membership
Meeting

May 23rd 2024

6:00 p.m.

LWVJA Poster Contest

"Go Vote" Poster Contest for High School Students

The League of Women Voters Jackson Area is inviting high school students to submit original artwork to raise awareness and celebrate our citizens' ability to vote and shape our democracy. Through the "Go Vote" Poster Contest, the LWVJA is seeking creative and inspirational entries as a call-to-action, focusing on the importance of voting and using our votes to influence the direction of our democracy.

The contest is open to all high school students (grades 9 – 12 during the 2023-24 school year) registered in Jackson County, Michigan. This includes seniors who will graduate in 2024.

Awards of \$250.00 each will be made to the top three entries as determined by a panel that includes artists from the community and LWVJA members. The top three submissions will also be displayed locally in public venues and featured in LWVJA promotions and information.

Artwork submitted by students must meet the following criteria:

- Be original and not include any copyrighted images
- Be completed by the student without professional assistance
- Not have been entered in other contests or won other awards
- Be nonpartisan and not support, demean, or defame any political party or person.

For more information, including official rules and the contest entry form, go to <https://lwvjackson.org/poster-contest>. The deadline for submitting contest entries is June 14, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. No late entries will be accepted. Winners will be notified and announced by June 24.

GO VOTE ✓
POSTER CONTEST

The League of Women Voters Jackson Area invites high school students to design an original poster to promote voting and engagement in our democracy.

The contest is open to students registered in grades 9-12 in Jackson County MI. Seniors who graduated in 2024 may also participate.

Cash prizes of \$250 each will be awarded to the top 3 winning entries. Completed artwork must be submitted by Friday, June 14, 2024.

For contest rules and to enter the contest:
lwvjackson.org/poster-contest

Entries must be nonpartisan and cannot support, demean, or defame any political party or persons.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE JACKSON AREA
The League is nonpartisan and does not support or oppose political candidates

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ: **Can You Explain What The National Popular Vote is About?** The National Popular Vote (NPV) would guarantee that the Electoral College and the presidency will be won by the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states and DC. In other words, NPV would ensure that each citizen's vote counts equally. The Presidential candidate who gets the most votes nationwide, wins the election. Abolishing the Electoral College requires passing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Until that is accomplished, the National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate receiving the most popular votes. Currently 18 states with 209 Electoral Votes have passed the law. Only 61 more votes from states are needed to reach 270, the majority of Electoral College votes. When the Michigan Legislature passes the NPV bills currently in House and Senate Committees, Michigan will add its 15 Electoral College votes to the Compact. This would enable us to use the NPV law until there is a U.S. Constitutional Amendment. LWVMI supports passage of these bills and recently sent out an Action Alert asking you to register your support of the bills with your legislators. You can also go to the LWVMI website "TAKE ACTION" page <https://lwvmi.org/take-action/#/> and send the alert. NPV would make every voter politically relevant in every presidential election.



FAQ: will appear regularly in The LWVJA Newsletter to answer Frequently Asked Questions from Members

LWVJA Service to Jackson - Brain Health Symposium



On April 16th over 100 people attended the LWVJA Brain Health Symposium (BHS) at Cascades Manor House. The main event was an outstanding presentation by Dr. Surae Eaton, MD and Lisa Dedden Cooper, developer of the

Six Pillars of Brain Health Program

from AARP. It was a very interactive, highly informative presentation with lots of practical information to take home.



The Dozen Resource Tables dispensed valuable information throughout the symposium



LWVJA Service to Jackson



The Evaluation Form, returned by 50% of the guests gave the overall event a 94% favorable and very favorable (F/VF) rating. We asked for ratings on 4 individual elements: AARP Presentation (96% F/VF), Resource Tables (96% F/VF), Meal (87% F/VF), and Socialization Aspect (91% F/VF).

The Evaluations showed a craving for positive information on aging and practical steps in empowering people to improve their brain health. The response further illustrates the importance of socialization while recognizing the danger of isolation for older folks. There were also a number of young professionals attending viewing from aspects of caregivers. Our guests came together and enjoyed the social engagement, dining with friends, relatives and strangers in a most positive atmosphere. The program was highly relevant as shown by an almost full parking lot 30 minutes before the program started. People were eager to visit the Resource Tables which included:



AARP, County Department on Aging, Business and Professional Women’s Group, Harmony Garden Music Therapy Services, Jackson District Library, City Recreation Department Active Living Program, YMCA, Lions Club, Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists Physical Therapy, Right at Home In-home Care, and Thome Pace. Everyone went home with lots of information in their spring colored Symposium bags.



Many individual responses written on Evaluation Forms



The goals of the BHS Committee included increasing participation among members and a thank you for all their hard work. The event was LWVJA’s first Community Service for Jackson and our experience was that we

truly touched a need in our community. This was also an excellent opportunity to introduce LWVJA and educate Jackson to the numerous ways we are involved in the community. This Community Event far exceeded the Symposium Committee’s goals. A special thanks to Bert Sexton for bringing us this truly outstanding program.



To find out more about the science, visit: GlobalCouncilonBrainHealth.org

Brain Health Symposium—How to Live Your Best Life



Dr Sura Eaton



Co President
Shirley Zeller



MC Bert Sexton



Lisa Dedden Cooper



BRAIN-GO
SESSION GAME CARD

SIX PILLARS FOR BRAIN HEALTH

- CONNECT – Be Social
- RELAX – Manage Stress
- SLEEP – Restorative Sleep
- DISCOVER – Engage Your Brain
- MOVE – Ongoing Exercise
- NOURISH – Eat Right



The Audience Particularly enjoyed the Doctor's down to earth expertise – meeting new people – Brain-Go Game – Networking – Ability to learn about local services



How To Live Your Best Life



Smiling faces of the Symposium attendees held on April 16th.



Election Calendar 2024

August 6: Primary for Michigan Partisan Elections

November 5: General Election

2024 Early Voting Dates

July 27, 2024 - August 4, 2024
October 26, 2024 - November 3, 2024

Election Dates

August 6, 2024
November 5, 2024

Bad Officials are Elected by Good Citizens who Don't Vote

George Jean Nathan, American Drama Critic and Magazine Editor



View From Our Past

Honoring Jackson Area LWV Pioneers

Women Voters Hear Talk On Health Science

Mrs. Maurice Heuman opened her home at 404 South Bowen street, Wednesday, for the regular session of the Jackson League of Women Voters. Mrs. O. H. Blakely and Mrs. W. J. Dowsett were co-hostesses.

The affair opened with a board meeting at 11 a. m. and at 1 o'clock a luncheon was served. Mrs. C. M. Russell, president, conducted the meeting, and named the nominating committee as follows: Mrs. Du-Bois H. Loux, Mrs. Marshall Smith and Mrs. F. Bucknell. Election of officers will be held in May.

Mrs. Burt Blair, discussed the Copeland bill; Miss Mary Adkins spoke on government efficiency, and Mrs. Loux explained the edu-

national council, three projects of the league. Later Mrs. Blakely briefly sketched the Tennessee Valley project.

The speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Cummings of Grand Rapids, whose subject was "Scientific Health." He was introduced by the chairman of the afternoon, Mrs. Leonard Field, III.

Women's Long Hike Made To 'Show' Men

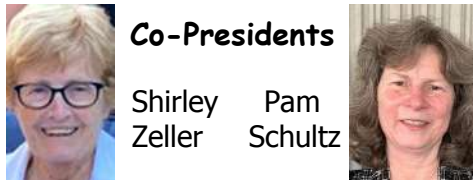
Capetown —(P)—"Just to prove the men were wrong," Miss P Thorburn, an Englishwoman, and a South African companion, Mrs. Johnson, walked here from Johannesburg—a distance of 1,000 miles.

"We didn't do it because we liked it or wanted publicity," said Miss Thorburn, "but we had been put on our mettle by men saying the modern woman was useless and could not walk the length of the street."

The walk took three weeks.

Article reprinted from the Jackson Citizen Patriot archives

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



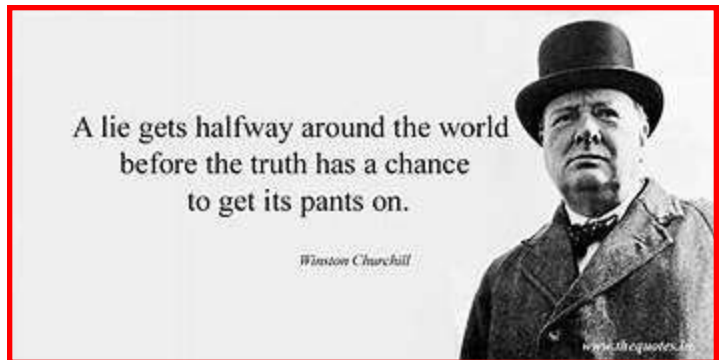
Ken Hollingshead
Tech Support



Deborah Nagy
Historian & Facebook



Bert Sexton



Scan this QR code
Which takes you
directly to the
LWVJA website



LWVJA Contacts

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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 Schultz



Linda Furgason

