

THE VOTER

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Our Sadness

We are saddened to report the deaths of three of our members within the past two months.

Diane Current, February 9

Cindy Miles, April 4

Ginger Kjohede, April 9

Our League is a better organization because of their commitment, passion, and energy. Their legacy and light shines through the work we continue to do to further democracy in our community. They will be greatly missed.

May they rest in peace.



President's Message

...from Sarah Delia



2015 - 2016 has been an exciting year for our League!

We participated in two national studies - the process of **Amending the US Constitution** and **Money in Politics**.

We sponsored Town Hall discussions on **Redistricting in Michigan**. In October 2015, 55 Mt Pleasant townspeople attended, and in Beaverton, MI, 14 people attended. We repeated the program for league members in March 2016. **Many thanks to Kathy Ling for excellent presentations.**

Jacob Kain, Mt Pleasant City Planner, spoke to the League in April. He discussed his initial impressions of the City and looked to the future, especially drafting an updated zoning ordinance.

We published a Voter Guide for the November Mt Pleasant City Commission election and sponsored a candidates' forum at which each of the seven candidates participated. We registered graduating seniors at Mt Pleasant High School, and students at Mid Michigan Community College and CMU.

This fall will be another busy season for Voter Service with candidates running for US House of Representatives, Michigan House, Isabella County Commission and other County offices, Isabella Trial Court, Mt Pleasant City Commission and Board of Education, and Union Township Officials. We also cannot forget ballot proposals! Voter education will be critically important.



REGISTERING NEW VOTERS; EDUCATING EVERYONE

LWVMPA High School Voter Registration Drive

Thursday, May 26, 2016

9:30 a.m. to noon.

Mount Pleasant High School

If you would like to help register new voters that day, please contact Theresa Turner. Theresa_Turner@hotmail.com

REV CMU

Our league is pleased to work with REV CMU, a new campus organization spearheaded by Laura Frey and Norma Bailey.

Register, Educate, Vote! is the message this group brings to all CMU students.

Volunteer opportunities will be plentiful when the students return in August. Stay tuned!

We cannot forget that several long-standing voting laws have changed, making the fall elections a different experience for many people. Our league must remind people to **vote for each office**, now that straight party voting is not allowed.

2016 - 2017 Local Program:

Planning and Zoning in the City of Mount Pleasant: Study process of planning for the future and the resultant zoning ordinances. This takes special importance as the City begins updating and rewriting the zoning code for the first time in thirty-five years!

Housing Code: Support a housing code as beneficial and necessary in Mount Pleasant. Support concept that all habitable properties should be covered by a housing code.

City Charter: Support concept of a general framework city charter; that is, a charter that is simple, flexible and concise. Such a charter would provide a basic structure for city government but would leave procedural details for inclusion in various city ordinances.

Juvenile Services: Support concept that juvenile court should continue to adhere to uniform procedural rules that safeguard the process of law. Support guaranteed access to a juvenile detention center for delinquents under jurisdiction of Isabella County Trial Court, Juvenile Division. Support adequate school counselling services Isabella County.

Public Transportation in the Mount Pleasant Area: Support continuation of urban-rural transportation system operating under the direction of the Isabella County Transportation Commission. Support levy of up to one mill in local property taxes for operation and capital expenses. Support efforts of the Isabella County Transportation Commission to keep a flexible system adaptable to local needs. Support consideration of equitable fare increase as a secondary source of local financial support.

Mount Pleasant Public Schools Budget Process: Support concept that there is a need for the Mount Pleasant Public School District to have a well-publicized, task-specific, date-targeted annual budget calendar.

Isabella County District Library: Support concept of a district library for Isabella County. The Governing Board should be either elected by the people or appointed by Isabella County Board of Commissioners and Mount Pleasant City Commission. The Library Governing Board must have power to levy local property millage to operate and maintain Veterans Memorial Library and its countywide branches. Support up to 2.6 mills for operation and expansion.

Recycling in Isabella County: Support expansion of the present system to multiple family rental property and to the townships in Isabella County.

Commission on Aging: Support operation and services levy up to 1 mill.



Spring Calendar of Events and Meetings

Please note that the League meeting space will change beginning in the Fall. Each issue of the Voter will provide specific details on meeting locations.

Tuesday, May 17, 6:00 p.m.: ANNUAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Witherspoon Room 1250 Watson Rd, Mount Pleasant (enter from the parking lot on the north side of the building)

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a social half hour, with supper following at 6:30. At 7:30, we are pleased to welcome **Mike Dunham, Director of the Neighborhood Resource Unit**. He will talk with us about the Resource Unit and the services the Fire Department provides our community. Following his presentation, we will conduct our Annual Meeting business: approving the minutes from last year’s meeting, adopting our 2016-2017 Local Program and budget, amending the bylaws, and electing our board officers and directors. The meal will be catered, and we ask each member to contribute \$10. If you have not done so already, please contact Betty Clason (989.773.3755 or bclason@aol.com) so the caterer has an accurate count.

Thursday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. to Noon: Registering MPHS Students

This is an important Voter Service; please join Theresa Turner if your schedule permits.

Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.: Words and Wine Book Club, Lara Raisanen’s home. We will continue through part 3 of **The Oath by Jeffrey Toobin**. Lesley Hoenig is leading discussion.

Thursday, June 23, 1:00 p.m.: Board Meeting, Summer Planning. Lara Raisanen’s home All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Regular board meetings will reconvene in August.

A Word about ... Words and Wine

The group opted to read only one third of a book each month, recognizing that we’re all busy people. We’re a casual, fun-loving bunch, so feel free to drop in when your schedule permits. In the fall, we’ll be reading **Ari Berman’s Give Us the Ballot**.

2015-2016 Slate of Board Candidates

Two Year Terms

Vice President: Theresa Turner

Secretary: Susan Horgan

Treasurer: Kathy Primeau

Directors: Ruth Helwig, Nan Nagler

One Year Term:

Director: Cil Lorand

Continuing:

President: Sarah Delia

Directors: Alice Janice and Lara Raisanen

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: N. Nagler, Chair, L. Raisanen and S. Delia

New Directors Wanted

This year has seen quite a bit of growth for our League. We are delighted to welcome new members with interesting ideas and fresh energy. If you are interested in becoming a board member for the 2017 - 2018 year, please let a current board member know. We will offer League training and happily answer any questions you may have.

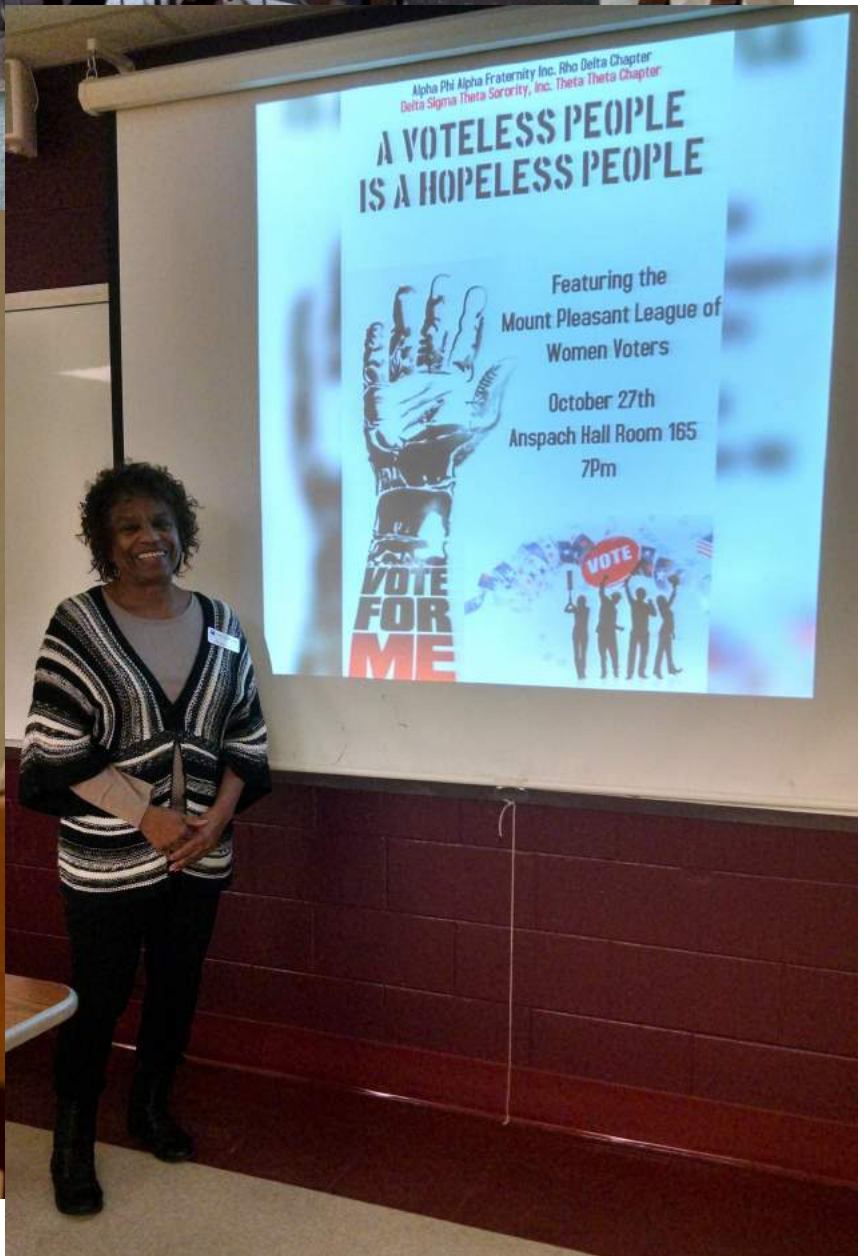
 League of Women Voters of the Mount Pleasant Area

Proposed Budget: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

		Current Budget 2015 - 2016	Actual through 4/30/16	PROPOSED 2016- 2017 Budget
	INCOME			
100	25 Memberships	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
	...Households	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$360.00
101	Contributions			
	...Members	\$200.00	\$295.00	\$200.00
	...Non-Members	\$50.00		\$900.00
	...In-Kind	\$50.00		\$50.00
102	Reserves	\$2,976.00		\$3,336.00
	SAVINGS RESERVE TOTAL			\$29,692.02
103	Interest	\$60.00		\$0.00
104	Grants	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
105	Annual Meeting	\$400.00		\$400.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$5,236.00		\$6,746.00
	EXPENSES			
301	Operating Expenses	\$100.00	\$45.59	\$100.00
310	Board Expenses	\$100.00	\$19.60	\$100.00
315	Banquet	\$400.00		\$600.00
320	State Affil/Workshops	\$100.00	\$68.00	\$100.00
321	National Affiliation	\$100.00		\$100.00
330	Delegate Travel - State	\$200.00		\$200.00
331	Delegate Travel - Nat'l	\$1,200.00		\$0.00
333	Registration Fees	\$400.00		\$520.00
340	Member Communications	\$100.00		\$100.00
350	League Support			
	... State PMP	\$575.00	\$573.60	\$690.00
	...National PMP	\$775.00	\$768.00	\$930.00
360	Education/Voter Services	\$700.00	\$559.43	\$2,500.00
370	Advocacy / Projects	\$100.00		\$100.00
375	Publicity	\$100.00	\$135.00	\$200.00
380	Insurance	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
390	Internet Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
400	PO Box Rental	\$56.00	\$56.00	\$56.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,236.00		\$6,646.00

A Look at Our Voter Service Work:



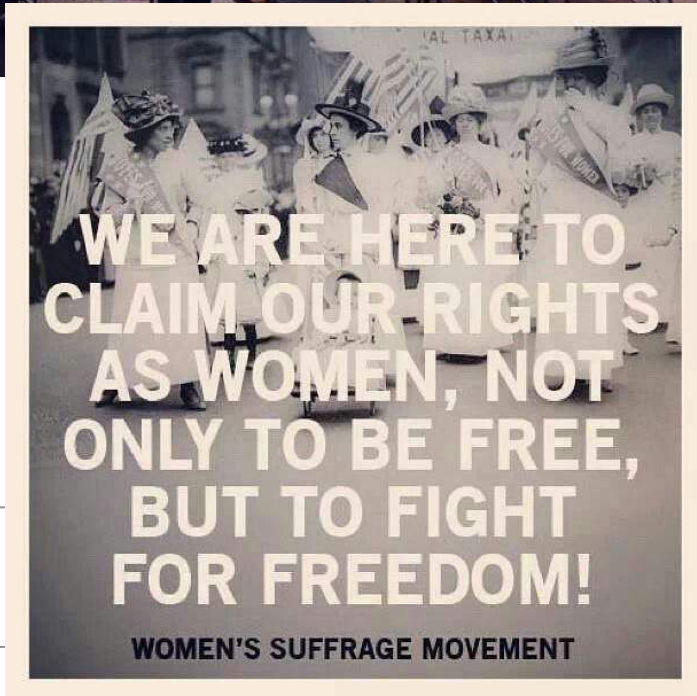


The Mount Pleasant City Commission Candidate Forum

The event was extremely well attended. Board member Ruth Helwig did an outstanding job as moderator.



...And our work for universal suffrage continues!



Make **change** happen, **volunteer!**