



First Call to Convention

Dear Members:

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable weekend from May 16-18 in the vibrant city of Grand Rapids! We're buzzing with excitement to gather at the Sheraton Airport Grand Rapids, where League members from all corners of the state will come together for a weekend filled with networking, inspiring discussions about the future of our League, and of course, a bit of fun.

Fun fact: Grand Rapids is the proud birthplace of the first League in Michigan, so let's soak up that rich history and feel the pride of our roots!

Remember, this Convention is open to all members, not just voting delegates—it's a chance for everyone to dive deep into what we stand for and how we make a difference. Some folks have dubbed this weekend "League immersion" because the learning opportunities are endless!

Keep your eyes peeled for the Convention costs coming your way in mid-February. We encourage everyone to arrive on Friday to explore the fabulous sights of Grand Rapids and join in the "Dine Around"—a chance to savor delicious meals at local eateries with your fellow Leaguers.

Trust us, you won't want to miss out on these exciting ways to engage and connect at the Convention! All Convention details will be posted on the LWV Only page of our website as they become available.

Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough
LWVMI Co-Presidents

Program

The League Program serves as the cornerstone of our advocacy efforts, and it is through grassroots participation that we shape the future of our mission.

By engaging in the Program planning process, you have the unique opportunity to influence which positions we will uphold, which we may need to reassess, and what new areas we should explore over the next two years.

League presidents received the essential Program materials on December 30, 2024, which are also readily accessible on the [LWV Only page](#) of our website. However, time is of the essence—program planning must be completed by the end of February to comply with our bylaws, as all reports are due by March 1. This is not just a deadline; it's a call to action for each of you to take part in a collective effort that will help us to be equipped to handle future advocacy opportunities.

Together, let's ensure that every voice is heard in this important process.

For more information, contact [Maria Woloson](#), VP of Program.

Convention Awards

All League members are absolute rock stars in our eyes, but hold onto your hats because Convention is just around the corner - only 4 months away!

It's our time to shine a spotlight on some truly exceptional members through our fabulous awards: the prestigious Belle Brotherton Award, the impactful Judy Karandjeff Advocacy Award, the dedicated Eva Packard Voter Service Award, and the Belle Ringer Awards, which celebrate four phenomenal non-competitive contributions from each League!

You won't want to miss out on the details, so be sure to check out the [award information](#) available in this packet—and remember that the awards information is also on our website's [LWV Only page](#).

And hey, if you submitted a nomination in 2023 that didn't quite make the cut, don't be shy—resubmit it in 2025 and keep that recognition spirit alive! Let's come together as a vibrant community of engaged members and celebrate the incredible impact we all make!

Bylaws

LWVMI [Bylaws](#) are reviewed prior to each LWVMI State Convention. The Bylaws Committee (Betsy Cushman, Carrie Moon-DuPree, and Paula Manley) will be reviewing the Bylaws to present to the delegates at the State Convention.

Members have an opportunity to suggest changes/revisions. You may find the current Bylaws on the [LWV Only page](#) of the website.

If you have a suggestion for a revision, please send it to Bylaws Chair, Paula Manley at pjmanley@hotmail.com by March 1st.

Silent Auction

This LWVMI Fundraiser is a popular pastime at the Convention. Not only might you walk away with a treasure, but your donation adds financial resources to LWVMI. It would be great to get a donation from every League!

Ideas for donations include: event tickets, gift baskets with local items, political memorabilia, services, or any item that you think is desirable by our members.

New or gently used items can be brought to the Silent Auction room on Friday, the 16th. We will also make space for local League displays if you'd like to show other Leagues about a successful project your League worked on in this past biennium.

LWVMI Leadership 2023-2025

Co-President: Paula Bowman (NW Wayne County)
Co-President: Denise Hartsough (Kalamazoo Area)
VP Voter Services: Judy Florian (Grosse Pointe)
VP Advocacy: Judy Karandjeff (Lansing Area)
VP Program: Maria Woloson (Oakland Area)
VP Membership: MerriKay Oleen-Burkey (Kalamazoo Area)
Secretary: Carla Barrows-Wiggins (Oakland Area)
Treasurer: Tom Wells (Grosse Pointe)

Directors

Voter Services: Carolyn Vertin (Lenawee County)
Advocacy: Connie Mitchell (Dearborn/Dearborn Heights)
Membership/DEI: Shirley Madden (Manistee County)
Observer Corps: Lynne Kochmanski (Washtenaw County)
League Links: Courtney Winell (Greater Grand Rapids Area)
Director at Large: Charles Thomas Jr. (Detroit)

Connect with us!

League of Women Voters of Michigan

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Email: office@lwvmi.org

Website: lwvmi.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvmichigan/>

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