



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

**ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015**

Sunday, May 31, 2015
2:00pm

Doris Sain Community House
727 East Street
Flint, MI 48503

www.lwvflintarea.org

LWVFA Annual Report

Contents

VISION	5
OUR MISSION & GOALS	5
MISSION	5
GOALS.....	5
Annual Meeting Procedures.....	6
Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda.....	7
2014 – 2015 Board of Directors	8
REPORT OF THE BOARD	9
NON-PARTISAN EVENTS	9
POLL WATCHING.....	9
EVENTS.....	9
ADVOCACY	10
NATIONAL CONVENTION.....	10
STATE CONVENTION	10
PROGRAM POSITIONS.....	10
Review of LWVMI Positions	10
2014 Annual Meeting Minutes	14
LWVFA Proposed Budget FY14-15.....	16
2014 – 2015 PROPOSED PROGRAMS	17
Updated Structure of Board.....	18
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT	19
LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS	20
FLINT CITY CHARTER (Revised 1995)	20
HOUSING RELOCATION (updated 1995).....	20
COUNTY EXECUTIVE	21
GENESEE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES	21
FINANCING OF THE FLINT SCHOOLS.....	22
LIBRARY SERVICES IN GENESEE COUNTY.....	22
THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS	23
Tax Deductible Gifts	23

As you read through the Annual Report, please ask yourself:

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 consider how you can best help us achieve our mission.

VISION

The Vision of the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area is to empower citizens to participate in the improvement of their communities.

OUR MISSION & GOALS

MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

GOALS

1. Encourage informed and active participation in government.
2. Increase understanding of major public policy issues.
3. Influence public policy through education and advocacy.

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Roberts Rules of Order will govern the general conduct of the meeting, except where superseded by the Bylaws or Annual Meeting Rules.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

LWVFA Annual Report

Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda

- 2:00pm Registration
Refreshments and social time
- 2:15pm Welcome & Serving of Meal
- 2:45pm Speaker: Honorable Duncan Beagle,
Chief Judge Pro-tem, Genesee County Family Division Selection of 2014
- 3:00pm Call to Order – Business Meeting
Appointment of Parliamentarian
Acceptance of 2014 Minutes
Minutes Reading Committee
Treasurer’s Report LWVFA FY14-15 (motion to accept for audit)
Presentation of Proposed Budget FY15-16
 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 2015-16
New Business
LWVFA Board Remarks
Honoree Presentations
HerStory Video Presentations
THANK YOUs
- 4:00pm Adjournment

2014 – 2015 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President (2013-15)	Linda Hoff
Administrative Vice President (2013-15)	Rhina Griffel
Program Vice Presidents (2014-16)	Doris Sain
Secretary (2013-15)	Jeanette Hall
Treasurer (2013-15)	Acting: Linda Hoff

DIRECTORS

Membership (2014-15)	Cathie Frederick
Natural Resources (2013-15)	Linda Hoff
Social Policy (2013-15)	Jeanette Hall
Voter Service (2013-15)	Clara (and Bill) Brooks
Webmaster & Technology (2012-14)	Kristal Jackson
Young Adult Representative (2014-2015)	Rebecca Hoff

OFF BOARD PORTFOLIO

International Relations (2013-15)	Ruth Brown
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Nominating Committee 2014-2015

Paul Rozycki, Doris Sain and Cathie Frederick
Elected but not serving: Georgia McCall and Toyonna Robbins

REPORT OF THE BOARD

Programs and advocacy at the local level continue to be busy!

We are working hard to increase our VISIBILITY throughout the Genesee County.

In 2013, Kristal Jackson wrote a strategic plan to improve our communications and visibility through Information Technology as her Master's thesis. Key to the plan was to begin using Constant Contact for our communications. We went from circulating four newsletters per year to (typically) one a month. In total, we have sent out 64 messages since adopting Constant Contact two years ago. We have also gone from just over 200 on our mail list to nearly 600 on our electronic list; six continue to receive messages by mail. Many thanks, to Kristal Jackson, for sharing her expertise with our local League.

NON-PARTISAN EVENTS

The League works to provide the community with educational information about public issues. Educational and Voter Service events are designed to provide citizens with unbiased, factual information they can use as a basis for reaching their own decisions or as a springboard to advocacy. This year, we held a number of community events; at times we partnered with the Flint Area Public Affairs Forum and the MSU Extension because it broadens our reach without compromising our message.

- Charter Review Commission - Videos and Meet & Greet
- Michigan Proposal 15-1 – Panel Discussion
- Michigan Proposal 15-1 – West Flint Business Association
- Flint - After the Emergency Manager

POLL WATCHING

We had a successful experience for our 2014 (mid-term) poll watching.

EVENTS

- Making Democracy Work – Guest: Senator Stabenow
 - Honoring Ann Kraft
- Kettering University Community Service Fairs (2)
- MCC Community Service Fair
- MCC Constitution Day with National Voter Registration Day
- Disability Network Picnic
- Panelist for Discussion with Flint Election Workers
- Equal Pay Day Rally – Lansing, MI

LWVFA Annual Report

ADVOCACY

- Press coverage in radio, television and print media.
- Continued work on the AutoMARK public service video.
- Delivered 6,000 Voter Guides throughout Genesee County.
- Scheduled screening of Girl Rising – unfortunately not enough participation.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Linda Hoff represented our local League at the National Convention in Dallas, Texas. While at convention, she co-chaired an event on Michigan's Poll Watching activities and co-led a recap discussion on the Agriculture Update. A full report was e-mailed to members in June 2014; if you would like a copy forwarded to you just let us know.

STATE CONVENTION

We were well represented at the LWVMI Convention: Linda Hoff, Kristal Jackson, Ann Kraft, and Shawntae Harris each attended as delegates. Edith Prunty Spencer was a special guest of the convention, as she received LWVMI's highest recognition, the Belle Brotherton Award, named after the first LWVMI president. Edith was accompanied by Helen Hoyt; both were able to attend Saturday afternoon sessions.

Linda Hoff was elected to serve as the VP of Advocacy and Kristal Jackson was elected to serve as a Director At Large of the Board.

PROGRAM POSITIONS

Program is the League's reason for being, the basis for both advocacy and educational efforts. Every two years our local League participated in position review activities at the state level in addition to our annual review of local positions. This year, we spent two full days analyzing positions and making recommendations.

Review of LWVMI Positions

Below are comments, observations and suggestions arising from the review conducted by the LWV of the Flint Area.

Election Laws:

- Consider adding statement relative to disallowing the passing of legislation that interferes with or nullifies the people's vote through referendum.

Intergovernmental Relations:

- The three paragraphs that specify the LWVUS Principles seem like a good preamble to the whole "Government" section, not just this position.
- A statement along the lines of "protect community long-term resources, especially while under state emergency management" – not sell off assets (to

LWVFA Annual Report

private enterprises) for short-term gain, that would otherwise provide financial stability to the community over the long term

- Pg 1, Sect II: These sentences are a bit confusing. Would this, as stated, support the concept that *only* State government has the expertise as to whether a local community must allow energy facilities/processes - that the local community does not have the knowledge base to make these decisions? The sentences seem a bit redundant –they need more clarity.
- Pg 2, Sect III, B: there was a request for clarification as to “why” LWVMI does not support direct election to membership in RP&Ds.
- Pg 2, Sect III: there are concerns here about accountability and transparency. As the RP&Ds are 501(c)4 administrative organizations, they are not subject to FOIA and they are not subject to “open meetings.” There was an article by the Metro Times - Detroit Economic bureau relative to the education funds being directed to the new Red Wings hockey arena. Just this week, the action was confirmed as legal by the AG.
- At the end of the position statement, there is a statement in Bold Italics – what is the context of this statement?

Taxation and Budgeting:

- Sect IV does not appear to be up to date

Great Lakes Ecosystem:

- Perhaps add Hydraulic Fracturing and other new methods/technologies as yet to be developed
 - NO exclusions from the Clean Water and Clean Air acts
 - Remove power of Eminent Domain by government bodies for private enterprises
 - Concerns over the legislative removal of power in local communities
- The ecosystem should clearly reference land, water, air and biodiversity as interrelated concerns
- Currently, hydraulic fracturing enterprises are exempted from water withdrawal limits – rules should apply to ALL to protect the precious resource
- The state is currently in negotiations for a land swap in the UP – part of the proposed deal is no survey and the land is sold “as is.” However, if the state decides to mine the swapped land, they must pay a royalty to the private organization. Where’s the oversight?

Land Use:

- Sect III: See first and last bullet above (eminent domain and public lands for sale, swap, or lease)

LWVFA Annual Report

- Sect III: Voice and power of citizen voice should be protected through committee work and/or vote
- Land and Air quality and interrelationship should be part of the Ecosystem

Pesticides:

- With the myriad of chemical exposures we encounter, this should be retitled and perhaps updated as Chemical Use and Exposure to allow for broader application

Solid Waste Management:

- Title should be updated to Solid Waste and Recycling Management
- Quarterly Toxic and hazardous waste drop offs should be offered in every county

CAFOs:

- People who would be exposed to air, water and land quality issues must get a voice in the planning process. Existing home owners who are negatively affected due to environmental concerns need recourse and compensation.

Children and Youth:

- The first paragraph looks like a preamble. The second looks like it should be item I.
- Sect II: Second sentence, end with “with needs that differ from adults.”
- Sect II: Judges (or their designee) should remain peripherally involved to ensure that the judge’s orders are abided by and ensure that children inmates are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their age and ability.
- Sect II, B: There should be STRICT limits on the use of solitary confinement that is either for protection or punitive purposes.

Social Services:

- This has not been updated since 1971!
- Opening sentence, plus 1) and 2) should be a preamble to the position.
- Sect I: can we have a State level position that says what we would like/expect to see by the Federal government?
- Sect 1: is it current and relatively realistic
- Sect II: include “and special needs” after low-income.
- Sect III: last sentence add housing before child care
- Perhaps this should get an “update”

Health Care:

- Address full range of reproductive health care services for women – in any institution that receive public funds

Prisons in Michigan:

- Retitle as Criminal Justice and Prisons in Michigan
- Retributive justice – perhaps phrased differently than “punishes.” For many this is an alternative to prison wherein the injurious party must act in a manner that restores balance to the injured party.
- This should more strongly address the problem of “overcriminalization.”
- Subsection under I.C.: when a juvenile must be imprisoned, they should be handled carefully and appropriately according to their age and mental maturity.

Libraries:

- Per three of our librarian members, this position needs to be updated – it is especially outdated with regard to being inclusive of current technology and penal fines that are historically a vital part of library funding.
- There are looming issues on funding of libraries and the distribution of funds
- Cooperatives (local, county) are not working as they used to: book selection, tech services, and interlibrary loans.

LWVFA Annual Report

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

League of Women Voters of the Flint Area Annual Meeting Minutes

Doris Sain Community Center

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President, Linda Hoff

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 2013 ANNUAL MEETING:
moved for acceptance of the minutes as printed in the Annual Report.
seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

ANNUAL MEETING READING COMMITTEE:
The following members volunteered to review the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes for accuracy: Jeanette Hall,.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ann Kraft reviewed the Treasurer's Report, and the 2014-2015 Budget (as printed in the Annual Report).

Treasurer's Report: FY is July1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. As of April 30, 2014, Income totaled \$; Expenses, were \$; and the balance on hand was \$.

The Budget for FY 14-15 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) is \$.

moved for the adoption of the Budget as presented.
seconded. The Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2014-15 BUDGET
moved that the budget be adopted.
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

LWVFA Annual Report

All positions were accepted as printed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Officers To Be Elected

Program Vice President
Treasurer
Young Adult Representative

Name	Term Exp.
Doris Sain	2016
Ann Kraft	interim
Rebecca Hoff	2015

Directors to Be Elected

Membership (partial term)

Name	Term Exp.
Cathie Frederick	2015

Off Board Directors To Be Elected

Name	Term Exp.
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2014 Nominating Committee – To Be Elected

Paul Rozycki, Toyonna Robbins, Georgia McCall
Board Appointments: Doris Sain, Cathie Frederick

There were no nominations from the floor.

moved to accept the Nominating Committee Report. seconded. The Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board Remarks/Acknowledgements/Thanks:

- .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at

LWVFA Annual Report

LWVFA Proposed Budget FY14-15

Balance forward - May 1, 2015	\$4,340.89	
<hr/>		
2015-2016 Proposed Budget	Proposed Income	Proposed Expenses
A. Administration		
1. P.O. Box		50.00
2. Insurance		55.00
3. Postage (~300)		150.00
4. Printing, cards, brochures		200.00
5. Website maintenance & Pay Pal fees		220.00
6. PayPal fees		20.00
7. Constant Contact (501-2500)		575.00
8. Signs, banners, etc.		30.00
9. Finance/fundraising		
a. Annual Appeal	1,500.00	100.00
b. Fundraising event	1,358.00	250.00
c. Contributions	300.00	
d. Marketing Appeals (newsletter sponsors)	500.00	
Total	\$ 3,658.00	\$ 1,650.00
B. Membership		
1. 40 Individuals @ \$65	2,600.00	
State PMP @ \$23		920.00
US PMP @ \$32		1,280.00
2. 11 Households @ \$100	1,100.00	
State PMP @ \$34.50		379.50
LWVUS PMP @ \$46.50		511.50
3. 6 Students @ \$25	150.00	
State PMP @ \$11.50		69.00
LWVUS PMP @ \$15.50		93.00
4. LWV Lake Michigan Region		25.00
Total	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 3,278.00
C. Meetings		
1. Annual business meeting with meal	600.00	540.00
2. State League workshop		100.00
3. State Convention (reg./hotel/travel)	-	-
4. Nat'l. Convention (reg./hotel/travel - 2 delegates)		2,500.00
5. Making Democracy Work	600.00	540.00
Total	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,680.00
D. Educational programming		
1. Voter Service (fuel for delivering Voter Guides)		100.00
E. Special Projects/Activities	-	-
2015-2016 Proposed Budget Total	\$ 8,708.00	\$ 8,708.00
F. LWV Education Fund (balance)	\$ 383.80	

LWVFA Annual Report

2014 – 2015 PROPOSED PROGRAMS

AUGUST	Women's Equality Day
SEPTEMBER	Voter Registration Training National Voter Registration Day Constitution Day
OCTOBER	Election Forums TBD
NOVEMBER	Election Day
JANUARY	LWVUS Program
FEBRUARY	Local Position Review LWV Birthday Event
MARCH	Local Position Consensus Meeting
APRIL	High School Voter Registrations
MAY	National Convention

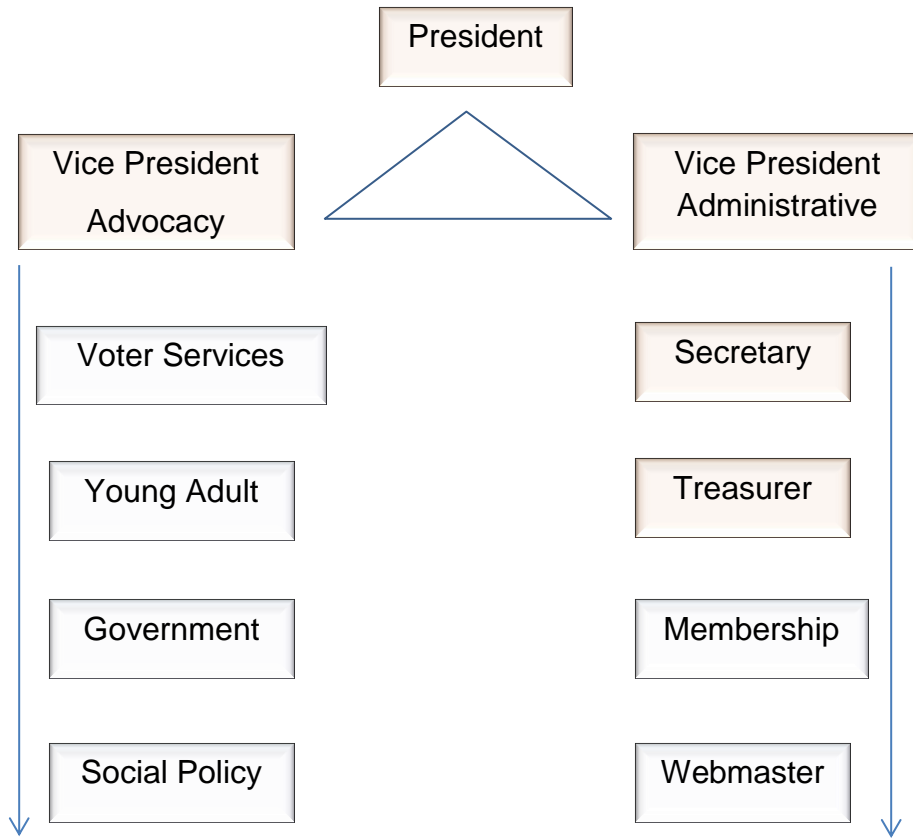
In addition to the above activities, we will remain attentive to local issues that citizens need to be informed.

Of particular interest in the coming year, we will focus attention on:

- Getting the Young Adult parallel League established;
- College-aged students – especially working with Women's Education Centers;
- Updating the Flint City Charter and Housing positions.

Updated Structure of Board

For the purpose of quorum, the “core” board will establish the base to achieve ‘majority.’



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers to be Elected	Name	Term Exp.
President	Linda Hoff	2017
Administrative Vice President	Rhina Griffel	2017
Treasurer	Norma Sain	2016

Directors to be Elected	Name	Term Exp.
Government (consulting)	Paul Rozycki	2016
Voter Service	Clara Brooks	2017
	Bill Brooks	2017
	Dorina Sain	2017
Young Adult Representative	Shawntae Harris	2016

2014-15 Nominating Committee – To Be Elected

Paul Rozycki, Shawntae Harris, and Dorina Sain

Board appointments to the Nominating Committee: Rhina Griffel and/or Doris Sain, and Catherine Frederick

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE 2014-15 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Rozycki
Doris Sain (board)
Catherine Frederick (board)

LWVFA Annual Report

LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS

Following this year's review of local program positions, the board has recognized that the need likely outweigh the resources to update positions according to the following concerns. The board has approved the request to update the Flint Charter and Housing Relocation positions, with others updated as time and manpower permits:

- Flint Charter: approve update so that we may effectively advocate when the Charter Revision Committee submits a plan
- Housing: this needs an update to accommodate the current housing situation
- Education: needs updates to correlate to the newly updated LWVMI position – This position currently refers only to Flint Public Schools. The update should refer to “Genesee County publicly funded schools.”
- Financing of Flint Schools: primarily housekeeping – again there is interest in re-titling to the more inclusive “Financing of Publicly Funded Genesee County Schools” and adding this topic to the Local Education position
- Genesee County Correctional Facilities: this position needs a 3-fold update – 1) to compare/contrast to the LWVMI position for Prisons; 2) to make reference to female-specific needs; 3) to address issues of Juvenile Detention; and 4) housekeeping measures.

FLINT CITY CHARTER (Revised 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.

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

LWVFA Annual Report

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 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.

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

GENESEE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

(Adopted 1979; Updated 1995, 2004)

Topics of interest include:

Physical Plant; Administration; Personnel; Visitation; Social Services
Sanitation; Food Services; and Health

LWVFA Annual Report

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

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

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.
2. There should be communication and cooperation among libraries and schools and other institutions in the community.
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.
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.
6. The materials selection policies of the Flint Public Library and the Genesee District Library should provide for a balanced library collection.

LWVFA Annual Report

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, 2014 to April 30, 2015:

Pegge Adams

Ann & Dick Kraft

Ruth Brown

Delores & Donald Lada

Jeanette & David Hall

Connie Palmer

Nancy & Henry Hanflick

Jim & Jane Richardson

Linda & Craig Hoff

Doris Sain

Helen Hoyt

Howard & Tamra Schultz

Kristal Jackson

Diane Thompson

Hal Keim

Bobbie & George Walton

Janet Williamson (In Honor of Ann Kraft and Doris Sain)

In Memoriam and Honorarium contributions are a meaningful way to celebrate the memory of a loved one or pay tribute to someone who cares about Making Our Democracy Work. 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.