



**League of Women Voters®
of the Flint Area**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2011 – 2012**

Thursday, May 24, 2012
5:00pm

Sarvis Conference Center
1231 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48503

www.lwvflintarea.org

Dedicated to the 2011-2012
League of Women Voters of the Flint Area
Board of Directors

*In the absence of a president,
the entire Board stepped up to plan and
implement the work of our League.*

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LWVFA Annual Report

Annual Meeting Procedures

The Annual Meeting is open to members of the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area, their guests and visitors. Only members in good standing have the right to speak and vote.

Roberts Rules of Order will govern the general conduct of the meeting, except where superseded by the Bylaws or Annual Meeting Rules.

A Parliamentarian shall be selected to 1) advise on the proper application of the rules, 2) make a ruling when there is conflict regarding the interpretation of a rule and 3) educate as to the proper way to conduct the meeting (based on Robert's Rules of Order)

The Secretary or Chair may request that motions or amendments of substance be put in writing.

A reading committee selected at last year's meeting verified the accuracy of the minutes. Today we select three members to read this year's minutes.

Each year our local program must be approved by the membership. The Board recommends approval of the program as printed in this report. A majority vote of members attending the meeting is needed for approval.

Our by-laws provide for election of officers and directors. Election of the slate, as presented by the Nominating Committee, is by majority vote. The Nominating Committee consists of two Board members, appointed by the board. All remaining members who are not on the Board are elected at this 2012 Annual Meeting.

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Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda

5:00pm **Registration/Check-in**

5:15pm **Call to Order**

Welcome

Purpose

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Acceptance of 2011 Minutes

Selection of 2012 Minutes Reading Committee

Treasurer's Report LWVFA FY11-12

Presentation of Proposed Budget FY12-13

Questions, Motion & Vote to Consider

Presentation of Local Program Positions

Questions, Motion & Vote to Consider

Report of the Nominating Committee/Nominations from Floor

Election of Officers & Directors for LWVFA

New Business

Presentations

Remarks

Adjournment

*******BREAK*******

Dinner

Program

"Current Challenges in Access to Health Care"

Speaker: Paula Zelenko
Mayor of Burton

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2011 – 2012 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Administrative Vice President	Rhina Griffel
Secretary	Kristal Jackson
Treasurers	Ann Kraft

DIRECTORS

Government Co-Chairs	Edith Prunty-Spencer Doris Sain
Membership	Helen Hoyt
Natural Resources	Linda Hoff
Social Policy	Jeanette Hall
Voter Service	Ernestine Tune

OFF BOARD PORTFOLIOS

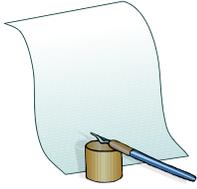
Bulletin	Jeanette Hall
Webmaster	Kristal Jackson

**Resignations during the year:
Bobbie Walton – Program Vice President
Beverly Bliesath – Interim President*

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OFFICER'S REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT



In the absence of an elected President this past year, I undertook the responsibility of being the “Team Leader.” Our focus was on using the “ABC’s of a Streamlined League” as recommended by the League of Women Voters of Michigan. Our Board functioned rather as a Committee of the Whole and each, regardless of official portfolio, helped the other. My major function was to convene and chair Board meetings, and serve as a resource person when needed. On the occasions when I was out of town, Jeanette Hall stepped in to fulfill this function.

In addition to chairing the Board Meetings, preparing the agendas, etc., I did work very closely with the committee in charge of the Making Democracy Work event. I attended a State League Workshop on the use of the electronic media to further communication, facilitated by our own Kristal Jackson, as well as State League Convention in Traverse City. Also participated in the Strategic Planning Sessions for our local League facilitated by Linda Hoff.

Rhina Griffel

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2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2011
Sarvis Center

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to by President, Helen Hoyt

PURPOSE: As stated by President, Helen Hoyt, the purpose of Annual Meeting is to set the course for the 2011-2012 LWV-FA year.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF 2010 ANNUAL MEETING:

Jeanette Hall moves for acceptance of the minutes.
Edith Prunty-Spencer seconds the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ann Kraft gave the Treasurer's Report. The budget for 2011-2012 is \$7,907.00. Ann Kraft provided information on:
Financial Support for Leagues – A good portion of dues is sent to support state and national levels.

Bulletin – The amount listed pays for the permit, postage and printing of the bulletin. We would like to do more emailing but, have a limited number of email addresses.

Voter Service – The amount shown reflects our share of the voter guide software. This year LWVUS has requested that local leagues that use the software share in paying its cost.

In order to meet the budget this year, we will need to focus on fundraising.

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET.

Rhina Griffel moved that the budget be adopted
Ruth Brown seconds. Motion carries.

LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS: Program Positions stand as printed in the Annual Report program.

- Flint City Charter
- Housing Relocation
- County Executive
- Genesee County Correctional
- Financing Flint Schools
- Library Services in Genesee County

Edith Prunty-Spencer moves for retaining present Program Positions.
Rhina Griffel seconds.

Discussion:

Should we add healthcare to the list of local program positions?

It was pointed out that we don't need to list healthcare specifically, as we can operate under the LWVUS position. Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Andrea Ananich reported the following nominations:

President

TBD

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Administrative Vice President	Rhina Griffel
Secretary	Kristal Jackson
Treasurer	Ann Kraft/Marian Wright
Membership	Helen Hoyt
Natural Resources	Linda Hoff
Social Policy	Jeanette Hall
Voter Service	Ernestine Tune

Rose Ann MacDonald moved to accept the Nominating Committee Report.
Bobbie Walton seconds.
Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Volunteers for 2011
Helen Hoyt (Membership Chair)
Bobbie Walton
Ernestine Tune
Soni Sparks
Kristal Jackson

There was some discussion surrounding the process of selecting the nominating committee as well as the make-up of the nominating committee. Since the 2011 Nominating committee is made up of volunteers, the Bylaws (specifically Article VIII) will be reviewed for the 2012 Nominating Committee selection.

NEW BUSINESS

Redistricting

Discussion surrounded the Saginaw Redistricting Workshop that the LWVMI sponsored in November 2010, the Gerrymandering film, the County's Redistricting efforts and how LWVFA should proceed in regards to redistricting.

Edith Prunty-Spencer mentioned that the purpose of the state workshops was to prepare us to take steps to garner enough support and information during the current process so that we are in a position to do something about the next census/redistricting process.

Strategic Planning

Given the challenges to the local league – rethinking the focus, broadening membership and thriving as an organization, Linda Hoff will be putting together a strategic planning session for those interested in participating.

The sessions will be 2 full days and dates will be dependent on the availability of the volunteers.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Helen Hoyt thanked the attendees and the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by President Helen Hoyt.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristal Jackson
Secretary

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LWVFA Proposed Budget FY12-13

	Mar. 2012	Year-to-date		
Balance forward	\$5,219.76	\$5,321.43		
Receipts	<u>\$1,194.50</u>	<u>\$5,087.29</u>		
	\$6,414.26	\$10,408.72		
Expenses			FY 11-12 Budget	FY 12-13 Proposed Budget
A. Administration				
1. Board tools, supplies, postage, etc.		\$129.75	\$197.00	\$180.00
2. Insurance		\$49.00	\$48.00	\$50.00
3. Bank charges		\$6.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Membership growth & participation		\$71.50	\$50.00	\$85.00
5. Public relations/publicity		\$200.00	\$385.00	\$200.00
6. Website maintenance	\$0.97	\$0.97		\$200.00
7. Newsletter				
a. Postage 6 issues @ \$25		\$292.00	\$395.00	\$150.00
b. Printing 6 issues @ \$130		\$435.61	\$686.00	\$780.00
8. Publications			\$30.00	\$30.00
9. Finance/fundraising	\$17.40	\$17.40	\$280.00	
a. Birthday letter				\$160.00
b. Calendar sales		\$105.00	\$84.00	\$108.00
c. Concert Royal Garden Trio 30 @ \$10				\$300.00
d. Other				
B. State per member payments		\$985.50	\$1,218.00	
1. 42 individuals @ \$21				\$882.00
2. 11 households @ \$31.50				\$346.50
3. 3 students @ \$10.50				\$31.50
C. US per member payments		\$1,406.25	\$1,723.00	
1. 42 individuals @ \$31				\$1,302.00
2. 11 households @ \$46.50				\$511.50
3. 3 students @ \$16				\$48.00
D. Meetings				
1. Annual business meet. w/meal 25 @ \$20		\$0.00	\$616.00	\$500.00
2. State League workshop 5 @ \$20				\$100.00
3. State Convention (reg., hotel, travel) 4 @ \$225				\$900.00
4. Nat'l. Convention (reg./hotel/ travel for 1 deleg.)				
E. Educational programming			\$60.00	
1. Voter Service		\$6.34	\$550.00	\$600.00
2. Natural Resources				\$50.00
3. Social Policy				\$50.00
4. Government				\$50.00
5. International Relations				
F. Activities				
1. Making Democracy Work Award event		\$307.51	\$325.00	\$330.00
2. 8 "Hot Topics" luncheons 15 @ \$10				\$1,200.00
3. Other - Birthday celebration			\$200.00	
G. Position Support (Advocacy)			\$60.00	\$60.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18.37	\$4,012.83	\$7,907.00	\$9,204.50
BALANCE ON HAND	\$6,395.89	\$6,395.89		

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LWVFA Proposed Budget FY12-13 (cont.)

	Mar. 2012	Year-to- date	2011- 2012 Budget	Proposed 2012-2013 Budget
Income				
A. Dues	\$190.00	\$3,042.50	\$3,065.00	
1. Individuals 42 @\$65				\$2,730.00
2. Households 11 @\$100				\$1,100.00
3. Students 3 @\$25				\$75.00
4. Scholarship Fund 3 @\$30		\$20.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
 B. Contributions				
1. Member		\$240.00	\$300.00	
2. Non-member		\$33.17	\$20.00	
 C. Other funding sources				
1. Calendar sales	\$7.50	\$120.00	\$116.00	\$100.00
2. T-shirt sales		\$43.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
3. Fundraising activity		\$0.00	\$1,900.00	
4. Letter in February	\$997.00	\$997.00	\$1,070.00	\$1,123.00
5. Sponsorships for events/newsletter				\$360.00
6. Other – Royal Garden Trio (Jazz Concert) 2@\$50				\$1,250.00
 D. Meetings				
1. Annual meeting with meal 23 @\$25			\$440.00	\$575.00
2. Making Democracy Work 25 @\$25		\$580.00	\$400.00	\$625.00
3. 8 Hot topics luncheons 12 @\$12		\$0.00		\$1,152.00
4. Other - Birthday celebration			\$200.00	
 E. Publications				
 F. Interest on savings account		\$2.62	\$6.00	\$5.00
 G. LWV Ed Fund (held at nat'l. office)			\$300.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,194.50	\$5,078.29	\$7,907.00	\$9,205.00

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Recommended Dues Increase

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: \$55 > \$65 HOUSEHOLDS: \$80 > \$100

Rationale:

1. Per member support to LWVMI and LWVUS currently leaves \$3 per Individual Member and \$2 per Household Members.

The increase will leave \$13 per Individual and \$22 per Household Member, resulting in a more equitable distribution of the costs of operating our local League.

2. Delegates to LWVUS National Convention in June will vote on dues increases. Increases are anticipated.

STUDENT MEMBER: \$30 < \$25 (A loss of \$3.50)

Rationale:

LWVFA wants to encourage younger persons to become League members. This reduction will lighten the burden.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: FOR AGES 26 YRS. AND UNDER; NON-VOTING

Rationale:

Another way to encourage younger persons to engage in League and become full members in the future. This would include persons younger than 18 years and up to 26 years. Associate Members would not be members of LWVMI or LWVUS and would have no voting power in the local League.

WHERE DO THE PER MEMBER PAYMENTS (PMPs) GO AND FOR WHAT PURPOSES?

To LWVUS and LWVMI for -

Service to Leagues: Providing assistance and problem solving; strengthening local capacity to be more visible and recruit new members; training and training materials; providing secure website connection for updating and accessing membership database; administering League grants program (LWVEF), so that local and state Leagues can collect and use tax deductible money for their work.

Communications to Leagues: Electronic newsletter *LeagueE-Voice*; weekly electronic Leaders' Updates; website for key sources of information; print newsletter; publications.

Advocacy: Lobby Congress and Executive Branch on League positions (LWVUS); lobby State House and Senate on League positions (LWVMI) that have been designated as legislative priorities; distribute action alerts to Washington-based Lobby Corps and 70,000 nationwide, electronic Grassroots Lobby Corps; monitor legislative action as participants in various coalitions; encourage grassroots action at all levels of government.

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Education: The League is nationally recognized for its ability to make complex issues accessible to the non-expert citizen and for its expertise as a trainer of community leaders and activists. The League provides a one-stop-shop for election information, *VOTE.411.org*, for which Yahoo! provides pro bono server support.

Public Communications: Press releases, letters to the editor, press conferences, speeches on priority issues, and through education and civic engagement activities; spotlighting achievements of state and local Leagues.

Convention and Council Meetings: A time for members to make changes in governance; vote on biennial program; meet members and staff; approve budgets; raise issues important to members, etc.

Additional Functions: Accounting, fundraising, technology management, handling of mail, grant writing, developing funding streams, etc.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

One of the items we came away from the 2011 Annual Meeting was to address the challenges to the local league – rethinking the focus, broadening membership and thriving as an organization. Special thanks to Linda Hoff, who put together two days of thought provoking, task oriented sessions. During these sessions we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the league, opportunities and external threats, the vision and goals. We came away from the strategic planning with a list of "To Do's", including the following:

Improved plan for publicity

Fundraising Committee

Improved member engagement

Attracting new members

Building a broader coalition

A more customized vision statement - "To empower citizens to participate in the improvement of their communities."

Respectfully Submitted

Strategic Planning Committee

LWVFA Annual Report

PROGRAM PLANNING

January is traditionally Program Planning for each League. This year we focused on our National Program Positions. A complete listing of all the positions was posted on our Website (www.lwvflinttarea.org) as well as in a mailing to members for whom we did not have an e-mail address. Since only members can vote on League positions, we targeted the planning process to our membership. Members were asked to review these positions.

The main categories are Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. Members were asked to respond as to whether or not they were satisfied with the position as it stood, if there were any they had concerns about and would wish to revisit, or if our local members wished to propose a new study for consideration at the League National Convention in June. After reviewing these positions – (there are 33), our League members were satisfied with the positions as they stand. Our consensus was reported to the National League where it will be combined with the reports from the other Leagues in the U.S., with the results presented at the convention in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to Kristal Jackson for her work on linking all the positions on our Website and to all our Portfolio Program Chairs –Edith Prunty Spencer, Doris Sain, Linda Hoff and myself. All were available to the membership to answer questions and to facilitate the consensus process.

Jeanette Hall
Program Planning Chair

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2011 – 2012 PROGRAMS

MAY 2011	LWVMI Convention	Traverse City, MI
JUNE 2011	Flint & Burton Mayoral Candidate Video Interviews	Genesee County Admin. Bldg
	Village of Goodrich Council Video Interviews	Burton City Hall
JULY 2011	LWVFA Strategic Planning Sessions	Kettering University
SEPTEMBER 2011	Making Democracy Work Award, Presentation & Reception	Woodside Church
OCTOBER 2011	Flint Mayoral Candidate Forum	Urban League of Flint
	Moderator: Tia Ewing & David McGhee	Co-Sponsors: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Zeta Beta Omega Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Flint Alumnae Chapter
	LWVMI Workshop: Tapping the Power of the League	Saginaw, MI

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NOVEMBER 2011	The Role of Government in Public Education Consensus	Genesee Intermediate School District Office
	Moderator: Beth Hackett & Jeanette Hall	
DECEMBER 2011	Holiday Party	Home of Marion Wright
JANUARY 2012	51st District Candidate Forum	Grand Blanc Senior Center
	Moderator: Paul Rozycki	Co-Sponsor: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Flint Alumnae Chapter
FEBRUARY 2012	National Program Planning	Survey (Mail & Online)
APRIL 2012	Earth Day Celebration	UM-Flint
	Sponsored by: UM-Flint & Mott College	
	Public Forum on Water, Karegnondi and Fracking	Baker College
	"WATER: Safety, Delivery and Challenges," Presenter: Jeff Wright	
MAY 2012	Annual Meeting	Sarvis Center
	"Current Challenges in Access to Healthcare" Speaker: Paula Zelenko	

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DIRECTOR REPORTS

GOVERNMENT

The LWV of the Flint Area held its 4th annual “Making Democracy Work” award reception on September 20, 2011 at Woodside Church. This year’s award honoree was Jane Richardson who was honored for her years of commitment to neighborhood improvement and housing concerns in the city of Flint. She has worked since the mid-80’s with Salem Housing Community Development Corporation (formerly Salem Housing Task Force). Jane was the Executive Director from 1985 to 1996 and has continued to work in one capacity or another for Salem until the present time. Jane has also been a League of Women Voters member for many years and served as its president at one time.

Tributes to Jane were given by Norm Bryant and Jim Richardson in addition to a proclamation from the City of Flint and a plaque from the LWV. The event was attended by approximately 45 community and league members. A light luncheon was served with chicken sandwiches, fruit, cheese/crackers, and dessert.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edith Prunty-Spencer
Ruth Brown
Doris Sain



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NATURAL RESOURCES

This first year has been spent getting grounded in many of the topics pertaining to the citizens of Genesee County. As information becomes available to share it is being posted to the LWV-Flint Facebook page. As appropriate, items are also being posted to the LWV-Flint website.

On April 14, the League participated in the Earth Day celebration sponsored by UM-Flint and MCC. We had a good visitor turnout at the League's table and people were very receptive to the handouts we had available for adults and children. Adult information included composting, gardening, recycling, plants that naturally repel mosquitos, a summary of the chemicals used locally in mosquito control, information on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, a handout notifying participants of the Consumers Power Home Energy Analysis, as well as some LWV position regarding natural resources including their opposition to the Keystone Pipeline. For the children, we had puzzles, coloring pages, matching activities all related to a healthy earth and conservation. Additionally, the League sponsored a program on April 26th on Water: Safety, Delivery and Challenges at Baker College of Flint. Our featured speaker was Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright. Handouts were also available at the water program along with a survey asking participants what kinds of programs they would like to see.

Plans for 2012-13 include pressing the issue of water conservation and protection, encouraging broader reach and ease of curbside recycling, educating citizens on safer approaches to lawn/yard care, and monitoring and encouraging safe environmental legislation and practices with our legislators and governmental agencies.

Special thanks to Doris Sain, Edith Prunty Spencer, Ann Kraft, Rhina Griffel, and Wanda Harden each of whom helped with committee work!

Linda Hoff
Natural Resources Chair

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SOCIAL POLICY

The focus of the Social Policy Portfolio this past year was the National League Study on “The Role of the Federal Government in Education.” Along with information in our Perspectives, on our Website, and at a consensus meeting, our consensus meeting itself was held at the GISD Offices of Health, Safety and Nutrition Services. All Consensus studies are done by league members across the country with the goal of determining what our position will be. With nation-wide input, the U.S. League will formulate the position. For many League members the information on “Common Core Standards” was especially useful so that we all would understand what they are and then should the U.S. government develop a national curriculum that would meet these standards. The study dealt with early childhood education, a particular interest of the League and the GISD. One factor to consider, of course, was the long-standing question of whether or not the role of the government is too small, about right, too large and much too large? Should the common core standards be voluntary or mandated? We await the final statement position and the corroborating details. The results of the study will be voted upon at the National Convention in June. This will be the position on which we will be able to take action.

Special thanks go to Kristal Jackson, Dr. Beth Hackett and Karla Mancini.

Jeanette Hall
Social Policy Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Sixty of seventy members renewed their memberships by the deadline of January 31st, 2012. Ann Kraft persistently sent written dues notices, extra reminders, as well as e-mails and telephone calls to delinquent members and retrieved seven more. Ann is very conscientious with her efforts.

Since July 1, 2011, we welcomed seven new members: Beverly and Karen Bliesath, Jill C. Bauer, Deb Cherry, Karla Mancini, Helen Mitts and Arlene Sparks. Ernestine Tune is our champion member recruiter who snagged three of the new members. Thank you, Tena! Welcome to our new members! We're delighted to currently have seventy members and hope to build on this number.

Our Nominating Committee, chaired by Bobbie Walton, and members Helen Hoyt, Kristal Jackson, Soni Sparks and Ernestine Tune successfully completed a slate of nominees to be presented at Annual Meeting. A new Board member Orientation is being planned for shortly after Annual Meeting.

With ideas and help from the Board, a new-member packet was developed. Onward and upward!

Helen Hoyt
Membership Chair

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VOTER SERVICE

Three election cycles: 8-2-11 Primary, 11-8-11 General Election & 2-28-12 Presidential Primary & 51st State Representative replacement.

8-2-11 Primary Election. LWV Flint Area produced video interview forums for:

- 1) City of Burton Mayoral, two of the three candidates participated.
- 2) Flint City Mayor, six of seven candidates participated.
- 3) Village of Goodrich Council, two of four candidates participated.

Electronic Voter Guide.

11-8-11 General Election. LWV Flint Area produced live audience candidate forum for City of Flint Mayor, partnered with Urban League of Flint. Video shown on Comcast Public Access 17 and on LWVFLINTAREA.ORG

Electronic Voter Guide

2-28-12 Presidential Primary & Special Election for 51st State Representative.

- 1) Live audience candidate forum for 51st State Representative at Grand Blanc Senior Center. All three candidates participated, over 90 in attendance, 3 TV Stations present. Over 150 views of video on LWVFLINTAREA.ORG website, also shown on Comcast Public Access Ch#17.

LWV FLINT AREA website has over 80 videos posted on our website. From candidate forums, candidate videos, Genesee Co Board of Commissioners & Committee meetings, various township board meetings, Goodrich Village Council meetings, HR 676 Single Payer video from 2009 explaining National Single Payer Health Care, environmental, community interest.

VIEW ANYTIME, FROM ANY LOCATION WITH COMPUTER ACCESS!!

LWVFLINTAREA.ORG

2012 is a MEGA ELECTION YEAR – just at the local level – please contact E M Tune at 810-694-5542 to assist with Voter Service Committee.

Ask everyone you come in contact with if they are registered to vote. Encourage them to register to vote. Primary registration deadline is July 9th, General Election registration deadline is October 9th.

Refer voters to LWVFLINTAREA.ORG website for candidate information.

Respectfully Submitted,

E M Tune

Voter Service Chair



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OFF-BOARD PORTFOLIO REPORTS

BULLETIN

Our newsletter, “The Perspective.” is mailed to members and the community-at-large 5 times a year. You can also find it on line on our Website, www.lwvflintarea.org. Vice President Rhina Griffel continues to facilitate our outreach through her extensive e-mail list.

Thanks to all who have given their time and talents to make our bulletin interesting and informative. A special thanks to David Hall for all the lunch hour and late night delivery and pick-ups. We also use his office supplies and copier and – so far – he simply considers himself an off-Board “Perspective” editor.

Jeanette Hall
Kathy Kirby
Kristal Jackson

WEBSITE

We have been busy updating the website with important content. For example, our home page now provides a summary of upcoming events, and new features. We have added a PayPal button, to allow for convenient donations and payment of dues. Various municipality board meeting, environmental and community interest videos are now at your fingertips, thanks to the hard work of Ernestine Tune. You can also find the League newsletter, *The Perspective*, online voter guides, all of the local support positions and information related to elected officials. In addition, LWVFA is also active on both facebook and twitter to keep members of the League and the community updated on various topics.

Website: www.lwvflintarea.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lwvfa

Twitter: www.twitter.com/LWVFA



Kristal Jackson
Webmaster

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FINANCE

Our Annual Finance Drive letter went out in February. We appreciate all who contributed. Without you we could not carry out our mission – encouraging informed and active participation in our government, working to increase understanding of major policy issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Ann Kraft
Linda Hoff
Rhina Griffel
Bobbie Walton
Marion Wright

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COMMITTEES

Annual Meeting

Beverly Bliesath
Jeanette Hall
Helen Hoyt
Kristal Jackson
Ernestine Tune

Budget

Rose Bogardus
Deb Cherry
Jack Minore
Ann Kraft

Bulletin

Jeanette Hall
Kathy Kirby
Kristal Jackson

Finance

Rhina Griffel
Linda Hoff
Bobbie Walton
Marion Wright

Membership

Helen Hoyt
Ernestine Tune
Marion Wright

Natural Resources

Rhina Griffel
Doris Sain
Ann Kraft
Linda Hoff

Making Democracy Work Award

Edith Prunty-Spencer
Doris Sain
Ruth Brown

Strategic Planning

Rhina Griffel
Jeanette Hall
Linda Hoff
Helen Hoyt
Ann Kraft
Kristal Jackson
Edith Prunty-Spencer
Doris Sain
Soni Sparks
Ernestine Tune
Marion Wright

Social Policy

Dr. Beth Hackett
Jeanette Hall
Helen Hoyt
Karla Mancini

Voter Service

David Caswell
John Daly
Wanda Harden
Kristal Jackson
Paul Rozycki
Soni Sparks
Ernestine Tune

Website

Kristal Jackson
Ernestine Tune

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Nominating Committee Report

Officers To Be Elected	Name	Term Exp.
Program Vice President	Doris Sain	2014
Treasurer	Helen Mitts Marion Wright	2014 2014

Directors To Be Elected	Name	Term Exp.
Government	Vikki Bayeh-Haley	2014
Technology	Kristal Jackson	2014
Natural Resources	Soni Sparks	2014

To Be Appointed By the Board	Name	Term Exp.
President	Beverly Bliesath	2013
Co-Administrative Vice President	Linda Hoff	2013
Co-Program Vice President	Ann Kraft	2013
Co-Social Policy	Karla Mancini	2013
International Relations	Linda Hoff	2013

2013 Nominating Committee – To Be Elected

Rose Bogardus
Ruth Brown
Larry MacDonald
Georgia McCall

2012 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Helen Hoyt
Kristal Jackson
Soni Sparks
Ernestine Tune
Bobbie Walton

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LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT POSITIONS

FLINT CITY CHARTER

Support of Charter with the following standards:

- A. Support a strong mayor elected on a non-partisan basis.
- B. Support non-partisan election of council persons.
- C. Support a direct line of responsibility and accountability to be clearly established for all departments, agencies, boards, and commissions for the function of city government.
- D. Support a responsible and accountable financial structure under the jurisdiction of the executive.
- E. Support City Council power to override a mayoral veto by 2/3 vote.
- F. Support a personnel system under the jurisdiction and responsible to the executive with policies consistent with sound personnel procedures, which allows for a grievance commission responsible for employee appeals and accountable to City Council.

(Updated 1995)

LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT POSITIONS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The League of Women Voters of the Flint Area supports the unified form of county government enabling the electorate to choose between two options of county administration: government with an appointed county manager or with an elected county executive. The administrator is responsible for the overall supervision of all county departments not headed by elected officials and has common powers and duties as spelled out in the law. (P.A. 139 passed in 1973.)

The unified form of county government which would provide for a strong administrative officer would include the following standards:

1. Separation of administrative and legislative role.
2. Provisions of long-range planning for services.
3. Central administrative control over:
 - a. County operations
 - b. County departments
 - c. Boards and commissions
 - d. Non-elective positions

(Adopted 1981)

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HOUSING RELOCATION

- A. The League supports efforts to determine the housing needs of the community.
- B. The League supports the assurance to all persons displaced by government actions that there be adequate and appropriate housing available to them prior to the date of their displacement. The special needs of the poor, the elderly and racial minorities should be recognized.
- C. The League supports (1) notifying persons in a uniform manner of their impending displacement and (2) advising relocates in laymen's terminology of the legal rights and services available to them.
- D. The League supports the wide dissemination of information about a certificate of compliance – its role in property transfer, its meaning, how it is secured, and what a waiver of certificate means.
- E. The League supports a legislative amendment to the City Ordinance which would require that when a certificate of compliance is waived, all defects of the property should be listed in layman's terminology and presented to the buyer.
- F. The League supports the offering of personalized services and compensatory housing programs of public agencies to persons being displaced by governmental actions; particularly to groups with special housing needs such as the poor, the elderly and racial minorities. Such services might include personal casework, counseling, specific referrals to available and appropriate housing, transportation to inspect prospective dwellings, financial advice and maximum financial aid, and assistance with any other problems involved in making a successful adjustment to relocation. The League supports staffing and funding adequate for public agencies to operate effectively and efficiently.
- G. The League supports periodic independent evaluation of the public agencies concerned with relocation to determine their effectiveness, with the results of these evaluations made public.

(Updated 1995)

LWVFA Annual Report

LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT POSITIONS

GENESEE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Introduction

At the 1999 annual meeting, members of the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area voted to re-open the Genesee County Jail Study for the purpose of updating the recommendations adopted in 1979. The 1979 study was of the old jail, which was vacated when the new jail opened in 1988. Therefore, some of the 1979 recommendations no longer seemed appropriate even though there were some amendments to the wording in 1995.

A tour of the Genesee County Jail for League members took place in November, 2003. A committee of members met in December, 2003, to formulate questions to assess the current jail and to test the relevance of each recommendation. Then a small group from the committee met with the jail administrator to discuss each component of the original study.

Physical Plant

The Genesee County Jail which opened in 1988 is described as a “direct supervision jail.” It was built to house 350 inmates, but because of need, has been approved by the Michigan Department of Corrections to house a maximum of 580 by double bunking. The areas where inmates are housed on the third, fourth, and fifth levels are open (common) areas surrounded by inmate cells. Inmates are allowed in the open area much of the day, supervised by a deputy – 8:30am until lunch; after lunch until the 2 pm shift change; after shift change until dinner; after dinner until 10pm.

There are four televisions in each common area. Telephones are also available. Inmates can play games (cards, chess, dominoes, etc.) and can read and exercise in the common areas.

The Medical Department is on the third floor, with the medical administrative office and examining rooms. Administrative offices are on the second level. The kitchen, commissary, supplies, etc. are on the lower level.

A primary concern is that inmates be housed in a facility that meets Michigan Department of Corrections Code. The Michigan Department of Corrections accredited the facility in December, 2003, after its annual inspection. The findings were: The Jail contracts with the Flint Fire Department for the mandated annual fire safety inspection. Any violations found must be corrected in a specific time. Monthly, the administrator and maintenance staff inspect the mechanical systems – plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, etc., and problems are addressed as they occur. In case of power failure affecting the electronic locking system, keys can be used.

Recommendation #1:

It is recommended that inmates be housed in a facility that continues to meet state code. A program of regular maintenance should include attention to the following systems – heating/ventilation/air conditioning, plumbing, fire safety; communications; electrical/electronic and back-up for this system. Any violations identified must be corrected in a timely manner.

Administration

The administrator has responsibility for maintaining and supervising staff that meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Deputies from the Sheriff's office who work in the jail are called corrections officers. Police officers, who are certified, may also be assigned to the corrections staff.

The Jail population is monitored daily in an attempt to minimize overcrowding. Current maximum capacity is 580 inmates. When the census exceeds that, there are five days to make adjustments. The administrator works with the sentencing judge to determine which non-violent inmates may be released early.

Recommendation #2:

The jail population should continue to be monitored daily to maintain compliance with the facility's capacity and state standards.

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Personnel

A primary concern is for adequate, trained staff. The findings were: Staffing is mandated by state standards, even when there is a budget crunch. Corrections officers are given a training course of 160 hours in the areas of human relations, completing reports, first aid, CPR, and corrections law. Every floor during the first and second shifts is staffed by corrections officers who have received this training.

Recommendation #3:

It is recommended that there be sufficient numbers of corrections officers to remain in compliance with state code. All corrections officers should continue to have basic training in human relations, making out reports, first aid/CPR and corrections law.

Visitation

A primary concern is for conditions that allow pleasant and convenient visits to inmates. The findings were: Visitation can take place from 8:30am to 7:00pm, Monday through Thursday, excepting the lunch period and shift change, each floor having visitation on a different day. Visits are limited to 30 minutes per session. An inmate may have two sessions per day with a maximum of two visitors per session (total of one hour/week). All visitations are considered "contact visitations", defined as hand holding but no kissing. Inmates are strip searched following the visitation. All inmates are entitled to contact visitation unless the privilege is lost because of unacceptable behavior. Restricted visitation (separation by a glass partition) is permitted for inmates not eligible for contact visitation, if not under other disciplinary conditions which deny any visitation. There are no visits on Friday or weekends.

There are four to five telephones on each floor. They may be used with no restrictions as to length of calls from 8:30am to 10:00pm and for "collect" calls only. The Genesee County Board of Commissioners contracts for phone service.

Recommendation #4:

It is recommended that adequate provisions for visitation be continued. It is also recommended that the contract for phone service be carefully reviewed for cost to the recipient of the inmate's call before the contract is accepted.

Social Services

A primary concern was whether or not rehabilitation, recreation and educational services are provided. The findings: Staff from Community Recovery Services, a contract service, are in the jail five days a week to offer programs for the inmates. One of their programs is substance abuse treatment. Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous group meetings are available, also. Participation is voluntary. Mott Adult High School offers classes directed toward earning a GED. Religious services are offered weekly by volunteers. The Uniformed Special Deputy Reserve Program, volunteers, help support community activities at the Sheriff's request.

Information about programs of benefit to the inmates is posted and included in a multi-page leaflet given to inmates upon incarceration. Privileges may be gained or lost, depending on the extent to which rules are followed.

Recommendation #5:

It is recommended that substance abuse counseling and education continue to be made available to inmates. Job training, parenting, anger management and other enrichment programs should be made available, possibly by using outside social service agencies and volunteers. There should be a full-time social worker on staff.

The information leaflet should be in an attractive, easy-to-read format with language at an elementary grade level and helpful graphics. Recovery and rehabilitation programs which operate regularly should be highlighted.

SANITATION

The jail must meet standards set by the Michigan Department of Corrections. At this time, those standards are being met. There is a full-time sanitation officer. The facility has a contract for monthly

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pest control. There has not been a problem with pests, according to the administrator. Each day, minimal equipment (broom/mop and dustpan) is made available to enable the inmate to clean his/her cell, under supervision. Mattresses, which are encased in plastic, are simply wiped with a disinfectant solution, periodically. Inmates who have attained the status of "housing unit worker" are responsible for cleaning the common areas on each floor, under supervision.

Most inmates wear jail-issued orange uniforms, which are exchanged weekly for clean ones. The same procedure is used for socks, underwear and linens.

Recommendation #6:

It is recommended that the jail continue to meet standards and recommendations set by the Michigan Department of Corrections with regard to living quarters, inmate clothing and bedding. The pest control system should be monitored to ensure against toxic hazards.

Food Services

A primary concern is that nutritious meals, as well as special diet meals, be provided. The findings: There is a certified dietician on staff who follows Michigan Department of Corrections regulations regarding menus. Special diets must be ordered by the medical department for an inmate

Recommendation #7:

It is recommended that adequate personnel and budget be maintained to keep the nutrition program in total compliance with the Michigan Department of Corrections regulations. Special diets prescribed by the medical department for health reasons should continue to be provided.

Health

All corrections officers are trained in CPR, and there is first-aid equipment on every floor. Nursing care is available 24/7 by contract with Prison Health Services. There are five medical doctors who provide services at different times, a dentist, a full-time staff psychologist, and a psychiatrist who provides services. Medical history is taken during the intake procedure, but blood tests and urinalyses are not done unless there is a complaint. Inmates incarcerated for more than 1 day are given a physical exam. While inmates can refuse medical treatment, staff try to be aggressive in caring for and treating inmates' health needs, according to the administrator.

There are limited opportunities for physical exercise. These include walking within the housing units when the space is not being used for other purposes, and basketball courts in a mostly enclosed exterior section located on each floor.

Recommendation #8:

It is recommended that CPR training for all corrections officers be continued, emergency first aid equipment on each floor be maintained, and professional nursing care around the clock be continued for the health and safety of all inmates. It is also recommended that more opportunities for exercise be made available.

Conclusions

Most concerns of the League have been addressed as the result of building and operating the jail which opened in 1988. The Genesee County Jail Study of 1979 should be retained with the addition of the above information. The above slightly modified recommendations will be useful in addressing issues which the League may identify in the future. The jail and these recommendations should be monitored from time to time.

(Adopted 1979)

(Updated 1995, 2004)

LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT POSITIONS

FINANCING OF THE FLINT SCHOOLS

Recommendation #1: It is recommended that a broad range of creative communications regarding the school system be implemented by the Board of Education in a continuing effort to create a well-informed public that not only receives information but also has opportunity for input. Suggestions specifically urged include the publishing of an easily understandable and practical summary of the school budget on a yearly basis, timely public hearings prior to its adoption, a state of the schools address from the Superintendent of Schools, a regular newspaper column, and a programmatic report to supply the practical information about specific programs of primary citizen interest.

Recommendation #2: It is recommended that the following mechanisms for the update of this study be used prior to each millage election.

- A. The Board of Directors will appoint a committee to examine the current information and supply this information to the membership.
- B. This committee will study the millage request and relate it to this study's recommendations, local, state, and national LWV education positions and the questions listed below.
- C. The committee will examine this information and submit it with their recommendation to the general membership for a decision regarding support of the millage questions.

Questions To Be Asked Prior To Each Millage Election Recommendation:

1. Purpose of requested monies. Is this money needed to keep pace with inflation or to meet new needs? To meet inflation, what percentage figure is being used at this time?
2. Is Flint's budget comparable to that of other school districts of its size?
3. What changes have there been in the district's financial resources, enrollment and needs since the last millage request: What is the impact of these?
4. Is information available to citizens in areas of major concern? Has there been an ongoing attempt to keep citizens informed? Be specific.
5. Are there changes in goals for the district since the last millage request? Are these reflected in the money allocations and requests?
6. What is the plan re magnet schools, middle schools and other innovative programs that necessitate a response to population shifts? How does this impact the budget? What are plans for closing (adding) schools?

(Adopted 1981)

(Updated 1999)

LOCAL PROGRAMS SUPPORT POSITIONS

EDUCATION

Support for equal opportunity for education throughout the Flint Public School System and the development of each child's maximum potential, with the following standards:

Recommendation #1: All elementary schools should be provided with media centers that at the very least meet recognized minimal standards. Elementary schools should be provided with materials and equipment necessary for the execution of a basic science program. Elementary schools should be provided with art and music programs that meet standards to be established by the State Board of Education.

Recommendation #2: The educational needs of exceptional students should be adequately met (e.g., academically talented physically and mentally handicapped, students with behavior problems, etc.)

Recommendation #3: Policies and standards relating to academics, discipline and conduct, and extracurricular activities should continually be reviewed and applied consistently throughout the system. Those policies and standards should be available for public review.

Recommendation #4: Only teachers who have met the requirements of the State Board of Education and are certified should be hired. All schools should equally share inexperienced teachers.

Recommendation #5: Methods of financing other than "pay as you go" should continue to be utilized in the modernization and building of schools.

Recommendation #6: The Flint Board of Education should share responsibility for public schools with the general public and with community school councils in such ways as reviewing school philosophy, making candid reports to the public about successes, failures, and plans so that the general public and the community councils can actively share in determining priorities and policies.

Recommendation #7: The Flint School System should take advantage of accreditation services offered to junior high schools by the North Central Association.

(Updated 1976)

(Updated 2002)

LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT POSITIONS

LIBRARY SERVICES IN GENESEE COUNTY

The League of Women Voters of the Flint Area believes that:

1. The public libraries in Genesee County should provide informational, educational and cultural services to all members of the community.
 - a. There should be a periodic assessment of library services to determine how well the needs of the community are being met.
 - b. Libraries should continue to be aware of new developments and technologies and use these to give the best possible service to their patrons.
2. There should be communication and cooperation among libraries and schools and other institutions in the community.
 - a. The resources of these institutions should compliment, and not necessarily duplicate, each other.
3. Cooperation among public libraries is important in providing service to the community, through formal channels such as the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative and through informal arrangements.
 - a. There should be uniformity between the Flint Public Library and Genesee District Library systems to serve patrons as efficiently as possible
4. Members of the community should participate in library policy-making through their representatives on the governing boards of the libraries.
5. There should be adequate and consistent funding for libraries in order to facilitate long-range planning.
 - a. Libraries may charge fees for service beyond the basic services of the library.
6. The materials selection policies of the Flint Public Library and the Genesee District Library should provide for a balanced library collection.
 - a. Community opinion should be considered as one factor in the selection of library materials.

(Adopted 1984)

(Updated 2000)

THANK TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

We are always thankful to our donors who help make the mission of the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area possible – **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK.**

Individual and Household Member dues provide only minimal funds for operation of our local League. League members are also members of LWVMI and LWVUS. So, our dues support all three levels. The Michigan and US levels provide all of us with research, continuing education, leader development and materials to support our local work, and advocacy at the state and federal levels.

Therefore, we rely on extra financial support from our donors.

Donors from August 2011 to April 30, 2012:

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