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Dear Members,



Happy New Year to all our Jackson Area members!

We hope your holidays were peaceful, and you are refreshed to start another year. Last year was certainly busy, and our League, as always, exceeded our expectations.

We have much to do this year as well.

Our program to battle MIS-AND-DIS-INFORMATION is needed now more than ever.

We have critical work to do to ensure that all voices are heard, that our environmental laws are upheld, and that the LGBTQ communities are protected.

Voting Rights! Always Voting Rights.

We ask that you review the committee list. Everyone is busy; we understand that. But maybe you would like to join another member to sit in at a monthly board meeting. Explore a new area and see if it is a good fit.

Here is an amazing fact! 2025 marks the 10-year anniversary of the rebirth of our local League. We will let you know how we plan to celebrate this milestone.

The State Convention for the LWVMI is May 16-18, in Grand Rapids. Conventions are wonderful places to network and learn what our fellow members around the state are doing. It is where we endorse advocacy issues important to the League. We encourage everyone to think about attending. More information will be forthcoming nearer to the date. Time now to make a note on your calendars.

Changes in our membership renewal process are coming in 2025. We will keep you apprised, and we ask you to watch your email accounts, including spam and junk, for ChapterSpot updates. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Thank you for everything you do. Every member is valued.

"Organize, agitate, educate, must be our war cry." Susan B. Anthony

Linda Furgason and Deborah Nagy, your Co-Presidents

League of Women Voters Jackson Area and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Council announce that the Girl Scouts were very present at the League's Nov.16th Friendship Tea by acting as the servers during the Tea. As you can see they enjoyed their break by participating in the Tea itself. They also shopped and were active bidders in the Leagues' Silent Auction.





On a bright, sunny August 15th day, Ann Green, current Vice President of our League, and I visited Peg Eaton at her home here in Jackson. She graciously met us with tea, and I had brought sweet treats for Peg and her daughter, Janet. Our conversation with Peg revealed her longtime support of the League and also revealed how much our culture has changed since Peg initially joined the League. Honored by the League with the Lifetime Membership Award, Peg has been a member of the JLWV for over 50 years. She served as the President of the League from 1967-1969.

I asked Peg how she decided to join. She told us that she had been reading about the League in the *Jackson Citizen Patriot*. In one of the articles, the League invited people to learn more about the League. "At that meeting, Marge Duane became a good friend." (Marge Duane is another former President of the League and also honored with the Lifetime Membership certificate.) Together they studied Jackson and county-wide initiatives. Along with other League leaders, they put together a booklet about water quality and the government regulations. Peg relayed that putting together this county book was one of her major accomplishments. When Peg became League President, her friend Marge told her "Lead from behind." Much of the work of the League in the 1960s was promoting women's wage equality.



Peg Eaton
Jackson President 1967-1969
Receiving her Life Membership
from the League. May 2022

Peg told us that the saddest day of her League experience was when "we let go of the League." Some of the reasons that the League went dormant, Peg explained, was that women became a part of the workforce and could no longer devote time and energy to the League. Peg was overjoyed when the League started up again under the leadership of Mary Lee Clark, current Director of Member Services. Peg is still active in promoting the League's non-partisan position and its advocacy of voter access.

Threaded through our conversation was Peg's enthusiasm at the friendship building that happens because of the League. She laughed, "If people like you were in that League, I wanted to be there. Making friends occurred when sharing in similar passions—helping move women forward in representing both political parties. Friendships," she said, "made a person larger." Mentoring during Peg's early years as a League member, was an unconscious matter. Perhaps we did it without knowing we were doing it. She believes that this is much more common today. At the end of our conversation when we asked what she would like us to remember, Peg simply said, "May the League live forever."

A beautifully caring, thoughtful, and expressive woman, I think Peg Eaton serves as a mentor to us all, even today. The wall hanging quilt, "Celebrate Diversity" was designed and created by Lisa Cole, another League of Women Voters member. The trunk and branches of the tree are inscribed with the names of all Jackson area League of Women Voters from the 1970s. Lisa was a Curator of Art Education at the Ella Sharp Museum and created the "Arts-Go-to-School" Program. Peg was gifted with the quilt when the League went dormant, and in turn will gift this quilt to the Ella Sharp Museum as part of her legacy.



Wall hanging detail. Note Helen Milliken's name on second strip



February

- 1st LWVJA Board Planning Session 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. SOAR
- 3rd ChapterSpot goes live
- 13th Thursday 7 p.m. Zoom LWVMI President's Meeting
- 14th Friday LWV 105th Anniversary
- 15th Saturday LWVJA 10th Anniversary
- 17th Monday Presidents Day
- 21st Friday Noon LWVJA Board Meeting, Ella Sharp Museum

**March**

- 9th Susan B Anthony/Harriet Tubman Dinner 3:00pm - 5:00pm Cascades Manor House
- 13th Thursday 7:00pm Zoom LWVMI President's Meeting
- 21st Friday Noon LWVJA Board Meeting Ella Sharp Museum
- 28th Friday 3:00pm- 4:30pm LWVJA General Meeting Topic Mis/Disinformation

April

- 15th Fraud -in era of AI - Symposium 11:00am – 2:00 pm Cascades Manor House
- 17th Thursday 7:00pm Zoom LWVMI President's Meeting
- 18th Friday Noon LWVJA Board Meeting, Ella Sharp Museum

May**TBD LWVJA Member Retreat**

- 15th Thursday 7 p.m. Zoom LWVMI President's Meeting
- 16th Friday Noon LWVJA Board Meeting, Ella Sharp Museum
- 16th-17th LWVMI Convention Grand Rapids
- 26th Monday Memorial Day

JUNE**TBD Annual Meeting**

- 19th Thursday Juneteenth
- 20th Friday Noon LWVJA Board Meeting, Ella Sharp Museum

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Black - LWV scheduled event

Red - Action required: Per LWVJA bylaws Board must meet 6/yr General meetings 4/year

Green Federal Holiday



Non-Profit Holiday Tree

Once again, LWVJA decorated a tree for the Michigan Theatre Holiday Lobby Display. Martha Petry and Ruthann Thulin from Voter Services volunteered to decorate the tree with league decorations saved over the years. Ten Nonprofit organizations are invited each year to decorate a Theatre-supplied already lighted tree. The trees were on display from Thanksgiving through Christmas. Anyone passing through was encouraged to "vote" for their favorite tree as a boost to the local nonprofits. Thanks Martha and Ruthann for spending a morning of your time that rewarded the league with highest number of votes totaling \$153. In addition this honor gives us the premier spot for next year – our second year in a row.



League of Women Voters Jackson Area Dashboard

65 members: 54 Primary, 7 Additional Household, 1 Student & 3 Lifetime

New LWVJA Members in the last half of 2024

Welcome to:

Corinne Atchison

Kat Dickenson

Golrise Peterson

David Schwinn

Louvenia Shack Seals

Eric Hill

Stephanie Moser

11 New this Year



Track Changes Made Easy

Are You Interested?

The Member Services Committee is planning a zoom workshop soon on how to use "Track Changes" in editing Microsoft Word documents. It

is used when more than one person is involved in editing a document. If you might be interested, email us at email below.

We are considering mini workshops on other Communications topics. We welcome suggestions on what other topics would be of interest to you.

Please email with your comments and specific interests to Mary Lee Clark at mlrc830@att.net

“If you hit the ground running,
you start with full speed.”



Rosemary Edgar & Deborah Nagy at Welcome Table



Michelle Cochran
SOAR Founder



Mary Lee Clark & Bert Sexton checking out the Book Exchange Table



Tables laden with LWVJA Donations for SOAR



Fran Parker's memorial & our colorful wheel

Members could vote for our Holiday Tree on display at the Michigan Theatre

About 20 LWVJA members and friends communed for our December 5th Annual Holiday Party at Fawzi's Bar and Grill. While the ongoing snow kept some away from the party, it was a festive group at Fawzi's. The room was festively decorated – as were many of the guests! The Book Exchange table was laden with many wonderful books and most were scooped up by others who had not read a given book. This was the 4th time members brought books to share with others and we plan to continue this at each gathering. Our own way to recycle. The drawing for banned books like "All the Light We Cannot See" keeps us mindful of the fact that banning still exists.

Michelle Cochran SOAR Founder spoke moving words about their mission to provide healing, housing, and employment for women survivors of human trafficking, sexual abuse and trauma – women mainly in their twenties. For such a cause, our members filled 3 tables with donations and sent all our left over cookies too to help stock their personal pantry.

Louvenia Shack Seals, Bert's guest, won the drawing for a free one year membership in LWVJA. Louvenia has joined us at many teas and other league gatherings so we are all happy to welcome her.

After such a busy year, everyone was truly in the holiday spirit and happy to commune with friends.



A Lovely Tea-Time!

The Jackson Area League of Women Voters held its Sixth Annual Friendship Tea at the Spring Arbor View Community Room Saturday, Nov. 16th. Eighty members and guests attended the Tea and Light Luncheon, catered by Fawzi Sports Bar and Grill and served by area Girl Scouts with whom the National League has formed a wonderful new partnership. Special guests included: Paula Bowman & Denise Hartsaugh LWVMI Co-Presidents, the Girl Scouts and Kathy Schmaltz, State Representative whose district covers part of Jackson County.



The Estate Jewelry and Auction items delighted holiday shoppers! Thank you to all who made this event another successful friendship event!

Rosemary Edgar graced attendees with her wonderful voice in a program she named, "Soothing Songs for Anxious Times"



Rosemary Edgar



Each table had its own unique personality

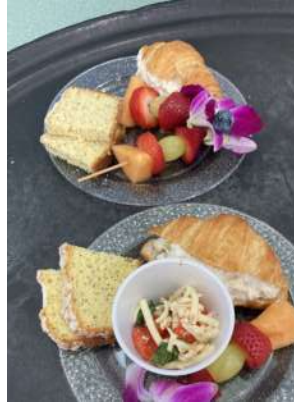


Sheryl Rose
LWVJA Photographer





A day of Friendship, Good times & Laughter, Girl Scouts, LWVMI State Co-Presidents governmental rep





Fran Parker

In Memoriam

Fran was a very active Life Member of our League



Silent Auction Items for Everyone's Taste



And Door Prizes for All



See all in November 2026 for our next Friendship Tea

The Jackson Women's History Council invites you to
the 49th Susan B Anthony/Harriet Tubman
Award Celebration and Student Awards



Join us from 2:45p.m. - 5:00p.m. at the
Cascades Manor House,
1970 Kibby Road, Jackson, MI
Sunday, March 9, 2025

Dinner at 3:00 p.m., Dinner- \$40; Student dinner - \$25
Cash bar available Specify vegetarian option if desired

RSVP by February 28, 2025
Sponsorships available per attached

We accept payment via PayPal or check made payable to
Jackson Women's History Council & mailed to Linda Furgason
5327 Browns Lake Rd
Jackson MI 49203

Payment via PayPal can be sent with an RSVP (& vegetarian if desired) in a comment to
jacksonwomenshistorycouncil@gmail.com

Check out the Facebook page ([jacksonwomenshistorycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/jacksonwomenshistorycouncil)) for more information about
nominating someone for the Susan B. Anthony/Harriet Tubman & Emerging Leader
Awards for recognition.

Encourage students to submit scholarship entries!

SUBMIT ENTRIES by email to jacksonwomenshistorycouncil@gmail.com, **OR**
US mail to: Linda Furgason, 5327 Browns Lake Rd, Jackson, MI 49203 **OR**
drop them off at the Jackson District Library Administration Building
290 W Michigan Av, Jackson, MI

Questions contact Ann Green Annmgreen517@gmail.com

Deadline February 25, 2025





Michigan Voters in 2024

Voted in November 2024

General Election: 5,553,169 = 66% of Registered Voters

2023-2024 Legislative Session concluded on December 31, 2024. During those two years almost 500 Public Acts were signed into law. LWVMI supported or opposed almost 300 bills during that time. We have a very active state Advocacy Committee chaired by past President Judy Karendjef monitoring legislation – attending committee meetings, supporting and opposing legislation, providing testimony, participating in lobby days, working in coalitions and sending action alerts.



2025-2026 Michigan Legislature

The 103 rd Michigan Legislative session was called order January 8, 2025. All bills from the 102nd session died with new bills being introduced for this session. The Michigan Senate has 37 members, 19 Democrats and 18 Republicans and 1 vacancy. The Michigan House of Representatives has 110 members, 58 Republicans and 52 Democrats

CHAPTERSPOT



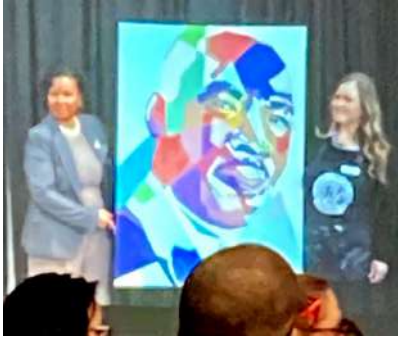
Remember

CLAIM YOUR MEMBERSHIP

When **CHAPTERSPOT** sends you the email request the first week in February.



Martin Luther King jr weekend kicked off with the Jackson Chamber of Commerce MLK JR Breakfast on January 17th at the American One Events Center at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. There were over 500 attendees of the power packed event. Seven of our members represented the LWVJA



Original artwork was auctioned to raise funds to help fund the Chamber's Challenge Day which is an Anti-Bullying program designed to empower students to create a school-wide culture of kindness. antibullying, teasing, exclusion, isolation—these are commonplace in our schools, but their effects can be devastating: poor grades, low self-esteem, truancy, depression, substance abuse, violence, and even suicide. The MLK Diversity Committee (a collaboration between the Jackson County Chamber, the Jackson County ISD, the Jackson Human Relations Commission, and other community partners) works with Jackson county middle schools to empower students to be agents of positive change, and to help students and staff create schools in which kindness, respect and support are the norm.



Nan Whitmore, Linda Furgason, Ann Green & Shirley Zeller



Sharon Petersen, Christine & Ed Peterson



Fraud - in Era of AI 2025 Symposium

**Tuesday April 15th, 2025
11 a.m. - noon registration &**

The League of Women Voters Jackson Area & AARP

***Invite you to the
2025 Symposium - Fraud in the Era of AI***

National AARP Representatives will be providing an educational seminar about AI, Hacking and Scamming

The program focuses on developing the skills to maintain your computer and other devices safely. LWVJA & AARP offers this symposium to empower members of the Jackson community with credible, nonpartisan, accurate information on Scamming and Hacking which they can use both in their personal and professional lives and to be better, more participative community citizens.

With gracious Title Sponsorships from
League of Women Voters Jackson Area and AARP

Cost is only \$15 per person

Includes: The Presentation, Checking out Resource Tables,
Lunch, including: a salad, entrée, & dessert

Please specify if vegetarian

Many handouts and Q & A from a panel of experts

Further Information to follow as to specifics and avenue for reservations



21st Century

COMMUNICATIONS

21st Century Communications for Your League

Did you ever wonder how your grandmother kept up with all the changes of the 20th century?

Do you wonder whether you can keep up today?

And yet changes and advances in communications are inevitable, and often beneficial, to advance the work of the League.

So consider. Some of these tools have been around a long time, but others are pretty new. And getting adept at using them is critical for effective communications today. Ask yourself where you stand on the competency spectrum. Think about whether you can help LWVJA use these tools to be more effective and efficient.

Here's a quick list of technologies and internet. How many did your grandmother use? Your mother? And how many require some help from your grandchildren?

Telephone

Mobile

Texting

Smart!

Computers

Emails

Software

Excel – financial

Word – documents

PowerPoint – presentations

Google docs surveying and sharing information

Facebook

Website

Newsletter – quarterly

ZOOM – for committee meetings and other gatherings

Canva – for graphics

You Tube – to store some of our recorded events

Survey Monkey - surveys

Pay Pal – Event registrations and member renewals

Video Editing and Photography

LWVJA could use help with keeping our website up to date, posting on Facebook, taking care of business, and a lot more. If you're interested, contact Mary Lee Clark, mlrc830@att.net



Our democracy has been tested, coming to a head in the 2024 elections, and will likely continue to be tested in the months and years ahead. As an organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy, the League of Women Voters will continue our work to protect and expand voting rights and challenge those who seek to undermine democratic principles and processes.

"Women Defend Democracy" is the new programmatic focus for the League in 2025, centering people power and moving our country towards a stronger, multi-racial democracy.

For 105 years, the League of Women Voters has worked to provide voters with election information, safeguard voter access, uphold election integrity, and defend against efforts to undermine democratic principles. Today, the organization is stronger than ever, with a growing, vibrant membership of activists tackling the challenges to our democracy in every corner of our country. As the League continues to build a membership that reflects America, we recognize the continued challenges our democracy will face.

[Stay Up to Date with Women Defend Democracy](#)

Through the "Women Defend Democracy" campaign, the League will work to:

- Provide Democracy Education & Election Administration Support
 - Restore and Defend Voting Rights Protections
 - Abolish the Electoral College
 - Protect Democracy Organizations & Institutions
 - Fight for Reproductive Freedoms

This campaign kicks off for the first 100 days of the new administration and beyond. The League of Women Voters is well positioned to defend attacks on democracy in the coming months and years. Together, we believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Be a part of the campaign.

Please contact any board member to join the committees

STANDING COMMITTEES	
Audit Committee (2): (2024-2025)	Budget Committee(2024-2025)
GaryKrupa	Mary Lee Clark
Jann Krupa	Linda Furgason
	Susan Murphy (Treasurer, per bylaws develops budget)
Nominating Committee (2025-2027)	
Rosemary Edgar (25-27) Bd mem	Bylaws Committee (3-5): (2024-25)
Isabell Nazar (elected:May 2025-27)non Bd Mem	Mary Lee Clark
Shirley Zeller(elected:May2025-2027)nonbdMem	Marge Duane
	Linda Furgason
	Molly Kaiser
	Jodi Snyder
OTHER COMMITTEES SERVING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS/PROJECTS	
Advocacy Committee	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
Shirley Zeller, Chair	Ann Green, Chair
Debbie Killewald	Christine Canning Peterson
Deborah Nagy	Ed Peterson
Isabell Nazar	Martha Petry
Renell Weathers	
	Development/Grants/Fund Raising
	Ann Green
	Susan Murphy
Community Events	
Deborah Nagy	Facebook Committee
Shirley Zeller	Deborah Nagy
History/Archives Deborah Nagy, chair	Technology Ken Hollingshead, chair

Inventory Committee	Tea Committee
Mary Lee Clark - Temporary Chair	Deborah Nagy - chair
Laurie Campbell	Mary Lee Clark
	Marie Fisher
	Linda Furgason
Membership Services Committee	Ann Green
Mary Lee Clark--Chair	Ken Hollingshead
Marge Duane	Martha Petry
Abbey Frew	Bert Sexton
Martha Petry	Shirley Zeller
Ruthann Thulin	
	Voter Services Committee including 411
Newsletter Committee	Laurie Campbell co chair
Linda Furgason, Chair	Pam Schultz co-chair
Mary Lee Clark	Mary Lee Clark
Nancy Connell	Abbey Frew
Marge Duane editor	Debbie Killewald
Martha Petry contributor	Sarah Welton Vote 411 administrator
Sheryl Rose contributor	
Positions Review LWV MI/US	Poster Contest Committee
Rosemary Edgar Chair	Pam Schultz
Ann Green	
Martha Petry	Youth Outreach
Renell Weathers	My Democracy-My Vote Committee Pre HS
	Linda Furgason, Chair
Observer Corps Committee	Abbey Frew
Shirley Zeller chair	Deborah Nagy
Laurie Campbell	Roberta Sexton
Nancy Connell	Ed & Christine Peterson
Sheryl Fagin	Sheila Wendorf (non-member)
Linda Furgason	
Jann Krupa	High School - Voter Reg-Gov't Classes
Deborah Nagy	Sharon Pedersen
Martha Petry	Debbie Killewald
Deb Sears	Pam Schultz
Nancy Smith - email reports to her	
	Website Committee
	Mary Lee Clark chair
Symposium	Laurie Campbell
Mary Lee Clark	Marge Duane
Linda Furgason	Ken Hollingshead
Bert Sexton	Deborah Nagy

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents



Deborah Nagy



Linda Furgason

**Ann Green
ice President**



Laurie Campbell
Secretary

**Susan Murphy
Treasurer**



Ken Hollingshead
Tech Support

**Mary Lee Clark
Member Services**



Pam Schultz
ChapterSpot

Abbey Frew



Rosemary Edgar

Martha Petry



Bert Sexton

LWVJA Contacts

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

website address: LWVJackson.org

Facebook address: League of Women
Voters Jackson Area

View From The Past



1913 picture from the publication from the National Women's Social Political Union Publication in Great Briton where Women got the right to vote partially in 1918, fully in 1928. The suffragettes won sympathy when the government harshly force-fed jailed hunger strikers



... [woman suffrage] has made little difference beyond doubling the number of voters. There is no woman's vote as such. They divide up just about as men do.

— Alice Roosevelt Longworth —

AZ QUOTES



Scan this QR code



Which takes you directly to the LWVJA website

Email the newsletter committee at: leaguwvjackson@gmail.com



Mary Lee Clark



Marge Duane



Linda Furgason



Nancy Connell



Martha Petry
Contributor



Sheryl Rose
Contributor