



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

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2013 – 2014**

Sunday, May 4, 2014  
2:30pm

Doris Sain Community House  
727 East Street  
Flint, MI 48503

[www.lwvflintarea.org](http://www.lwvflintarea.org)

*In Memoriam of*  
*Dedicated LWVFA Member:*

*David Caswell*

# LWVFA Annual Report

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## 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 are allowed 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Roberts Rules of Order will govern the general conduct of the meeting, except where superseded by the Bylaws or Annual Meeting Rules.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) Determine the proper way to conduct the meeting (based on *Robert's Rules of Order*)

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

A reading committee selected at last year's meeting verified the accuracy of the minutes. Three volunteers will be asked to do the same for this meeting of the membership.

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 Bylaws 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 2014 Annual Meeting.

## Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda

- 2:30pm      Registration  
Refreshments and social time  
Bidding open for Silent Auction
- 3:00pm      Welcome  
Speaker: Michael Kelly, "The History of Politics"
- 3:45pm      Call to Order  
Purpose  
Appointment of Parliamentarian  
Acceptance of 2013 Minutes  
Selection of 2014 Minutes Reading Committee  
Treasurer's Report LWVFA FY13-14  
        Motion to Accept the Report for Audit  
Presentation of Proposed Budget FY14-15  
        Motion, Questions & Vote to Accept  
Presentation of Local Program Positions  
        Motion, Questions & Vote to Accept  
Report of the Nominating Committee (Paul Rozycki)  
Open Nominations from the Floor  
        Election of Officers and Directors for LWVFA  
        Election of the Nominating Committee for 2014-15  
New Business  
LWVFA Board Remarks  
Honoree Presentations:  
        Rhina Griffel, 50-Year Membership
- 4:45pm      Announcement of Silent Auction Winners
- 5:00pm      Adjournment

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## 2013 – 2014 Board of Directors

### **OFFICERS**

President (2013-15)	Linda Hoff
Administrative Vice President (2013-15)	Rhina Griffel
Program Vice Presidents (2012-14)	Doris Sain
Secretary (2013-15)	Marianna Barillas (resigned 2014) Jeanette Hall (acting)
Treasurer (2013-15)	Jona Kean (resigned) Ann Kraft (Acting)

### **DIRECTORS**

Government Chair (2012-14)	Vikki Bayeh Haley (resigned)
Membership (2013-15)	Bobbie Walton (resigned) Ann Kraft (acting)
Natural Resources (2013-15)	Linda Hoff
Social Policy (2013-15)	Jeanette Hall
Voter Service (2013-15)	Larry McDonald (resigned) Kristal Jackson & Linda Hoff (acting)
Webmaster & Technology (2012-14)	Kristal Jackson

### **OFF BOARD PORTFOLIO**

International Relations (2013-15)	Ruth Brown
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### **Nominating Committee**

David Caswell\*, Georgia McCall\*, Paul Rozycki,  
Rhina Griffel and Doris Sain – appointed by the board

\*Note: David Caswell passed away and Georgia McCall was not available

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## OFFICER REPORTS

### PRESIDENT

The 2013-14 program year has been interesting, challenging and rewarding. As promised, we kept voter education and engagement our primary goals, but we did so much more.

I would be remiss if I did not ask each member, as they read through this annual report, to please keep a couple of thoughts in mind:

1. *What kind of activities are of most interest to you?*
2. *What can you do to get involved in those activities?*
3. *Can you help more than you have - with effort, financially, or even helping us make connections?*

We need our members' help to be a healthy and growing organization – ready to tackle issues and protect the rights of voters! Please think of others you can help us recruit to our cause.

PRIDE: At the very top of our list of prideful moments are the SIX recognitions we have awarded to members with 50+ years of membership: Rhina Griffel, Edith Prunty Spencer, Mary Christian, Helen Hayes, Libby Maynard and Peppy Rosenthal. Amazing!

Another point of pride, as well as a challenge, is the loss of three board members this past year. Vikki Bayeh Haley stepped down to run for District Court Judge in Mt. Morris and Bobbie Walton stepped down to run for State Senate (51<sup>st</sup>). Marianna Barillas stepped down to put additional effort into school and her internship work as she prepares to complete her undergrad degree and prepare for law school.

We are also very proud of Kristal Jackson, who completed her Master's degree this past December. Kristal honored our League by creating an information strategy to help guide our communications and information management in future years.

As circumstances demand, our board consistently above and beyond to fill needs as they arise: Rhina Griffel agreed to serve on Flint's Blue Ribbon Committee for Governance; Jeanette Hall agreed to serve as Secretary when Bobbie Walton had to step back for her campaign; Ann Kraft continues to act as Treasurer even though she really wants to "retire" from that role; Doris Sain stepped in to the Nominating Committee as well as always being a godsend of support and guidance.

I am also quite proud of all the "off board" members that show their support year after year. Some of you consistently show up to work, or advise us, and I want you to know that YOU are APPRECIATED! Keep coming and bring a friend (or two)!

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ENGAGEMENT: As your president, I have worked hard to accept every opportunity that has come our way. This year, I served as a panelist in a Voting Rights Act forum hosted by Rep. Woodrow Stanley; I spoke at a Suffrage event hosted by the NAACP W.I.N. group, and at a meeting of the Port Huron AAUW. Additionally, I am serving on a Blue Ribbon Committee for the County Clerk's office.

I have completed my service on the National LWV Agriculture Update Committee. This was an intense research and writing activity. In addition to our own League, I was able to help both the Oakland and Midland Leagues with their update consensus meetings. We'll receive the collective consensus reports at convention in June.

Please continue your support and feel free to contact me regarding any ideas or issues you would like to share.

*Linda Hoff*

### ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Linda Hoff, our League President, has been very efficient, pro-active, and reasonable in terms of what our League could reasonably accomplish. It was a pleasure working her and all the other members of our Board, all dedicated women, this year.

In my role as Vice President, in addition to attending Board and Committee meetings, I did focus, again, on Voter Service activity which included Voter Registration at various high schools, and the Disability Network Picnic. I also worked on a forum for candidates for Flint City Council, collaboratively with the local NAACP. I continued assisting in disseminating information about our local website and Vote 411 where one could obtain non-partisan information about candidates and issues. I did recently serve on the Nominating Committee as well.

I was invited to be a member of Flint's Blue Ribbon Committee on Governance and am pleased to be serving the community as a citizen and LWV member.

I look forward to another productive year as Administrative Vice President of the League of Women Voters of the Flint area, and working with its Board of Directors and members.

Respectfully,  
*Rhina Griffel*

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## PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT

Program is the League's reason for being, the basis for both advocacy and educational efforts.

The League provides information about public issues, including those on which we have taken a position. Voter services activities are designed to provide citizens with unbiased, factual information they can use as a basis for reaching their own decisions.

Many of the programs the local LWVFA has initiated this past year will be found in appropriate order in this Annual Report. I will not duplicate what these committee's share in their reports.

A gratitude of thanks goes to our president, Linda Hoff, for her commitment to the Agriculture Update Study scheduled by the LVWUS. She was engaged in this study for months and has shared a wealth of information to our local League. Now, when we think agriculture.....we know it means food and all that goes into the making!

Bobbie Walton took on the task of informing us about the LWVMI work to expand the 2013-15 update of the Education: Structure, Financing and Goals position to an update and consolidation of the three current education positions.....adding 'Public School Academies' and 'Teacher Certification' to the package. Thank you Bobbie for your dedication to this issue.

Ruth Brown led the League in a "Coffee and Conversation" Immigration Reform informal discussion at the Flint Farmers Market. The topic was the League's position and the current Senate bill. Thank you Ruth for bringing that very important issue before us.

The League had a gala 94th Birthday Event in February with several dozen persons attending. Special guest was our own Edith Spencer as we honored her 50+ years as a League member.

Our technology expert, Kristal Jackson engaged the League directors in her Master's Degree thesis, "League of Women Voters of the Flint Area Strategic Information Systems Plan." As I examined the instrument carefully.....I trust our League will use this model to help assist us in identifying technology initiatives to move the League closer to accomplishing its goals. Kristal received an A on the project! Yeah Kristal!

I served a supporting role to Rayna Bick as she coordinated a forum on an upcoming ballot initiative regarding raising the minimum wage. Paul Rozycki served as moderator and did a wonderful job.....as usual! The program sponsor was FACT. Co-Sponsors were the LVWFA and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

And now....I would like to speak frankly to the membership. On occasion you will receive in the mail, or a Synopsis of On-Line Response Forms asking you to review

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potential League positions. Or, we may ask you to rank categories in order of what you feel should be the Flint area League's focus in the near future. Please know that we truly want your feedback and feel free to add your own category and any comments if you desire.

Most importantly.....we need to hear from you; we need to know that we are representing your interests and are doing what we can to engage you in current issues and challenges facing our local, state and national citizenry.

We had a wonderful Annual Meeting, May, 2013 and looking forward to our 2014 Annual Meeting.

*Doris Sain*  
Program Vice President

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## 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

### League of Women Voters of the Flint Area

#### Annual Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2013

Whaley Historic House Museum

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President, Linda Hoff at 3:05pm

**PURPOSE:** As stated by Linda Hoff, the purpose of Annual Meeting is to layout the agenda and purpose for the coming 2013-2014 LWV-FA year.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Ruth Brown was appointed as Parliamentarian.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF 2012 ANNUAL MEETING:**

Bobbie Walton moved for acceptance of the minutes as printed in the Annual Report. Wanda Harden seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING READING COMMITTEE:**

The following members volunteered to review the 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes for accuracy: Jeanette Hall, Cathy Frederick and Wanda Harden.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ann Kraft reviewed the Treasurer's Report, and the 2013-2014 Budget (as printed in the Annual Report).

Treasurer's Report: FY is July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013. As of April 30, 2013, Income totaled \$9,053.08; Expenses, were \$7,390.88; and the balance on hand was \$6,591.15.

The Budget for FY 13-14 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) is \$9,638.50. Ann Kraft provided information on the \$2.00 State PMP increase which was approved at LWVMI Convention in May 2013.

Helen Hoyt moved for the adoption of the Budget as presented. Cathy Frederick seconded. The Motion carried.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2013-14 BUDGET**

Rhina Griffel moved that the budget be adopted. Ruth Brown seconded. The Motion carried.

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

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

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It was noted that we need adoption dates for some programs.

Rhina Griffel asked if we should review the Library Services program position. Kathryn Schwartz said she would take a look at the position and let us know if it needed updating.

All positions were accepted as as printed.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Helen Hoyt reported the following nominations:

<b>Officers To Be Elected</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
President	Linda Hoff	2015
Administrative Vice President	Rhina Griffel	2015
Secretary	Mariana Barillas	2015
Treasurer	Jona Kean	2014

<b>Directors To Be Elected</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
Membership	Bobbie Walton	2015
Social Policy	Jeanette Hall	2015
Voter Service	Larry MacDonald	2015
Natural Resources	Linda Hoff	2015

<b>Off Board Directors To Be Elected</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
International Relations	Ruth Brown	2015

## **2014 Nominating Committee – To Be Elected**

David Caswell  
Georgia McCall  
Paul Rozycki

Board Appointments: Rhina Griffel and Bobbie Walton

There were no nominations from the floor.

George Walton moved to accept the Nominating Committee Report. Cathy Frederick seconded. The Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Program Calendar - Linda Hoff noted that the Program Calendar includes opportunities to view films and potentially use them as a fundraiser. The opportunity is made available through a third party group which will put on the viewing through a local theatre if the minimum number of attendees sign-up ahead of time.

**Honoree Presentations** – Helen Harris, Peppie Rosenthal and Mary Christian were presented with certificates of recognition from the LWVUS for being members of the League for 50 years or more. The Honorees discussed their experience with LWV and shared some of their most memorable stories. The fourth Honoree, Libby Mainard was unable to attend.

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It was noted that there were other members identified with the wrong start date, after the deadline. Those members, Edith Prunty-Spencer and Rhina Griffel, as well as any others that are identified, will be contacted to make arrangements for recognition.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Refreshments - Linda Hoff, Ann Kraft and Rhina Griffel

Programs - Kristal Jackson

Board Remarks/Acknowledgements/Thank You's:

- To Larry MacDonald for putting together and performing in the "Good as Gold" Fundraising Concert.
- To Linda Hoff, who did a phenomenal job in her first year as president.
- To Kristal Jackson, our outgoing secretary.
- To Helen Hoyt, who is going off-board after all of her years of commitment to the League.
- To Ernestine Tune for filming public meetings throughout the county
- To Doris Sain, for providing a location to hold our board meetings.
- To Marianna Barillas for taking on the Young Adult Representative position.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There is an election coming up this summer and fall – Flint City Council and Michigan House of Representative 49th District. Larry MacDonald will need volunteers to be on the Voter Service Committee.
- The Election Observer Program at the polls will continue this year. To volunteer, contact Linda Hoff.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned by President, Linda Hoff at 4:19pm

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## LWVFA Proposed Budget FY14-15

	April 2014	Year-to-date 7/1/13-7/30/14		
<b>Balance forward</b>	\$7,166.09	\$7,562.60		
<b>Receipts</b>	\$125.00	\$4,164.19		
	<b>\$7,291.09</b>	<b>\$11,726.79</b>		<b>Proposed</b>
			<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>A. Administration</b>				
1. Board tools, supplies, PO Box fee, stamps		\$52.60	\$136.00	\$250.00
2. Insurance		\$52.65	\$49.00	\$53.00
3. Bank charges		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Membership outreach		\$0.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
5. Public relations/publicity/Constant Contact		\$189.00	\$200.00	\$500.00
6. Website maintenance & PayPal fees		\$204.38	\$235.00	\$235.00
7. Newsletter				
a. Postage 3 issues @ \$25 & Imprint fee		\$201.14	\$300.00	\$300.00
b. Printing 3 issues @ \$130		\$197.96	\$780.00	\$390.00
8. Publications		\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
9. Finance/fundraising		\$0.00		
a. Birthday letter/event		\$293.25	\$160.00	\$300.00
b. Calendar sales		\$105.00	\$100.00	\$105.00
c. Fundraising event		\$0.00	\$950.00	\$300.00
<b>B. State per member payments</b>		\$1,321.00		
1. 40 Individuals @ \$23		\$0.00	\$920.00	\$920.00
2. 11 Households @ \$34.50		\$0.00	\$379.50	\$379.50
3. 3 Students @ \$11.50		\$0.00	\$34.50	\$34.50
<b>C. US per member payments</b>		\$1,782.50		
1. 40 Individuals @ \$31		\$0.00	\$1,240.00	\$1,240.00
2. 11 Households @ \$46.50		\$0.00	\$511.50	\$511.50
3. 3 Students @ \$15.50		\$0.00	\$46.50	\$46.50
<b>D. Lake Michigan LWV Inter-League Annual Dues</b>				\$25.00
<b>E. Meetings</b>				
1. Annual business meeting with meal		\$0.00	\$640.00	\$500.00
2. State League workshop		\$0.00	\$80.00	\$60.00
3. State Convention (reg./hotel/travel)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
4. Nat'l. Convention (reg./hotel/travel - 1 delegate)	\$1,310.62	\$1,310.62	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
<b>F. Educational programming</b>				

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1. Voter Service		\$11.22	\$500.00	\$500.00
2. Natural Resources		\$25.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
3. Social Policy		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
4. Government		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
5. International Relations				\$0.00
<b>G. Activities</b>				
1. Making Democracy Work Award Event		\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
2. 2 "Hot Topics" luncheons		\$0.00	\$450.00	\$196.00
3. Other		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
<b>H. Position Support (Advocacy)</b>				
			\$60.00	\$60.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,310.62</b>	<b>\$5,746.32</b>	<b>\$9,637.00</b>	<b>\$8,401.00</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND</b>	<b>\$5,980.47</b>	<b>\$5,980.47</b>		
<b>Income</b>				
			<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
			<b>Budget</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
				<b>Budget</b>
<b>A. Dues</b>				
1. Individuals 42 @ \$65	\$65.00	\$1,842.00	\$2,730.00	\$2,730.00
2. Households 11 @ \$100		\$300.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
3. Students 3 @ \$25		\$50.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
4. Scholarships Fund 3 @ \$30		\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
<b>B. Contributions</b>				
		\$265.00	\$460.00	\$300.00
<b>C. Other funding sources</b>				
1. Calendar sales		\$126.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
2. T-shirt sales/Pins		\$0.00	\$21.50	\$0.00
3. Fundraising activities		\$0.00	\$558.00	\$1,360.00
4. Birthday letter/event	\$60.00	\$1,178.00	\$1,340.00	\$1,178.00
5. Sponsorships for events/newsletters		\$0.00	\$360.00	\$96.00
6 Other		\$1.14	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
7. LWVMI EAR Grant (expenses in 2012)		\$400.00		
<b>D. Meetings</b>				
1. Annual meeting with meal		\$0.00	\$575.00	\$575.00
2. Making Democracy Work		\$0.00	\$700.00	\$620.00
3. 2 "Hot Topics" luncheons		\$0.00	\$252.00	\$240.00
4. Other		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>E. Publications</b>				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>F. Interest on savings account</b>				
		\$2.05	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>G. LWV Ed Fund (held at national office)</b>				
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>\$4,164.19</b>	<b>\$9,638.50</b>	<b>\$8,401.00</b>

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## 2013 – 2014 PROGRAMS

JULY 2013	Candidate Forum – 49 <sup>th</sup> District Affordable Health Care Training Meeting with County Clerk	with the GISD CSM – online EAR Follow-up
AUG 2013	Women’s Equality Day Immigration Discussion Visiting Voting Precincts Voting Rights Act Panel	NAACP Win Luncheon Flint Farmer’s Market w/John Gleason w/Rep. Woodrow Stanley, FPL
SEPTEMBER 2013	Voter Registration Training	Flint Public Library
OCTOBER 2013	Voter Registration (lecture) Voter Registrations Forums - Flint City Council	Hamady High School Carmen-Ainsworth Open Houses Co-sponsor with NAACP
NOVEMBER 2013	Voter Registration & Info Genesee Health System Luncheon	Flint Health Fair Sarvis Center
APRIL 2014 others	Minimum Wage Education Event  Agriculture Update Consensus Education Update Consensus (state)	Co-sponsored with FACT and  Grand Blanc Library County Admin Bldg
May	Annual Meeting	Doris Sain Community House

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## DIRECTOR REPORTS

### GOVERNMENT

Our portfolio chair, Vikki Bayeh Haley, had to step back from her position in January so she could submit her petition for election to the 67<sup>th</sup> District Court.

Rhina Griffel was honored with an invitation to join the Blue Ribbon Committee on Governance for the City of Flint. We are so happy to have her representing the LWV's ideals.

In 2013, we made the decision to move our Making Democracy Work award to even-numbered years. Please begin thinking of women who should be nominated for this award recognizing significant and dedicated advocacy at the local level.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to be a challenge for our local League. Once again, we had a drop in membership, despite our many efforts to reach out into our community. We are open to ideas and volunteers to help us recruit more people to our local League to build up our numbers and strength in the Genesee County area.

Bobbie Walton had to step down from her position when she decided to file for elected office as a candidate for the 51<sup>st</sup> State Senate district.

### NATURAL RESOURCES - Linda Hoff

2013 was a busy year for Natural Resources as I served on the National Agricultural Update Committee. Our committee began early in the year and worked very hard to get all the study materials completed by October and the final recommended questions by November. This spring, I presented in two other Leagues besides our own to help educate them on the issues and help them as they completed their consensus.

In addition, I have worked to keep abreast of issues that are of importance to us locally and in the state: hydraulic fracturing, algae blooms, the wolf hunt, and more.

### VOTER SERVICE – Kristal Jackson and Linda Hoff

Our League continued our efforts to educate voters through the Vote411.org voter information service. Thanks go out to Kristal (and our whole board) for helping to gather information and engage candidates. Please share this important site with your connections.

Our League has made some inroads into registering voters in Genesee County high schools. This past year, we have registered seniors at Westwood Heights, Lake Fenton and Grand Blanc High Schools, as well as registering at every open house in the Carmen-Ainsworth district! Doing these registrations has opened our eyes to even more challenges relative to registering and being a first time voter – but we're up for it!

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In 2013, we received a \$400 Voter Education grant that we used to:

- Develop a training program for Voter Registration,
- Handout cards to hand out to first time voters, and
- We have partnered with a local videographer to develop a video introducing the many benefits of AutoMark voting machines.

We will be applying for another grant this year.

## **SOCIAL POLICY – Jeanette Hall**

This year was a busy year for League input on studies under the Social Policy Portfolio. First, we tackled the National League Update of the Agriculture position. President Linda Hoff served on the 2 year study committee so she was a great resource for us. Our responses were submitted in March. We tackled:

- Economic Health of the Agriculture Sector
- Direct Subsidy Payments to Farmers
- Crop Insurance
- Animal Management
- Research & Development
- Food Safety & Labeling
- Marketing & Ingredient Claims
- Information on New Technologies Used

Linda can give you the details if you are brave enough to ask for them. You'll see the final product after a convention vote.

Second, at the State League level, we participated in the Education Update. The State League had previously asked local Leagues to agree to combine our 3 State positions into 1. They were:

- Pre-School Education
- Statewide Teacher Evaluation
- Schools of Choice
- Post-secondary Education for High School Students
- New Forms of Instruction in Technology

The State Board will collate and review all input from local Leagues and prepare a position statement which will be voted on at convention in May 2015. Thanks, Bobbie.

As an aside, with committee members Ruth Brown and Rose Bogardus, we reviewed our Bylaws and our recommendation was for "no changes" at the present time. If you don't have a copy, I can send you one.

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Thank you to everyone who worked and participated on these update position studies. **Our advocacy expertise depends on the depth of our research.**

Thanks especially to our technology expert Kristal Jackson for all the information she puts on our website so that you all have what you need to be familiar with the background and consensus questions with which we work. This is very definitely her area of expertise. She answers my “Help!” questions patiently. Thanks, Kristal.

Social Policy Chair  
*Jeanette Hall*

## TECHNOLOGY – Kristal Jackson

We completed the first Strategic Information Systems Plan (SISP) for LWVFA this past year! Board Members, members and a group of non-members were surveyed on LWVFA Information Systems and the effectiveness of our usage of that technology. The feedback provided was a great help in identifying where we can make improvements with technology and how we can better serve the community through our website, Facebook and other digital media. If you would like to review the plan, it has been uploaded to our website, [www.lwvflintarea.org](http://www.lwvflintarea.org), under the Member Resources section.

We have also implemented the use of Constant Contact, which allows us to send newsletters and emails more efficiently and effectively. We hope that you all enjoy the new newsletter format.

In the upcoming year, we are looking to expand and effectively use Facebook, Constant Contact, our website and other technologies to keep you all informed of our events, local issues, voter guides, and more. We hope to provide new opportunities to engage our membership and the community with technology.

Because of the SISP, we have identified several objectives for the upcoming year. A couple of those initiatives include:

- Support of our membership in use of LWVFA Information Systems through educational training videos and instructional documents.
- Expanding and diversifying the technology committee

On a personal note, I would like to thank the LWVFA Board of Directors for their support of the SISP, which was also the capstone project for my Master’s degree. I would also like to thank all of the members who participated in the surveys. Your input was not only an asset in helping the League grow to the next level, technologically, but for me in my educational pursuit. Thank You ALL.

Website: [www.lwvflintarea.org](http://www.lwvflintarea.org)  
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## OFF-BOARD PORTFOLIO REPORTS

### BULLETIN

Our newsletter provided important information on any issues, policy-related news, and other events. This year is a busy election year, so please look for issues related to the primary and general election, which will include details related to our voter guide and the VOTE411 website. In addition, we are always looking for interesting stories. Please let us know about stories you are interested in sharing with the membership. And, if there's an issue that you're passionate about, feel free to share your thoughts in a guest editorial spot.

Please note that our newsletter is changing. While members have historically received these in the mail, we are working to bring these to you electronically. Doing so is a good use of our limited finances and it gives members information in a timely fashion. For those of you who do not use e-mail, we'll still print and send our messages out to you. If you're not receiving our messages, be sure to let us know and we will cross check our distribution lists.

Thank you to Jeanette & David Hall, Kathy Kirby and Kristal Jackson for their time and energy in making sure our information gets to you.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### **Off-Board -Immigration Reform – Ruth Brown**

When the U.S. Senate passed a massive immigration reform bill (68-32) in June 2013, I agreed to follow the progress of this issue because our national immigration position allows us to lobby for most of the provisions in this bill. Unfortunately, there has been no movement from the U.S. House of Representatives on this issue. I've tried to stay abreast of the continuing debate and arising concerns related to this issue. Some are still optimistic that some progress will take place before the midterm elections but the House leadership does not seem inclined to bring up the immigration reform bill. The Senate bill contains these key provisions:

- Path to Citizenship - The estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. illegally could obtain "registered provisional immigrant status" 6 months after enactment of the bill if requirements are met.
- Border Control - Certain border security requirements must be achieved within 10 years before any undocumented immigrants can obtain a permanent resident green card.

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- H-1B high-skilled visas - The cap on the visa program for high-skilled workers would immediately be raised.
- Guest-worker W-visa program - A new W visa would allow up to 200,000 low-skilled workers a year into the country for certain jobs.
- Changes to family visa program - It would bar citizens from sponsoring siblings and allow them to sponsor married sons and daughters under 31.
- Employment verification - Within 4 years all employers would have to implement E-verify.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Officers to be Elected</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
Vice President, Program	Doris Sain	2016
Treasurer	Open	2016
	Ann Kraft (interim)	
Secretary	Jeanette Hall	2015

<b>Directors to be Elected</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
Membership	Catherine Fredericks	2015
Voter Service	Larry MacDonald	2015
	Clara Brooks	2015
Young Adult Representative	Rebecca Hoff	2015

<b>Off Board Directors to be Elected</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Exp.</b>
Government	Ruth Brown	2016

### **2014-15 Nominating Committee – To Be Elected**

Georgia McCall

Paul Rozycki

Toyonna Robbins

Board appointments to the Nominating Committee: Doris Sain and Catherine Fredericks

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE 2013-14 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Paul Rozycki

Doris Sain (board)

Rhina Griffel (board)

Georgia McCall (unable this year)

## LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT POSITIONS

### FLINT CITY CHARTER (Adopted 1995)

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.

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE (Adopted 1981)

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

### HOUSING RELOCATION (updated 1995)

- 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.

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- 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 personal being displace 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.

## **GENESEE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

(Adopted 1979; Updated 1995, 2004)

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 LWV 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.

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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.

## 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.

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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 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.

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## 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 days 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.

## **FINANCING OF THE FLINT SCHOOLS** (Adopted 1981; Updated 1999)

**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.

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## 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? I 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?

## **EDUCATION** (Adopted 1976; Updated 2002)

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,

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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.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES IN GENESEE COUNTY** (Adopted 1984; Updated 2000)

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.

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## THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Your member dues provides you membership at the local, state and national levels, therefore, only a nominal amount stays local to help with our operations. Your membership at the state and national levels provides local Leagues with research, continuing education, leadership development, materials to support our local work, and advocacy at both the state and federal levels.

As a grassroots organization, we must rely on financial and in-kind support from our donors. We are always thankful to our donors because your generosity allows us to continue MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK in our community.

Donors from June 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014:

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## MEMORIALS

**David L. Caswell**  
*Rhina Griffel*  
*Helen Hoyt*

**Rose Ann MacDonald**  
*Ernestine Tune*

Memorials and Honorariums are a meaningful way to celebrate the memory of a loved one or pay tribute to someone who cares about Making Our Democracy Work. These donations may be sent to LWVFA, PO Box 230, Flint, Michigan 48501-0230.

## Tax Deductible Gifts

Tax deductible gifts may always be made to the LWV Education Fund. For tax purposes, these funds get forwarded to the LWVUS and are held in trust for our League to use for educational outreach/programs.