

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *DETROIT*



APRIL - MAY 2018 ISSUE

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The **April Membership Meeting** will be held

April 21st at 2:00 to 4:00 pm
at

* Pleasant Grove Baptist
Church, 13651 Dequindre,
Detroit, 48212.

* We are grateful to Rev.
Louis Forsythe II for extending
the use of the church.

*We have various items on
the agenda including: a
discussion of the issues related
to the proposed census
question concerning
Citizenship; and finding out
what a Precinct Captain does.
Please join us and bring a
friend!

Biennial National League Convention

June 28 – July 1, 2018
At the Chicago Hilton. For
more information go to:
<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/register-2018-convention>.

There is possible ride
sharing with other Detroit
members who are going.
All members welcome.

April and May Activities

- **General Membership Meeting – April** 21st, 2018. 2:00 – 4:00 pm.
Please put on your calendar.
- **2018 LWVMI Spring Workshop, April** 28th in Ann Arbor, 9:30 am – 3:00pm. On-line registration.
- **General Membership Meeting – May** 19th, 2018. 2:00-4:00 pm.
Location to be determined.

News from the Detroit League

We have been doing fund raising and having fun at the same time with a Game Nights – the latest on March 23rd! We also have planned a Bid Whist night April 27th. Please go to our website at lwvdetroit.org for more information.

The Coffee and Conversation Community Event was held March 24th at the Sherwood Library. We are grateful to Kelly Glancy, Library Manager and her staff for sharing the very nice meeting room and providing support. We had 6 members and 3 people from the community who attended and had a very interesting discussion about voter engagement. We are planning additional Coffee and Conversation events in various locations. If you have ideas for sites, please let us know. Cheryl Bukoff, cbukoff@sbcglobal.net.

Promote the Vote (PTV)

We need your help!

The Michigan League of Women Voters, the ACLU and the NAACP have sponsored a petition drive for a Constitutional Amendment to our State Constitution to make it easier to vote. Some of the changes include automatic registration when a person obtains a driver's license, no reason absentee ballot, ensuring a secret ballot, and having election results audited to ensure accuracy. (To see complete wording go to promotethevotemi.com)

Many of our Detroit League members have collected signatures for this petition and to date, we have turned in 21 completed petitions but still need to collect a lot more. We are currently trying to obtain permission to gather signatures at some of our community churches. Some of us will be attending "American Islamophobia" at Wayne State's Law School on April 16th to obtain signatures.

Anyone interested in obtaining petitions for signature gathering or participate in a scheduled signature event, **please contact Deborah Bunkley** muffin@umich.edu or **Susan Slattery**, sslattery7@comcast.net. Please do take a petition with you when you go to your own events (book clubs, meetings, etc.)

Do You Know Your Government?

Did you know that there are 11 Detroit Commissions that are appointed by the Mayor and City Council? They include the following:

- Belle Isle Advisory Committee
- Citizens Review Committee
- City Planning Commission
- Community Advisory Committee – Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Detroit Building Authority Commission
- Detroit Elected Officials Compensation Commission
- Detroit Entertainment Commission
- Detroit Land Bank Authority
- Detroit Promise Zone Authority
- Election Commission
 - Chairperson Janice Winfrey, City Clerk
 - Members Brenda Jones, City Council President
 - Member Butch Hollowell, Corporation Counsel

Human Rights Commission

You can find out who the members are at <http://www.detroitmi.gov/Government/Commissions>.



Other Community Events of Interest

- **Detroit Peace in the Streets, A Peace-building Conference, April 20-21, 8:30-4:15** presented by the Rotary Clubs of Detroit and WSU's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Register at www.detroitpeaceinthestreets.org.
- **Dialogue on School Safety - April 20, 2018**
Dialogue on School Safety
Friday, April 20, McGregor Memorial Conference Center, WSU, 7- 9:30 pm
Center for the Study of Citizenship at WSU presents a Citizens Dialogue. Brian Dickerson of the Detroit Free Press will moderate a spirited discussion between experts on School Safety and then the audience.

National League positions that address the Citizenship Question in 2020 Census and position on Gun Control.

The LWV opposes the Commerce Department's announced addition of a question about citizenship status to the 2020 Census form. The rationale and talking points behind this position can be found at lwvmi.org.

The LWV stand for Gun Violence Prevention through a sensible use of firearms, and against the increasing use of violent weapons turned against fellow citizens within our communities. LWVMI opposes bills that allow those with concealed pistol licenses with additional training to carry in certain gun-free zones and continues to support legislation to strengthen reporting to the National Background Check Database. Additional information can be found on the State website at lwvmi.org.



Do you know what Highland Park, Hamtramck and Detroit have in common? Not the same place on the map nor paczki!

Yes, it is the LWV Detroit! The League includes membership from all three cities.

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is strictly nonpartisan meaning we neither endorse nor oppose candidates or political parties. Membership is open to men and women that are of at least 16 years of age.