



League of Women Voters® Of the Flint Area

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

Sunday, May 22, 2016
1:00pm

Doris Sain Community House
727 East Street
Flint, MI 48503

www.lwvflintarea.org

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

1. *What kind of LWV activities are the most important to you?*
 - a. *What have you done to help ensure success of those activities?*
2. *What activities are of most interest to you?*
 - a. *Have you pursued them?*
 - b. *If not, why?*
3. *Do you read our newsletters?*
4. *Do you ACT on Action Alerts?*
5. *Have you helped spread the word about the League?*
 - a. *Do you invite others to events?*
6. *Have you offered support to the board?*
7. *Can you make a donation of time or money?*

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 Statement

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Roberts Rules of Order will govern the general conduct of the meeting, except where superseded by the Bylaws or Annual Meeting Rules.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

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President (2015-17)	Linda Hoff
Administrative Vice President (2015-17)	Rhina Griffel
Program Vice President (2014-16)	Doris Sain
Secretary (2014-16)	Jeanette Hall
Treasurer (2015-16)	Norma Sain (completing term)

DIRECTORS

Membership (2014-16)	Cathie Frederick
Natural Resources (2015-16)	Linda Hoff
Voter Service (2015-17)	Clara (and Bill) Brooks
Webmaster & Technology (2014-16)	Kristal Jackson (Linda Hoff)
Young Adult Representative (2015-2016)	Shawntae Harris
Director at Large (2015-2017)	Dorina Sain Rebecca Hoff

Nominating Committee 2015-2016

Paul Rozycki, Shawntae Harris, and Dorina Sain

Board appointments: Rhina Griffel and/or Doris Sain, and Catherine Frederick

ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1:00pm Registration
Refreshments and social time
- 1:15pm Welcome & Serving of Luncheon
- 1:45pm Call to Order – Business Meeting
Acceptance of 2015 Minutes
Appointment of Minutes Reading Committee
Treasurer’s Report LWVFA FY15-16 (motion to accept for audit)
Presentation of Proposed Budget FY16-17
 Motion, Questions & Vote to Accept
Report on Local Program Positions
Report of the Nominating Committee (Doris Sain)
Open Nominations from the Floor
 Election of Officers and Directors for LWVFA
 Election of the Nominating Committee for 2016-17
New Business
LWVFA Board Remarks
THANK YOUs
- 2:15pm Speaker: Mr. Dwayne Barnes, The Center for Michigan
“Restoring Trust in State Government”

Adjournment

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

LWV FLINT AREA – FINANCIAL REPORT 2015-2016

2015-2016 Balance Sheet - Financial Report				
Category	Description	Received	Payment	Balance
Balance Forward from June 2015				\$ 5,856.13
Membership Dues		\$ 2,330.00		
	PMP - LWVMI		\$ 1,314.70	
	PMP - LWVUS		\$ 1,744.00	
	LWVLMR - Annual Dues		\$ 25.00	
Web Hosting LWVCA			\$ 200.00	
Constant Contact	2 months		\$ 97.25	
P.O. Box	annual		\$ 98.00	
D&O Insurance	annual		\$ 100.00	
PayPal Fees			\$ 23.22	
Supplies, postage, etc.			\$ 86.24	
General Fund Donations		\$ 1,569.91	\$ 100.00	
LWVMI Grant - Redistricting		\$ 481.86	\$ 430.04	
LWVEF Grant - Young Adult		\$ 750.00	\$ 422.84	
LWVMI Convention			\$ 207.90	
LWVMI Workshops			\$ 170.00	
Events		\$ 600.00	\$ 387.30	
		\$ 5,731.77	\$ 5,406.49	
Balance as of April 29, 2016				\$ 6,181.41
Education Fund		\$ 100.00		\$ 483.80
Savings		\$ 0.62		\$ 100.62

PROPOSED BUDGET 2015-2016

		PROPOSED BUDGET 2016-17		
		Balance Forward (April 29, 2016)		\$ 6,181.41
		Proposed		
		<u>qty</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
A.	Administration			
1.	P.O. Box			\$ 98.00
2.	Postage			\$ 200.00
3.	Insurance			\$ -
4.	D&O Insurance			\$ 100.00
5.	Printing			\$ 150.00
6.	Website fees			\$ 300.00
7.	PayPal fees			\$ 20.00
8.	Constant Contact			\$ 561.00
9.	Marketing (signs, banners, etc)			\$ 100.00
10.	Miscellaneous			\$ 225.00
11.	Finance/Fundraising Appeals		\$ 2,000.00	
B.	Membership			
1.	Individual @ \$65	50	\$ 3,250.00	
	LWVMI PMP @\$23			\$ 1,150.00
	LWVUS PMP @32			\$ 1,600.00
2.	Household @ \$100	5	\$ 500.00	
	LWVMI PMP @34.50			\$ 172.50
	LWVUS PMP @46.50			\$ 232.50
3.	Student @ \$25	8	\$ 200.00	
	LWVMI @ \$11.50			\$ 92.00
	LWVUS @ \$15.50			\$ 124.00
4.	LWVLMR			\$ 25.00
C.	Meetings			
1.	Annual Meeting		\$ 100.00	
2.	State Workshop			\$ -
3.	State Convention			\$ 1,000.00
4.	National Convention			\$ -
5.	Making Democracy Work		\$ 100.00	
6.	Other			
D.	Grant Activities			
1.	Public Advocacy/Voter Protection		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
2.	Voter Registration		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
			\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,800.00

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers to be Elected	Name	Term Exp.
2 nd Vice President (Advocacy)	Doris Sain	2018
Treasurer	Norma Sain	2018
Secretary	Doris Sain* & Rhina Griffel*	2018

Director to be Appointed	Name	Term Exp.
Young Adult Representative	Shawntae Harris	2017
Membership	Doris Sain* & Rhina Griffel*	
Webmaster & Technology	Linda Hoff*	

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

* Serving in role until a suitable candidate is recruited

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE 2015-16 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Rozycki & Dorina Sain
Doris Sain & Rhina Griffel (board)

LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS

Flint City Charter (Currently under revision, last updated 1995)

Housing/Relocation (Currently under revision, last updated 1995)

County Executive (Adopted 1981)

Genesee County Correctional Facilities (Adopted 1979; Updated 1995, 2004)

Financing of the Flint Schools (Adopted 1981; Updated 1999)

Library Services in Genesee County (Adopted 1984; Updated 2000)

2015 – 2015 PROGRAM SUMMARY

JUNE	Voter Registration & VOTE411 info – FARMER MARKETS (Flint and Davison)
JULY	Disability Network Picnic – Voter Registration and Education
AUGUST	Women’s Equality Day Redistricting Speakers Bureau Training
SEPTEMBER	Spoke at Neighborhood Restoration Coalition Event Attended Dept of Education testimony on Education Improvement CRC webinar: Budget Challenges to Road Funding LWVLMR Conference – Attended in Glenview IL Member Meeting re: Flint City Charter Position Update Statewide Redistricting Presentations
OCTOBER	Supported the Flint Public Library Millage request CRC & CLOSUP webinar: Trends in Michigan Local Government Fiscal Health Burton Mayoral forums Member Meeting re: Flint City Charter Position Update Statewide Redistricting Presentations Michigan Environmental Council – lunchtime speaker Member Meeting: Constitutional Amendment (LWVUS)
NOVEMBER	Conference Call - Clean Water Act (NRDC) Flint Area Public Meeting: Redistricting Statewide Redistricting Presentations
JANUARY	LWVMI Program Review Inst of Public Policy and Social Research – Urban School Forum LWVUS Webinar: Young Adult Voter Registration (all team members) Webinar: Detroit Public Schools Financial Crisis Planning for Young Adult Voter Registration
FEBRUARY	Meeting of Young Adult Voter Registration committee Scheduled Voter Registration training – cancelled due to inclement weather Equal Pay Day phone conferences Position Update Committee – City of Flint Charter (election-related) LWV Birthday Appeal Cards
MARCH	Equal Pay Day phone conferences Voter Registration training x2 High School Voter Registrations Conference call – League Easy Web Inst of Public Policy and Social Research – Flint Water Crisis Position Update Committee – City of Flint Charter (election-related) Submitted City of Flint Election-Related Recommendations to Charter Commission Position Update Committee – Housing

APRIL	<p>Equal Pay Day – Lansing High School Voter Registrations & Presentations VOTE411.org training – Lansing Democracy Agenda – Lansing Webinar – Safeguarding our Drinking Water Earth Day – UM Flint MCC – Service Fair Position Update Committee – Housing/Relocation</p>
MAY	<p>High School Voter Registrations Beecher PTO Voter Education Presentation Letter to Governor, County Commissioners & Mayor Weaver – Flint Water Crisis</p>

Reports from Your Board

From the President

Your board continues to work at building a stronger local organization. Through successful grant applications we have been able to host educational presentations on Redistricting and offer high school voter registration to every high school in Genesee County.

We have had some major setbacks but are working through them.

- Kristal Jackson relocated out of state so we lost our Technology chair; Kristal was responsible for the website, Vote411.org, was learning to publish videos, and was active in pretty much every activity. She is sorely missed.
- Additionally, a number of our members did not renew in 2015-16; we are working hard to rebuild and re-engage our membership. We need every member's help to do this. We need our members to become active advocates for our organization – to help build strength, to help build visibility, to share the work, and to help spread our voice.
- Donations to our local League continue to suffer. We need help building a stronger financial base that will allow us to do more outreach.

We truly want to engage each member to the best of their ability. If you have not completed the member survey please do so.

We have been extremely fortunate in Shawntae Harris' work as our Young Adult Representative. She has made significant headway into outlining our Young Adult Advocate group and has scheduled some fun activities to engage Genesee County's young adult population. This fall, Shawntae will be moving to Ypsilanti to pursue her Master's degree and she will be missed. In the meantime, we are looking for motivated young, politically-minded individuals to pick up the torch!

During our program planning in January, it was determined that until we get more volunteer involvement, we need to do our best to work on our core function of voter engagement. As we re-build a stronger base, we will be able to broaden into more advocacy work.

Finally, I must admit that my first year at VP of Advocacy with LWVMI has put a challenge on my work locally. I find the work at the state level very rewarding and, I believe, it has brought rewards back to our local unit. Balance the work and time constraints of both has been a huge learning curve and continues to

be challenging at times. I appreciate your support and look forward to getting many more of our local League members actively engaged in our local efforts.

Voter Service

The 2016 focus of Voter Services has been on registration of eligible high school students in Genesee County. Twenty-three high schools have been visited from March through May. On many occasions we are able to partner with local township clerks who could verify a student's identification at the time of registration saving a step in the registration process. A total of 700 high school students were registered. Many high schools expressed an interest in making voter registration an annual event.

In addition to the high school events, we have conducted voter registration/information events at the Disability Network picnic, PTO groups, the MCC Community Service Fair, Earth Day, Farmer's Markets and more.

Young Adult Advocates

Our progress in this endeavor continues to grow. Through the leadership efforts of Shawntae Harris, we are now armed with a set of Governing Rules for our Young Adult Advocates. Additionally, she has submitted internship roles to UM Flint for Community Outreach Interns, Observer Corps Interns and Youth Engagement Interns. Two social activities have been organized: 1) a trivia round at Soggy Bottom's with a LWV prize package and 2) a Cocktails and Conversation event at Blackstone's Grill on June 1st! Already we're seeing movement on our FB page from these activities.

Communications / Web Based Activity

We continue to participate and grow our social media presence. A year ago, we had 138 followers on Facebook, today we have 183! The Flint Water Crisis has resulted in an effort to help share trusted information through our Facebook page. From news articles to mobile food bank schedules, we will continue to help educate and support the members of the Flint community.

We continue to utilize Constant Contact for our newsletter distribution, which has saved us a lot of money in postage and printing. Recently, an Action Alert that was sent through the LWVMI office was also shared through Constant Contact. When you see these, please take just a moment to review and respond. In addition, we continue to make use of PayPal to make it convenient to pay dues, make donations, or RSVP for events such as our Annual Meeting.

In addition to social media, we have continued to provide online voter guide access through Vote411.com and online voter guide PDF's on our website.

We have been fortunate in securing the services of League member, David Hall, to help us plan and execute the recording of a PSA video on voting. More on this will be announced at a later date.

Review of LWVFA Positions

- **City of Flint Charter Position**

The update committee for this position statement was led by Kristal Jackson. Upon her relocation out of state, the committee struggled a bit and got behind schedule. Currently led by Rhina Griffel and Stephen Mintline, the review committee expects to complete their work later in the fall.

- **Housing/Relocation**

This committee is led by Doris Sain and Norma Sain, who have extensive background in housing issues. With our other delays, this committee, too, found themselves behind schedule. Progress is being made and the committee expects to have a revised position statement for the membership in the fall.

InterLeague

Several years back, we responded to an appeal to join the LWV Lake Michigan Region interleague organization. This past fall, Linda attended their annual conference in Glenview, Illinois. It was very insightful to attend this conference and hear the various speakers all with a goal of protecting our Great Lakes watershed. This group has been very concerned and supportive of the Flint Area during our water crisis. They have shared resources and offered support; they are even sharing news of Flint at a caucus at this year's national convention! This was a wise investment for our League.

There is another interleague group covering the Lake Erie basin watershed. Unfortunately, we have not been able to attend any of their events but will continue to try. One of this groups larger goals is to advocate for cleaner water for those affected by the huge algae blooms that have affected the Lake Erie region – primarily from excessive agricultural phosphorus.

Advocacy

Redistricting: We have had some successful presentations to the community of the political problems associated with Redistricting. This statewide initiative came about to try and educate the public on what Redistricting is and how it affects us – personally and in terms of political capital with representatives. It is important that this message continue to be spread as we march closer to our next Census and the resulting redistricting that will occur.

Voter Engagement: Our grant supported work, started under the leadership of Kristal Jackson, has been hugely successful. The committee has visited 23 schools in Genesee County and registered about 700 new voters. Perhaps the biggest WIN, is that the GISD has made a commitment to work with the League to bring voter education back to our high schools! Hooray!

Voting Accessibility: We successfully held two voter registration trainings in March where about 38 people were trained on issues related to getting registered to vote. We will continue to hold these trainings as necessary. Additionally, we continue our work with the City of Flint in terms of engaging voters, conducting poll watching and advocating for well-organized election sites.

Flint Water Crisis: We continue to share information on our website and through our Facebook page. Additionally, we have worked with our state League office to advocate at the state level for appropriate (long-term) support of the citizens of Flint.

Charter Review Commission: In February, the committee was asked to consider sharing ideas and information to the Charter Review Commission on aspects related to elections. The committee met several times in person and on-line to present and discuss proposed materials with the board. The final document is included in this packet for your review.

2016 – 2017 PROPOSED PROGRAMS

JULY	Voter Registration – VOTE411 information
AUGUST	Women’s Equality Day Work with GISD to establish voter education in high schools
SEPTEMBER	Voter Registration Training National Voter Registration Day Constitution Day LWVLMR Conference
OCTOBER	Election Forums Recruitment and Training of Precinct Observers
NOVEMBER	General Election Day General Membership – Updated Position Consensus Meeting
JANUARY	LWVMI Program Review
FEBRUARY	Local Position Review LWV Birthday
MARCH	High School Voter Registration – Genesee County
APRIL	High School Voter Registration – Genesee County
MAY	LWVMI 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:

- Activity related to the Young Adult Advocates;
- Engaging our more of our members;
- Finalizing the Update of the Flint City Charter and Housing positions.

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, 2015 to April 30, 2016:

Bill & Clara Brooks	Jane & Jim Richardson	Linda & Craig Hoff
Rose Bogardus	Kristal Jackson	Lucille Hotchkiss
Howard & Tamra Schultz	Mary Christian	Helen Hoyt
Ann Kraft	Wanda Harden	Janet Williamson
Leatha Terwilliger	Ruth Brown	Lana Zelle
Doris Sain	Olivia Maynard	Roberta Rice
Jeanette & David Hall		

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.