



# The Voter

A publication of League of Women Voters  
Dearborn and Dearborn Heights  
March - April 2011

## MEMBERSHIP

Open to any U.S. citizen.  
Dues are \$50 per year payable July 1<sup>st</sup> to LWV DDH.

## MEETINGS

The League Office and most local meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military at Cherry Hill, Dearborn, MI. The church is handicap accessible with elevator and an outdoor ramp.

LEAGUE OFFICE  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## DEARBORN Sustainability Roundtable Continued

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 - 6pm to 8pm

Henry Ford Community College, SME Building

(west side of Evergreen, first driveway south of Ford Rd., North door entrance)

**SPEAKER: Lourdes Lore, MS, Professor of Nutrition at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, MI.**

Professor Lore will continue her subject of Food Issues, "The Environmental Crisis On Your Plate". The first part, described CAFO's (confined animal feeding operations = factory farms.) Part II covered chemical contaminants in food and water with special focus on Pesticides, BPA, and GMO's.

NEXT: "Who Really Controls Our Food Supply?" Economists agree that once four or more companies control 40% of the Food Market, real market competition doesn't exist. Encourage people to grow buy locally. Food transport causes 13% of emissions with many food items on your plate travelling an average of 1,500 miles!

Light refreshments provided. Bring a dish if you wish, or just come anyway. Please RSVP to Mary Ann Baier [dearborncoolcities@gmail.com](mailto:dearborncoolcities@gmail.com)

## LAKE ERIE BASIN COMMITTEE - Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

The ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
University of Michigan, Dearborn Campus  
4901 Evergreen 313-593-5338

### 10:00 am Business Meeting

Topics of concern:

Great lakes Protection & Restoration

Great lakes Restoration Initiative

Great Lakes Compact

Great Lakes Legacy Act

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

CAFOs - Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

Aquatic Invasive Species

Nuclear Issues - Power Plants & Radioactive Waste

Wind Turbine Power

**11:30 am Presentation & Tour of Interpretive Center - by Dorothy McCleer**

**12:30 pm Lunch** - Bring your own - beverage provided.

**1:00 to 2:00 pm** - Continue Reports from LEBC Members

**Our LWVDDH is hosting this meeting.** Attendees come from states surrounding Lake Erie: Ohio, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Our members are encouraged to attend and count this as our monthly meeting.

*Please plan to come and help be ambassadors for Michigan.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ... Mary Bugeia

*We have certainly witnessed some amazing global events over the past several weeks. A citizen revolt in Egypt leading to what we hope will be a liberated, self governed transformation for the people. We watched with shock at the devastation in Japan caused by a massive earthquake, then a tsunami, and the ongoing threat of nuclear calamity. And most recently, the population uprising of another country, Libya, which is causing loss of many lives.*

**Our members have been busy with several activities.**

Under the leadership of **Betsy Cushman**, several people worked diligently to update our publication of the **Who's Who for 2011**. They have distributed throughout the community and a copy is included for you with this newsletter. Thank you Betsy!

Then, under the leadership of **Judy Patrick**, we have undertaken a **fundraising campaign**, something that we have not done for several years. We drafted a solicitation letter. Several members gathered lists of names and Betsy entered them into a data base. The letters are being mailed and hopefully we will be successful in gaining some much needed funds to carry out our volunteer work. We are a truly valuable resource for non-partisan voter information, candidate forums, and issue forums. If you have names to add to our data base, please contact me or Betsy. *Your personal reference is the most important in conveying our mission to the community.*

On March 14, **Kathy Gapa** attended a forum about **redistricting** hosted by the Michigan Redistricting Collaborative, a coalition of non-profits. Called "Draw the Line" it provided information on redistricting laws, the process in Michigan, and opportunities to dialogue about how to include citizens in the process. The way lines are drawn can keep communities together or split them apart - as we experienced in Dearborn.

This Wednesday, **March 23** will be another interesting meeting, learning more about the environmental **crisis on our plate**. Thanks to **Jenni Dunn** and the Sierra Club for arranging the meetings.

**Saturday, March 26**, the Friends of the Detroit River plan a fundraiser dinner at the Wyandotte Boat Club. I plan to attend and would like company. If interested, call the office 313-278-6476.

**On April 20**, we are hosting a meeting of the **Lake Erie Basin Committee** to be held at the U of M Environmental Interpretive Center. It is a day-time meeting 10 am to 2 pm. I hope many of you will attend to observe and interact with the folks coming from surrounding states. I do need help to greet and direct them to the meeting room. If you have never visited the Center, you should see what a neat resource we have right in our backyard.

Enclosed in this newsletter is information about a study about "**Alternative Voting Systems**" being conducted by our State LWV. **Please review it and send your comments to us by April 4th.**

The **2011 Who's Who**, a listing of all our elected officials and how to contact them, has been updated, printed and distributed to city halls and libraries for Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, and many other community locations. It was posted on our website within hours of its final approval.

In addition to , I'd like to thank all who participated to make this project happen especially Jenni Dunn, Kathy Gapa, Mary Bugeia, Judy Patrick, Dianne Locke, Judy Carty, Chris Sullivan, Joe Borrajo, Mary Jo Durivage, and Dennis Kirchoff. I'd also like to thank Marilyn Beardsley and the other members of the LWV-DDH Education Fund and LWV-DDH treasurer Barb Adams for processing the financial end of this.

**Dearborn Federal Savings Bank**, and both the **Dearborn Rotary Club** and the **Dearborn Heights Rotary Club**, all contributed money to pay for the majority costs for this project, so if you have an opportunity to thank any of them, please do.

Betsy Cushman  
Project Chairman for 2011 Who's Who

We had a very informative meeting February meeting with the Dearborn Sustainable Roundtable, which was co-sponsored by League of Women Voters Dearborn/Dearborn Heights (LWVDDH). Thank you to everyone who came to the potluck roundtable. The food was excellent, not too much left over. Katie Hetrick, Reporter for the Dearborn Press & Guide, has written a great article, [Dinner bell is call to action at roundtable](#), about the event and LWVDDH will have a recap on their website at [www.lwvddh.org](http://www.lwvddh.org)

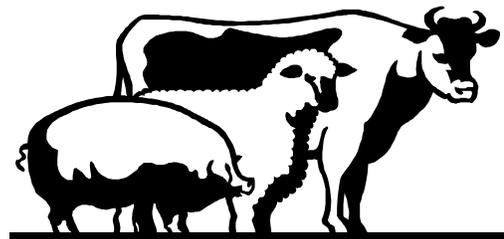
Thank you to Professor Lore, MS, of HFCC and Lynna Kauckeck, of Food and Water Watch [www.fwwatch.org](http://www.fwwatch.org) for speaking at the event. The next roundtable will be a potluck on **March 23, 2011 from 6-8pm at HFCC SME building**. It will be the third and last installment of Professor Lore's talk about food issues that we are facing. To recap: first part, "CAFO's or Factory Farms"; part two, "Chemical's in Our Food with special attention on BPA and GMO's"; third and final installment will be, "Who Really Controls Our Food Supply?" The second half of the meeting will be left for questions, networking, and discussions about food issues. We hope to have some lively discussions and possibly some solutions.

Remember to invite your friends, family, and neighbors over for [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) It is a good time to have dinner together, then from **8:30-9:30pm March 26, 2011**, turn off your lights, TV, and any unnecessary electrical appliances. Light the candles and have a discussion of, "Why sustainable living is a must." It is better to use our resources wisely, "recycle, reduce, reuse, and conserve". We still have beeswax candles, donations to support the roundtables.

**April 23, 2011 9am-12pm**, the day after Earth Day, will be a day of action for the Dearborn Sustainability Coalition (formerly Dearborn Cool Cities Group). We hope to get a lot of people out to The Henry Ford Estate at UM-Dearborn to help pull garlic mustard (an invasive species), organized by the Lake Plain Cluster of the Stewardship Council. Meet at UMD Environmental Interpretive Center, 9 am; workday ends at noon. Work gloves and trash bags will be provided. **Registration is required by going online** to the Stewardship Network website [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org) ("sign up for events" button on the left). Why get rid of invasive plants? Exotic plants removed from their original habitat, begin to reproduce abundantly in their new settings, causing significant environmental disruption. Invasive plants have competitive advantages over native plant species, which can be an ecological nightmare. For more information [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)

If anyone is interested in being on the planning committee for future roundtables and events, we would very much welcome you. We are planning a weekend festival June 24-26<sup>th</sup> at Crowley Park to raise donations for the [City of Dearborn's Adopt-A-Watt program](#), which was proposed by Mayor O'Reilly in light of the budget cuts. Sign up for more information by sending an email to [dearbornsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:dearbornsustainability@gmail.com) or visit our facebook page, [www.facebook.com/dearbornsustainability](http://www.facebook.com/dearbornsustainability).

Take care,  
Mary Ann Baier, 2, 21, 2011  
Dearborn Sustainability Coalition



## GLMRIS Study by Barb Adams

LWVDDH members continue to learn more about the environmental issues facing the Great Lakes. The one that has been in the news recently is the potential Asian Carp invasion from the Mississippi Basin. I have been following this issue and wanted to learn more about it.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, I attended the last of 12 public scoping meetings of the Great Lakes and Mississippi Basin Study (GLMRIS). The purpose of the meetings were to educate the public on the accomplishments made by this study group so far and to seek input from stakeholders and the public for scoping the study. The study lead by the US Army Corp of Engineers (the Corp) is 100% federally funded. The study begun January 2010, is anticipated to be completed in 2015.

The Study Authority reads "The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, local and nongovernmental entities, shall conduct, at Federal expense, a feasibility study of the range of options and technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways." Federally mandated guidelines must be followed.

Since the scoping of the study is still being formulated, many environmental groups came to the meeting to provide their comments about the scope. Two of the major disconnects between the study definition and the other groups are the anticipated length of time the study will take and the expected outcome of prevention of the spread of aquatic invasive species (ANS) instead of eradication of the species from these waterways.

Since many environmental and governmental groups want to be involved, the study team is open to working together with these groups. The study team was also open to any ideas from anyone that would help them with the problem.

I urge you to go to the GLMRIS website, <http://glmr.is.anl.gov> and read through the study material. There is too much to list in this article. The material on the website is comprehensive.

*Please provide comment about the Great Lakes study. The feedback must be received by March 31, 2011.*

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## Join a Community Conversation

Join - MiVote.org, Detroit Public Television, and the Center for Michigan in a Common Sense Conversation to learn more about your state, discuss big issues with fellow Michigan residents, and have your say about our future. **7:00 - 9:00 pm April 6**

### Henry Ford Community College

Many of Governor Snyder's proposals were suggested by citizens at community meetings held all across the state by the Center for Michigan. Views of 10,000 Michigan citizens were gathered into a Common Ground Agenda for Michigan's future.

Now that the proposals are on the table in Lansing, the real work begins. Michigan is facing some hard choices. Weigh in. Add your voice to the transformation of Michigan. Other meetings will be held at Macomb Community College, Washtenaw Community College and Detroit Public Television in Wixom.

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Excerpts from Michigan Campaign for Quality Care February Newsletter.

Governor Snyder's budget for 2012 - 2013 safeguards many Medicaid programs but proposes cuts to the 'Home Health' program. Medicaid - the joint federal & state program that provides health care to a rapidly increasing number of low income Michigianians & many long term care consumers - accounts for approximately 25% of the state budget. The reimbursement rates to health care facilities and professionals who serve Medicaid beneficiaries was not reduced. He recommended stable funding for MI Choice home & community based care program.

However, a cut to another important and cost-effective program that keeps low income seniors and people with disabilities in their home: the Home Help Program. Currently, 60,000 individuals get help with both activities of daily living like bathing, toileting, eating, and with instrumental activities such as shopping, laundry, cleaning, and meal preparation. The proposal would terminate the instrumental activities portion. (beneficiaries who need both kinds of care will continue to receive them).

## The Top 10 Toxic Products You Don't Need

In Professor Lourde's presentation, she added Janelle Sorensen's list which is summarized below:

1. **Air Fresheners:** Most air fresheners mask odor with a synthetic fragrance or numb your sense of smell with chemical anesthetics, but do nothing to eliminate the source of the odor. Also, aerosol fresheners spew out tiny droplets of chemicals that are easily inhaled into the lungs.
2. **Drain, oven, and toilet bowl cleaners:** the three nastiest cleaners. Corrosive or caustic cleaners such as the lye and acids found in drain cleaners, oven cleaners and acid-based toilet bowl cleaners are the most dangerous cleaning products because they burn skin, eyes, and internal tissue easily.
3. **Canned Food:** Food cans are lined with an epoxy resin that contains bisphenol-A (BPA). Most experts believe this is our main source of exposure to BPA which has been linked to hormone disruption, obesity, heart disease, and much more.
4. **Pesticides:** They're made to be toxic to things, but may leave you with another problem- residual poisons that linger on surfaces, contaminate air, and get tracked onto carpet from shoe bottoms.
5. **Dry-cleaning:** The chemicals used to do it, perchloroethylene, has been linked to cancer and nervous system, kidney, liver and reproductive disorders
6. **Bottled Water:** Most people buy bottled water thinking they're avoiding any contaminants that may be present in their tap water. For the most part, bottled water can be just as, or even more, contaminated than tap water. It's the plastic bottles that contain chemicals.

7. **Rubber duckies:** Toxic? when it's made from PVC - the poison plastic. Banned in over 14 countries and the European Union, PVC, also known as vinyl, is still legally sold by US retailers; although, it threatens environmental and consumer at every stage of its product life cycle.

8. **Couch cushions:** Avoid cushions, pillows, and everything with foam labeled as meeting California TB 117, as it is likely to contain toxic fire retardants.

9. **Perfume and cologne:** Perfumes and "fragrances" can consist of hundreds of chemicals. A perfume made by Calvin Klein, Eternity, was studied and revealed 800 compounds.

10. **Oil-based paints and finishes:** There are 300 toxic chemicals and 150 carcinogens potentially present in oil-based paint.

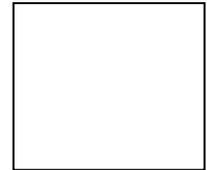
By Kathy Gapa

## Ten - Tips for Eating Healthfully on the Cheap

1. Stretch Your Meat-stretch your poultry & beef by adding more vegetables and grain.
2. Make a Shopping List
3. Avoid processed foods-Use raw materials which are cheaper
4. Drink only water-your soda/ coffee/juice/alcohol dependency isn't inexpensive and isn't good for your body.
5. Buy In-Season produce.
6. Shop at the Farmer's Market.
7. Know your Healthy, Cheap Staples like oatmeal, beans & rice.
8. Start a Vegetable Garden.
9. Avoid the Drive Thru
10. Clip Coupons for healthful foods

By Kathy Gapa

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Dearborn, MI 48124



### Calendar of Events

March 10 - Board Meeting  
March 14 - Redistricting Meeting  
March 23 - Who Controls Food Supply?  
6- 8 pm, HFCC campus  
March 26 - Lights out for 1 hour  
March 26 - Detroit RiverKeeper - fund dinner  
April 6 - MiVote Discuss State Budget  
April 7 - Board Meeting  
April 20 - Lake Erie Basin Committee -here  
April 23 - Ford Estate - pull garlic mustard  
May 10 - Law Day

## Keep the Boat Afloat - - - Fundraiser Dinner **Saturday, March 26, 2011**

Help the Friends of the Detroit River keep the Detroit river-Keeper boat out on the water.



You are invited to attend the annual fundraiser dinner to be held at the **Wyandotte Boat Club** . come enjoy a catered dinner by *Carrabba's Italian Grill*. The evening includes a cash bar, door prizes, raffle and silent auction. **Doors open at 6:00 pm for socializing, dinner to be served at 7 pm**, followed with a presentation by Jim Boase from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Wyandotte boat club is located at 1 Pine Street, just off Biddle (West Jefferson) Ave. south of Eureka, directly across from Portofino restaurant in Wyandotte.  
For information call 734-675-0141 or look them up on the web at [www.detroitriver.org](http://www.detroitriver.org).

Tickets: Individual \$20\_\_\_\_\_ Couples \$35 Children (under 12) \$10\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FRIENDS OF THE DETROIT RIVER  
Mail to: P.O. box 725, Trenton, Mi 48183

## ALTERNATIVE VOTING SYSEMS - LWV Michigan - - Study & Consensus

At the 2009 biennial League of Women Voters of Michigan Convention, the delegates approved a study of "Alternative Voting Systems". The LWVMI Study Committee determined that the LWV of Minnesota already had done an in -depth study and we were given permission to use their comprehensive reports as the foundation for Michigan's study. Because Michigan's election laws are different, we made an effort to determine if there were any issues related to the possible implementation of alternative voting systems in Michigan. For this study, a voting system is defined as a collection of rules and procedures that establish how an election will be conducted, including how the ballots are marked, how the votes are tabulated, how many votes are necessary to win, and other election administration procedures. The scope of this study is limited to single- seat Michigan elections. Voting systems being studied include Plurality, Approval, and Instant Run-off voting.

### Summary of Voting Systems:.

Detailed information can be obtained at [lwvmi.org](http://lwvmi.org)

#### PLUALITY: (Most votes wins)

Michigan uses the Plurality system, in which each voter chooses a single candidate, and the candidate with the most votes wins. In elections involving political parties, a primary election is held first, the winners of the primary then proceed to a general election to determine the winner among those candidates. In races with three or more candidates, it is possible for a candidate to win with fewer than 50% of the votes.

#### APPROVAL VOTING: (Unranked)

In the Approval voting system, voters are allowed to vote for as many candidates as they wish. The candidate receiving the greatest total number of votes wins the election.

#### INSTANT RUN-OFF: (Ranked, goal to have higher than 50% votes)

In Instant runoff, voters rank candidates on the ballot, marking their first, second, and third choices, depending on how many candidates are in the race: however, a voter does not have to vote for more than one. If a candidate gets 50% + 1 of the votes, he or she is declared the winner. If no one has a majority, the counting goes to round two, *eliminating the lowest candidate and transferring that candidate's votes to the second choice on each ballot*. The process continues until someone has 50% of the total votes. This eliminates the need for a run-off election.

#### Other considerations:

Local officials were concerned about the costs of training election judges. Local governments normally pay for training election judges, so at least initially they would need state funding for the re-training.

Several local and state officials felt that changing to any alternative voting system would require upgrading software and voting machines to meet the new tallying procedures. Officials were concerned that changes would produce some degree of administrative errors.

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#### Note to members:

This topic was discussed at our January Program Planning meeting. It was additionally discussed at two board meetings. The consensus questions were discussed and voted upon by the LWVDDH board at its March 10, 2011 meeting.

Members are encouraged to participate in this state consensus by filling out the form on the next page, and submitting it to our league office **by April 4th**. (prior to our next board meeting).

**Submit your response by mail to the office: 120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124**  
**or, email your response to [mjdurivage@comcast.net](mailto:mjdurivage@comcast.net)**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

## Alternative Voting Systems - LWV Michigan study

**QUESTION:** *Is the current method of plurality voting adequate under all circumstances, or should alternate options be recommended? The methods under consideration are the following.*

**1. Plurality Voting** – Current voting system in Michigan; voters cast vote for one candidate, the candidate with the most votes wins, regardless of whether or not he or she received a majority of the votes cast.

Support \_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_ No consensus \_\_\_  
Why or why not?:

**2. Approval Voting:** Voters cast votes for all the candidates they approve. The candidate with the most votes wins.

Support \_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_ No consensus \_\_\_  
Why or why not?:

**3. Instant Runoff Voting:** Voters rank the candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated, and the votes cast for the eliminated candidate are transferred (or moved) to the next choice listed on each ballot. This process of elimination continues until a majority winner is declared.

Support \_\_\_ Oppose \_\_\_ No consensus \_\_\_  
Why or why not?:

**Remember to submit your response by April 4th:**

mail to:

LWVDDH

120 N. Military

Dearborn, Mi 48124

or email to: [mjdurivage@comcast.net](mailto:mjdurivage@comcast.net)