

# A BRIEF HISTORY

**LWV**

**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
MT. PLEASANT AREA**



## FOUNDING OF LWVMPA

In 1969 a group of bright, energetic women who lived in a pleasant college town decided to form an organization which would offer them an opportunity to pursue their interest in local and world affairs, provide a public service, and at the same time provide them with an educational experience. The idea took hold almost immediately. Nearly 94 women joined within the first two months. The league flourished to the point where it was considered a model in the community and throughout the state. Its members concluded this was the beginning and that, as time passed, the organization would only get bigger and better.

## **EARLY LEAGUE OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Sandy Warriner, Dee Van Horn, Ruth Anderson, Virginia McQuaid, Joy Pastucha, Sue Nichols, Ida Rush, Kay Smith, Gail Mitchell, Joan Gust, Nancy Carey, Betty Anderson, Jean Lawton, Rosemary Comtois, Ida Rush, Dee Kohrman, Betty Clason, Sarah Delia, Dorothy Fetting, Penny Swart, Dee Miller, Marge Bulger, Ethel Gallagher, Judi Todink, Peg Adams, Eleanor Dawson, Nancy Kaiser, Linda Binkley, Mary Lou Taylor, Elaine Daniels, Sara Jo Kramer, Ann Geisler, Jane Hughes, Rita Klosowski, Jo Anne Thompson

# EARLY LEAGUE OFFICERS



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS held an organizational meeting last week, with election of board of directors and nominating committee. New officers shown above are, back row, right, Mrs. David Lawton, first vice-president; Mrs. James Rush, secretary; and Mrs. [unclear] chell, treasurer. In the front row is Mrs. Jerry Anderson, president, on the left, with [unclear] es Atkinson, of Birmingham, State League President.

**There once was a political mouse, who  
voted by asking her spouse.**

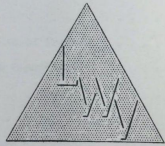
**Then she paid her League dues, (she had  
nothing to lose)**

**Now SHE'S the bright one in the house.**

THE VOTER, NOV 1969

# PUBLICATIONS

# BASIC LOCAL INFORMATION HANDBOOK



*Provisional League of Women Voters  
of the Mt. Pleasant Area*

NOVEMBER, 1969

## CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF THE

MT. PLEASANT AREA

# do your own thing- VOTE



## You Can Vote If

You were registered by your City or Township Clerk prior to October 2, 1970.

## You Can Vote Absentee If

You will be out of town or absent on election day .  
You vote before the election on an absentee ballot .  
You apply for and obtain an absentee ballot from the Clerk's Office.



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CALL THE MT. PLEASANT AREA  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:

1. Mrs. Jerry M. Anderson, President  
Telephone 773-9590.
2. Mrs. Brian E. Smith, Voters Service Chairman  
Telephone 773-3113
3. Mrs. Hans Fetting, Membership Chairman  
Telephone 773-9514.

PRODUCED BY THE PROVISIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE  
MT. PLEASANT AREA.

The League of Women Voters is a national, nonpartisan organization established in 1920. Its purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in their government. The League never supports or opposes any political party or any candidate. The League does support or oppose issues after careful study by members and without regard to the stand of any party. League stands on issues are never indicated in Voters Guides. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates. Biographical information and answers to questions were secured by letter. The answers are in the candidates' own words and have not been edited.

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# KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

## 'Know Your Community'

# MP area league publishes booklet

By PAM KLEIN  
Sun Staff Writer  
MOUNT PLEASANT —  
Need to know something  
about Isabella County? Just  
ask a member of the Mount

Pleasant Area League of  
Women Voters.

In response to your  
request you're likely to be  
directed to the League's  
latest publication, "Know

Your Community — Isabella  
County," which received its  
public introduction at a  
reception Thursday evening.

The 64-page document,  
partially a revision of the

League's 1971 "Know Your  
Town" book but also  
including new information,  
took approximately five  
months to complete,  
according to League

President Sarah Delia. And  
she is understandably proud  
of the results.

"I'm ecstatic," she said  
Thursday. "It really gives  
you a sense of  
accomplishment to complete  
something like this."

Production of the book was  
coordinated by Kathy  
Lindfors and edited by Sue  
Nichols, both League  
members. Lindfors  
admitted work had been  
difficult during the past five  
months but called the  
publication "the greatest  
experience I've had since  
I've been in the League."

Nichols echoed that  
sentiment, saying the book  
was "a lot of work but worth  
every minute of it."

Distribution of the book's  
first printing of 3,000 copies  
will take place within the  
next few weeks, and copies  
are available for \$1.50 by  
calling 772-0456.

According to statements in  
the introduction of the book,  
"the quality of life in a  
community depends upon  
the full utilization of the  
services available to its  
citizens. The purpose of this  
publication is to point out  
and clarify these services in  
a brief and concise matter."

The book offers a guide to

Isabella County and the towns  
and townships within it.  
Other topics covered include  
the history and  
characteristics of Isabella  
County; township,  
municipal and county  
government; the justice  
system; public protection;  
elections; health and social  
services; parks and  
recreation and education.

This year's publication  
includes information on a  
county-wide basis, as  
compared to the 1971 book  
which focused mainly on  
Mount Pleasant. Lindfors  
said the expanded focus was  
decided on "because there is  
more and more interest in  
the out-county areas, and we  
are an area League." Delia  
added that "in order to  
further study the county you  
first have to have the basic  
information, which this  
gives us."

Other items of interest in  
the publication include the  
times of all township board  
meetings, descriptions of the  
governmental structure of  
the county, Mount Pleasant  
and surrounding townships;  
a school directory and maps  
of the city, county, school  
district and Central  
Michigan University  
campus.



**FINALLY FINISHED** — Members of the League of Women Voters proudly show off their new publication "Know Your Community - Isabella County" to community leaders during reception honoring those who worked on the book. Shown on left to right are Gaylord Courter, president of American

Security Bank; Roy Adams, Isabella County administrator; William Barrons, Mount Pleasant City Commissioner; and League members Kathy Lindfors and Sue Nichols. Lindfors was coordinator of the book and Nichols served as its editor.

# KNOW YOUR TOWN



THE EDITORS OF THE League of Women Voter's "Know Your Town" book look it over. From left to right are: Mrs. Alan T. Nichols, assistant editor; Mrs. Brian Smith, book editor; Mrs. Robert E. Kehrman, assistant editor; and Mrs. James E. Rush, Know Your Town editor. The League prepared the 60-page handbook to cover many aspects of life in Union Township. Major topics in the book are education; city government, planning and history; recreation; social services and Union Township.

“KNOW YOUR TOWN” was published in 1971. Major topics include education, city government, planning and history, recreation, social services, Union Township government

# KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS 1972



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS have published the booklet "Know Your Schools," an introductory study of the Mount Pleasant School District. Dr. Carlo Barberi, (seated center), superintendent of schools, and assistant superintendent Jack Anson look over the book with the League's president, Kay Smith (seated left). Looking over their work are (back, left to right) Linda Mason,

Times-News Photo school study chairman; Gail Mitchell, assistant study chairman; Dee Kohrman and Ida Rush, editorial board. The handbook is published with the intent of providing factual information to the community about elementary and secondary schools in the district. Persons interested in purchasing a copy may call the League of Women Voters at 772-0456.

Apr 8, 1972 MORNING SUN

# STUDIES AND CONSENSUS

Local issues studied included the revision of the city charter, K-12 budgeting process, juvenile services, the housing code, library organization, and local public transportation

LOCAL CONSENSUS: URBAN PLANNING  
AND LAND USE 9/13/72

SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF A HOUSING CODE AS BEING BENEFICIAL TO THE  
ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

SUPPORT THE CONCEPT THAT ALL HABITABLE PROPERTIES SHOULD BE COVERED BY  
A HOUSING CODE IN SOME MANNER.

BELIEVE THE HOUSING SITUATION IN MT. PLEASANT WARRANTS A HOUSING CODE.

It has been determined that an entire community benefits from a housing  
code. The primary purpose of such a code should be to protect the health  
and safety of the individuals living in the community and to protect prop-  
erty values.

A housing code should cover all renter-occupied dwellings (which also  
includes motels, hotels, fraternity and sorority houses, owner-occupied  
dwellings containing rental units). Also to be included in the code are  
all individuals owner-occupied dwellings, including condominiums and the  
like and all trailer units.

A group of inspectors with appropriate specialized qualifications  
should be employed by the city to make inspections as the code stipulates.  
Rental properties should be inspected at regular intervals, whereas indi-  
vidual owner-occupied dwellings are to be inspected only when a visible,  
discernible problem exists, upon request, or upon written complaint. The  
housing code should be reasonable, equitably, and adequately enforced.

When non-compliance has been established, the responsible party must assume  
the costs needed to bring the dwelling into compliance. Provision must be  
made for assistance in hardship cases.

An appeals procedure should be established using the following  
guidelines:

1. A Hearing Officer will mediate conflicts between individuals or  
between individuals and the city.
2. An Appeals Board determines which are hardship cases and which are  
willful attempts to violate the code and proceeds accordingly. A  
hearing before this board would be necessary when the Hearing Offi-  
cer is unable to mediate the complaint. This board should be  
composed of both elected and appointed officials.
3. A separate and individual body should be established to consider  
any amendments or additions to the code. Its composition should  
be both elected and appointed officials.

Minimum health and safety standards must be required of all habitable  
dwellings and trailers. We recommend that broad standards be established  
for individual owner-occupied dwellings, specific standards be established  
for all rental dwellings, broad special and applicable standards be estab-  
lished for individual owner-occupied trailers and specific special and  
applicable standards be established for rented trailers.

The housing situation in Mt. Pleasant suggests the need for a housing  
code. Renter-occupied dwellings and trailers warrant particular attention  
and should definitely be covered under the code. Provisions should be made  
to cover individual owner-occupied dwellings and trailers which constitute  
a visible health and safety hazard.

## HOUSING CODE 1972

## CITY CHARTER 1974

LOCAL CONSENSUS: CITY CHARTER (JANUARY, 1974)

The Pleasant League of Women Voters supports the concept of a general  
framework charter that is a charter that is simple, flexible and concise;

leave procedural details for inclusion in various city ordinances;

such a general framework charter, we support the following specific  
provisions:

1. Selection of 5-7 city commissioners form of government.

2. Elections.

3. Selection of commissioners for three-year staggered terms.

4. Election procedures that follow the guidelines suggested in Article  
VII of the Model City Charter, especially the following two provisions:

a. When ordinances or charter amendments are included on a ballot  
describing the ordinance or measure... shall be a clear concise state-  
ment without argument or prejudice. Below the ballot the following  
question shall appear: "Shall the above described (ordinance) (amendment)  
be adopted?" Immediately below such question shall appear, in  
the following order, the words 'Yes' and 'No' and to the left  
of each square in which by making a cross (X) the voter shall  
cast his vote."

b. In elections of city commissioners: "If the numbers of candi-  
dates receiving a majority vote is not a majority of the num-  
ber of offices to be filled, no candidate receiving less than  
a majority vote shall be declared elected." Under these cir-  
cumstances a run-off election would be held in which "twice as  
many names (of candidates for councilman) as there are remaining  
council offices to be filled" would be included on the ballot...  
"The names shall be those of the unelected candidates polling  
the greatest number of votes in the initial election. In the  
second election, the remaining offices shall be filled by de-  
claring elected the several candidates polling the greatest  
number of votes."

5. City commissioners should be granted the authority to set up special  
assessment districts. Ordinances should be developed setting  
up the procedures to be followed. The charter should require  
these ordinances include that:

- a. Public hearings will be held.
  - b. The property owners will know the cost of the project (within  
reasonable limits) before being legally bound by petitions.
6. In establishing a source of local revenue the charter should pro-  
vide a system of taxation which is progressive, adequate, equitable,  
and flexible.

7. In establishing a time-table for the collection of taxes, the  
charter should attempt to co-ordinate the collection of city and  
school taxes based on the following criteria:

- a. Balancing the tax burden of the fiscal years of both  
the city and the school system.

Additional Comments about the Consensus:

1. Going along with the philosophy that the charter should remain  
in scope, League members agreed that no provisions dealing with  
in-lieu-of-taxes should be included in the charter.

2. Although the members attending the unit meetings

LOCAL CONSENSUS: KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS (1972-73)

Question: Based upon the financial data presented, is the distribution of  
current operating expenditures responsible and realistic?

Answer: Yes, but it was felt that Program Budgeting would have made it  
easier to assess the school district's financial data.

Question: Judging from the financial data, rate the spending priorities of  
the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools?

Answer: Teachers' salaries should remain the same and in the same pro-  
portion to the total budget. The teacher/pupil ratio should  
remain the same, with possible reduction in class size. Comma-  
unity services was no consensus; members felt more information  
was needed. Instructional supplies and equipment need more  
emphasis. Administration was not consensus.

Question: If the public school budget were cut, which areas of current  
operating expenditures should reflect that cut?

Answer: Across the board, with strong minority in favor of cuts in  
maintenance, if cut is of a short term nature.

Question: If school financing reform takes place and school revenues in-  
crease, which areas of current operating expenditures should re-  
flect that increase?

Answer: Should not be reflected across the board, but in total instr-  
uctional expense but not necessarily to include teachers'  
salaries.

Question: Who in the public school system should participate in the financial  
decision-making process?

Answer: Board of Education, superintendents, principals, professional  
study committee, curriculum specialists, classroom teacher,  
parents and students. All should have input in varying degrees.

Question: Based on what you have learned about school spending, do you  
think teachers have adequate funding for supplies?

Answer: The majority were undecided but a strong minority said yes.

Question: Based on what you have learned about school spending, do you  
think teachers have adequate input in establishing budget  
priorities?

Answer: The majority were undecided with a strong minority saying no.  
It would appear that while channels of communication exist,  
they are not being used.

Question: The recent LWV State DOM consensus, in which we participated,  
states that program budgeting should be required at all levels  
of the education structure. Would you like the Mt. Pleasant  
LWV to work actively to encourage the use of program budgeting  
in the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools?

Answer: Yes, program budgeting locally.

## KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS 1972-73

# GRANTS

GRANT PROPOSAL  
GROUNDWATER EDUCATION MICHIGAN  
Submitted by

The League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

In the interest of promoting citizen participation in the local and state government process the League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area submits this grant proposal. We believe that citizens cannot adequately take part in deciding questions of basic import without being well informed of the ramifications of the issue. What issue is more basic, indeed life sustaining, than the purity of the water we drink?

We propose, through the auspices of public television station WCMU TV, to air the drinking water quality video currently in preparation by the League of Women Voters of Michigan and to sponsor a one hour accompanying segment that will feature four individuals having expert knowledge of the safe drinking water problem. WCMU TV reaches audiences throughout the northern half of the Lower Peninsula and the eastern portion of the Upper Peninsula.

The Michigan Environmental Response Act, Act 307 of 1982, requires that priority lists of environmental contamination sites be compiled. In the northern half of the Lower Peninsula, list one, group 2,<sup>1</sup> reveals 12 counties having from zero to ten identified sites, 15 counties having 11 to 21 sites, four counties having 22 to 32 sites, one county, Grand Traverse, having 44 to 54 sites and another county, Manistee,<sup>2</sup> having 63 sites. Three counties in the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula have 11 to 21 sites of contamination. List one identifies known sites needing further evaluation and interim response activity. The area of Michigan that we propose to reach in this television broadcast certainly has been contaminated with a variety of pollutants.

In Isabella County, the location of the League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area, four sites containing environmental contamination have been found and have received ranked scores indicating a relative risk to human health and the environment.<sup>3</sup> These are located in the City of Mt. Pleasant, and

<sup>1</sup>"Michigan Sites of Environmental Contamination Priority Lists Act 307," Michigan Department of Natural Resources, June 1989, amended August 1989, p. 117.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. pp. 188-193.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid. pp. 81-82.

## GROUNDWATER EDUCATION MICHIGAN (GEM PROJECT)1994

The League worked with WCMU TV to produce and air "Drinking Water: Quality on Tap". Copies of the video were distributed to various school districts.

The League worked with Central Mi District Health Department to assemble 1000 packets of groundwater protection materials for distribution to local new area homeowners and small businesses.

# ACTIVITIES

## 1973

Registered 118 high school students on Government Day

Registered voters at Isabella County Fair

Televised public meeting of city commission candidates

Produced a Voter Guide

Aired “A Matter of Importance” (League program) on  
WCMU radio

Conducted tours of the County Building on Government  
Day

Published “Citizen’s Guide to Government”

League members were members of City Commission,  
School Board, Planning Commission, Housing Board of  
Appeals, Mt Pleasant City Charter Commission

**10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
MAY 1980**

# Happy 10th!

## LWV celebrates decade of confidence building

By PAM ECKMAN LOWNEY

Sun Staff Writer

MOUNT PLEASANT — The Mount Pleasant League of Women Voters, which had a reunion of sorts at its 10th annual meeting this week, has helped its members develop skills and increase their self-confidence, the two founders of the group said.

Sue Nichols and Sarah Delia said the individual accomplishments of league members are as encouraging as the accomplishments of the group.

"These people, because of their league experience, have had opened up to them so many avenues of public experience," Nichols said.

"We've taken more women out of the kitchen than you would believe," Delia said.

Several members have won public office, including City Commissioner Carol Scherer, County Commissioner Kathy Ling, Mount Pleasant Board of Education President Virginia Kjolhede and Planning Commission member Nichols.

"A lot of these gals got their first kind of inkling of how government works through the league," Nichols said.

Delia and Nichols said women who win public office are not allowed to be board members and are not backed by the league because the group is strictly non-partisan.

In addition to members who have been elected to public offices, other members have learned skills which helped them in their jobs. Delia said an example is developing communications skills such as writing pamphlets, speaking in public and appearing on television.

Nichols said she learned lessons about school millages which she teaches her journalism students at Central Michigan University through her league membership.

"Many women have gone back to school because they learned they could get into the

issues and understand them" through the league, Delia said.

Developments in the women's movement have affected the league and its members Nichols and Delia said.

The league previously met in the afternoon but now meets in the evening because so many women work and can't attend the afternoon sessions.

"What's happened to the league is what's happened to a lot of volunteer organizations that are primarily run by women," Delia said.

But the women stressed that the league tackles many other issues and is not primarily concerned with the women's movement, although it does support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The national League of Women Voters "grew out of the suffragette movement" in the 1920s, Nichols said, "but it hasn't been really that directly associated with the women's movement. Its issues are much, much broader."

Nichols said when she and Delia were trying to start a league chapter in Mount Pleasant, they did not have a particular issue in mind to pursue.

"We just believed in what the league could

do," said Nichols, who had been in a league chapter in South Dakota. Delia said her sister was president of a league chapter and got her interested.

The women spent the summer of 1969 talking to service groups, canvassing neighborhoods, studying Mount Pleasant's economy, population and government structure, and conducting membership meetings and finance drives. They said about 10 to 15 women helped out that summer.

The group received its charter that fall. In April 1970, it conducted its first annual meeting to decide which issues to study for the year. The 10th annual meeting was Thursday and the league celebrated with birthday cake and a reunion with charter members who had left Mount Pleasant.

Nichols said organizing the league chapter was "one of the most exciting things I've ever been involved with."

"I think that we have had a very, very good response in the community," she said.

Delia said the league did not have to overcome much resistance in the community because the national league is so well-respected.

"In essence, what we are doing is just carrying on that tradition," she said.

"We've taken more women out of the kitchen than you would believe"

"Individual accomplishments of league members are as encouraging as the accomplishments of the group. These people, because of their league experience have had opened up to them so many avenues of public experience"



**Sue Nichols, Sarah Delia, and Margo Power cut an anniversary cake.**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY**

“IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE STRUGGLES WE FACED TO GET TO THE POINT WE ARE TODAY. ONLY THEN WILL THEY APPRECIATE THE HARD-WON FREEDOM OF BLACKS IN THIS COUNTRY.”  
— Amelia Boynton Robinson



**GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION**  
Register Now TO VOTE

**Another landmark voting rights victory**  
The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was landmark civil rights legislation that kept millions of discriminatory voting laws and practices off-limits to keep black and other voters of color from the polls. The act enfranchised millions of new voters. In 2011, the Supreme Court struck down an important provision in enforcing the law. In recent years, some states re-imposed election laws that discriminate against voters of color. We argue and advocate to support voting rights.

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE**

The 100 years since the ratification of the 15th amendment has seen voting rights expanded to millions of new voters. It has also seen a century of ongoing struggle against voter discrimination. However, people continue to fight against voter discrimination and to protect voting rights. The best protection is your own participation in the political process. Public education is one of the most powerful ways to make any election fair and open to all.



**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE  
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

JOIN THE LEAGUE

## celebrating 50 years

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MT. PLEASANT AREA 1969-2019**

OUR HISTORY	OUR HISTORY	OUR HISTORY	OUR HISTORY
<p>1969: The League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area was founded. It is a local affiliate of the National League of Women Voters.</p>	<p>1970: The League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area held its first meeting. The meeting was held at the Mt. Pleasant Public Library.</p>	<p>1971: The League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area held its first election. The election was held for the Mt. Pleasant School Board.</p>	<p>1972: The League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area held its first meeting. The meeting was held at the Mt. Pleasant Public Library.</p>

**VOTE**

**REGISTER**

**VOTE!**

**LWV**  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE  
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**ENK**  
ELECTORAL NETWORK

**LWV**  
EDUCATE ALWAYS IMPACTE  
EVERY TIME WE VOTE

**LWV**

Sarah Delia



The honor of your presence is requested  
As the League of Women Voters of the  
Mt. Pleasant Area  
Celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on  
Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 at noon at  
the  
Commission on Aging,  
2200 South Lincoln Road, Mt. Pleasant,  
Michigan.



Marilyn Bidwell

**MORE RECENT ACTIVIES**

**Voter Registration During National Voter Registration Day**

**Candidate Forums**

**Voter Guides ..Online and Print**

**Board of Canvassers Observation**

**PSA's to Local Radio Stations**

**Lame Duck Study**

**"Voting is Power, Use It" x2 Newspaper Articles**

**"How to be an Informed Voter" ,  
Presentation for CMU's Issue Day and**

**Newspaper Article, "Know Your Voting Rights"**

**Newspaper Article, "MICRC and Communities of Interest"  
published in "Active Living"; "Tribal Observer"; "Epicenter"**

**Virtual Town Hall Explaining MICRC and COI**

**"Vote" Masks Were Distributed to Donors and Volunteers**

**Participation in Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting  
Commission Communities of Interest Committee**

[ARS18E5: League Of Women  
Voters | Videos & Movies on Vimeo](#)

?fl=pl&fe=sh