

THE VOTER

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Nominating Committee Report

The slate of nominees to serve as your board of directors is as follows:

President-Elect: *Lara Raisanen*

Secretary: *Ruth Helwig*

Directors: *Sarah Delia*

Susan Horgan

Lesley Hoenig

Continuing to serve on the board are the following directors:

Vice President: *Theresa Turner*

Treasurer: *Kathy Primeau*

Directors: *Cil Lorand*

Nan Nagler

Please see page 3 for more information on our plans for a "transition year" as we grow from Sarah's phenomenal leadership and plan for our League's future.

President's Message

...from Sarah Delia



My Dear Friends in League,

I will no longer be League President at the conclusion of the annual meeting, Tuesday, May 16. After 16 years as President, it's time to step down and let others lead the way. However, I will continue to be an active member of the League Board.

My tenure has been a great experience because of the many members who helped this League become a respected group in our community, especially by bringing non-partisan information about candidates to the public.

I'd like to say a few words about the annual meeting, held this year in St. John's Episcopal Church's newly-renovated Parish Hall. The annual meeting shapes our work in the upcoming year. We will examine the local program, adopt the budget, amend the bylaws, and elect officers and directors. Please see the related articles for more information.

Once again, we'll have the dinner catered, which involves some expense. We're asking for contributions of \$10 toward the cost, which will be collected at the meeting.

I hope to greet each of you at the door.

Fondly,

Sarah



REGISTERING NEW VOTERS; EDUCATING EVERYONE

LWVMPA High School Voter Registration Drive

Thursday, June 1, 2017

10:00 a.m. to noon.

Mount Pleasant High School

We are returning to MPHS to register graduating seniors to vote. This program was very successful last year, and we are glad to continue our partnership with the high school.

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

Theresa_Turner@hotmail.com

Words and Wine

Currently, the book club is reading a brand-new publication by Niall Kishtainy, [A Little History of Economics](#). The June meeting will be held Tuesday, June 6, at a location TBD. Contact Lara Raisanen (larar@protonmail.com) if you are interested in joining the book club mailing list. The club has an exciting summer planned, including hosting a few community education events!

2017 - 2018 Local Program:

Planning and Zoning in the City of Mount Pleasant: Study of process of thoughtful planning for the future. This takes special importance as the City is adopting a new 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 counseling services in Isabella County.

Public Transportation in the Mount Pleasant Area: Support continuation of urban-rural transportation system operating under 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. Support upcoming millage vote.

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

League meetings are normally held at the Veterans' Memorial Library Annex. Should a meeting location change, the calendar will provide locations and addresses.

Tuesday, May 16, 6:00 p.m.: ANNUAL MEETING

St John's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall 206 West Maple, Mount Pleasant (street parking available on Maple and Washington, Parish Hall entrance is the Red Door on Washington St)

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 **Roger Hauch, MI State**

Representative for the 99th District. Following Rep. Hauck's presentation, we will conduct our Annual Meeting business: approving the minutes from last year's meeting, adopting our 2017-2018 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 Sarah Delia (989.772.1902 or sadelia4@frontier.com) so the caterer has an accurate count.

Thursday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. to Noon: Registering MPHS Students

This is an important Voter Service; please join Theresa Turner if your schedule permits. For more information, see p. 2 sidebar.

Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.: Words and Wine Book Club, location TBD.

We will continue our discussion of Niall Kishtainy's new book, [A Little History of Economics](#).

Regular board meetings will reconvene in August.

Transition Year

It's difficult to lose a leader. It's especially hard when that leader has been the heart of an organization as Sarah Delia has been for our League. With that in mind, the Board reached out to Dr Barbara Dixon, an expert in facilitating transitions for institutions of higher education.

Dr Dixon agreed to serve as a transition facilitator for our Board. Five board members, Lara Raisanen, Ruth Helwig, Cil Lorand, Kathy Primeau and Lesley Hoenig will work with Barbara as we create a vision for the future of our League that honors and continues the great work our League has accomplished.

Volunteers 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 serving on a League Committee, please let a board member know. We will offer League training and happily answer any questions you may have. These new committees will assist the board with work on our program, membership development, voter services, the budget, and fundraising.

Make change happen, volunteer!

Your League needs you!

 League of Women Voters of the Mount Pleasant Area

Proposed Budget: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

		Current Budget 2016 - 2017	Actual through 4/30/17	PROPOSED 2017- 2018 Budget
	INCOME			
100	25 Memberships	\$1,800.00	\$1,920.00	\$1,920.00
	...Households	\$360.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
101	Contributions			
	...Members	\$200.00	\$385.00	\$0.00
	...Non-Members	\$900.00	\$1,080.00	\$0.00
	...In-Kind	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$50.00
102	Reserves	\$2,936.00	\$1,587.09	\$2,183.00
	SAVINGS RESERVE TOTAL			\$29,692.02
103	Interest	\$0.00	\$124.00	\$0.00
104	Grants	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
105	Annual Meeting	\$400.00		\$0.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$6,646.00		\$4,603.00
	EXPENSES			
301	Operating Expenses	\$100.00	\$58.18	\$100.00
310	Board Expenses	\$100.00	\$94.40	\$100.00
315	Banquet	\$600.00		\$100.00
320	State Affil/Workshops	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
321	National Affiliation	\$100.00		\$100.00
330	Delegate Travel - State	\$200.00		\$0.00
331	Delegate Travel - Nat'l	\$0.00		\$730.00
333	Registration Fees	\$520.00	\$800.00	\$450.00
340	Member Communications	\$100.00		\$100.00
350	League Support			
	... State PMP	\$690.00	\$678.50	\$793.50
	...National PMP	\$930.00	\$944.00	\$1,069.50
360	Education/Voter Services	\$2,500.00	\$1,164.04	\$200.00
370	Advocacy / Projects	\$100.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
375	Publicity	\$200.00	\$125.00	\$200.00
380	Insurance	\$150.00	\$28.80	\$150.00
390	Internet Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
400	PO Box Rental	\$56.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,646.00		\$4,603.00

Changes to League Bylaws:

In accordance with LWVUS bylaw requirements, the first three articles of all Leagues' bylaws must mirror what was adopted during the LWVUS biennial convention. Following that guideline, the following proposed changes are set forth (**additions in bolded, orange text**, deletions ~~struck through~~):

Proposed Amendment 1:

Article III, Section 2.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the League of Women Voters of the Mount Pleasant Area shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

A. Voting members. ~~Citizens at least 18 years~~ **Persons at least 16 years** of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or an other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

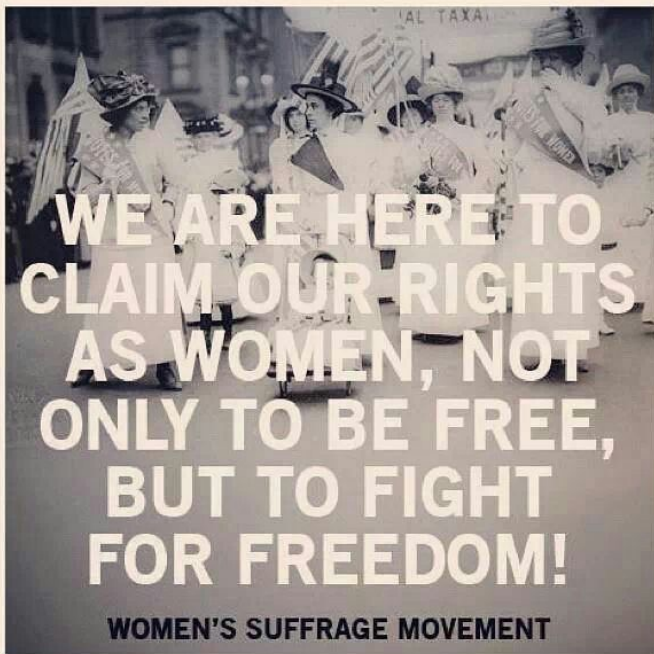
B. Associate Members: All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Additionally, the Bylaws Committee recommends the following change to our bylaws:

Proposed Amendment 2:

Article VII, Section 3.

Section 3. Quorum. A **simple** majority of voting members ~~present~~ shall constitute quorum at ~~general~~ membership meetings **and annual meetings** of the League of Women Voters of the Mount Pleasant Area.



Save the Date ... Words and Wine Fall Conference

Words and Wine was so impressed with the relevance of [Ari Berman's Give Us the Ballot](#) that the group will host a Community Conference.

On Saturday, September 9th, please join us at the VML Annex as we discuss Berman's book along with the Henry Louis Gates documentary *Black America Since MLK*.

Our goal for the conference is simple - determining practical ways we can protect the right to vote here in Isabella County.

The Voter, now easier to receive and read!

A few years ago, we transitioned from a paper newsletter mailed via USPS to a newsletter delivered electronically in your email. This change has saved our League hundreds of dollars in printing and postage fees. In addition, we are able to get information to our members more quickly.

In the coming months, the Voter is undergoing its next evolutionary phase. Rather than receiving an email with a cumbersome document attached, the Voter will be delivered directly into your email message. We are using Mail Chimp (www.mailchimp.com) to facilitate this service. Mail Chimp not only has a pricing structure geared for small non-profit budgets (in our case, free!), it also maintains the highest industry standards for spam protection and data confidentiality. Mail Chimp requires that newsletter recipients sign up to receive communications. Please see Lara Raisanen at the Annual Meeting to sign up for our Voter if you have not already had an opportunity to do so.



Getting Involved

This year, many new and inventive ways have emerged for Leaguers to get involved and make their voices heard on policies and legislation affecting our nation. Our new Voter format will highlight both League affiliated advocacy as well as individual actions you can take to speak up, speak out and be engaged!

LWVMI Biennial Convention

The LWVMI Convention is May 19-21, in Lansing. Your delegates this year are Ruth Helwig, Lesley Hoenig, Theresa Turner and Lara Raisanen. Sarah Delia is attending as an alternate.

While there, your League representatives will attend workshops on many interesting topics, including:

- Voter Registration
- Engaging Our Membership
- Moderator Training
- Fundraising
- Programming and Advocacy
- Michigan's Natural Resources



We'll also hear presentations on Redistricting in Michigan, The State of Michigan's Budget, and the Enbridge Pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac. Be assured that we shall return full of knowledge to share with our League, and with tactics and ways to effectively act upon that knowledge.