



League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County
Established in Livonia in 1960

VOTER

www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

Serving: Belleville, Canton, Garden City, Livonia,
Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne and Westland

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016

Celebrate the Holidays with your League friends

We hope all League members and supporters (significant others are certainly supporters!) will join us for a social gathering on Sunday, December 11th from 3:00—5:00 at member Judy Patrick's home. Judy lives at 11691 Paciocco Ct .in Plymouth. If you can, please bring an appetizer or sweet treat to share (bring your own serving utensils and serving dishes please). BYOB.

Directions: The Patrick home is west of Beck Road, between North Territorial and Powell. Coming north on Beck Road, turn left (west) on Powell. Turn right on Paciocco Court, which is the 3rd street west of Powell. 11691 is the second house on the left.

BACK TO BUSINESS IN JANUARY

Please join us on Thursday, January 5th, 7:00 pm at the Livonia Civic Center Library as we hear from a panel of city, township and county experts who will discuss revenue sharing and funding of local and county governments. The purpose of this event is to prepare our membership to participate in the LWVMI study on Government Finance. Panelists include Wayne County Commissioner (and former Michigan State Senator) Glenn Anderson, City of Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe, and Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier.

Our League's Government Finance Study Committee, chaired by Rosemary Doyle, will be meeting on December 3. The Committee is covering the material in depth, and will bring their proposed responses to the LWVMI consensus questions to the membership for approval at the February League meeting (date to be announced). If you are not part of the Committee, attending this forum is an excellent way to learn more about this issue so that you can participate fully in the consensus question decisions.

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2016--17:

PRESIDENT

Angela Ryan
cruiserryan@ameritech.net

1ST VP: DEVELOPMENT

Lena Packer

2ND VP: VOTER SERVICE

Paula Bowman

SECRETARY

Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER

Toni Shepherd

VOTER EDITOR

Paula Bowman

DIRECTORS

Diane Witt Laurie Kelly
Lynda Franklin Linda Curry
Sue Wabeke

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Mchahwar

LWV of NW Wayne County
PO Box 51502

Livonia, MI 48151

(734) 421-4420

EM: lwwmail@yahoo.com

Web:

www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.



President's Message

Members –

We just got through a grueling election cycle. For that we can be thankful. There are many other League-related experiences for which I'm thankful as well.

I'm thankful for those who worked at voter registration events, on candidate forums, on Vote411, and on assembling and distributing print voter guides. We got very positive feedback from many people for those efforts.

I'm grateful for everyone who participated in this year's auction. Some donated items, some got donations from businesses, some attended the auction (and bid on items!), some worked at the auction, and some did all of the above. It was a fun event, and we raised over twice as much money as we have at previous auctions. That could not have happened without the help of so many members in so many ways.

The Board members deserve a special thanks. Not only do they put in the time to attend Board meetings, they are often the members who are asked to help out on our various projects. They are incredibly willing to help, which makes my job so much easier. I really appreciate that.

I appreciate the members who are currently serving on the Government Finance Study Committee and the Membership and Leadership Development Committee. The efforts of both of these committees are beneficial to moving our League and the State League forward.

I especially want to thank Barbara Miller for reaching out to us to get a League started in Belleville. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the new Belleville members and share my League experiences and knowledge with them. I look forward to working with them in the coming months.

I had the opportunity to speak at Schoolcraft College to students in the classes of three different professors. I also spoke to the Wayne Rotary Club and to a group of young women in Canton. I was grateful for the chance to speak to all of these groups about the League and voting-related issues.

We have a few activities coming up in the next several months. The League's Holiday Party will be on December 11. We'll be hosting a panel discussion in January related to the Government Finance study, followed by a members' meeting in February to discuss the study questions. I'll be very grateful if you're able to attend one or more of these events.

Thank you for your continuing support of the League. It's a wonderful organization that I think is needed now more than ever.

Angela Ryan

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PUBLIC SERVICE MEMBERS

We have a record 9 members who hold elected office in our communities, seven of whom were elected/re-elected in 2016. We congratulate them on their victories and salute all of our elected officials for their public service.

Sherry Frazier—Van Buren Twp. Trustee
Anne-Marie Graham-Hudak, Canton Twp. Trustee

Kevin McNamara—Van Buren Twp. Supervisor
Reggie Miller—Van Buren Twp. Trustee
John Morgan—Sumpter Twp. Supervisor
Don Swinson—Sumpter Twp. Trustee
Leon Wright—Sumpter Twp. Clerk

Joan Gebhardt (Schoolcraft College Trustee) and Susan Rowe (City of Wayne Mayor) were not up for re-election and continue to serve in their positions.



Anne Marie Graham-Hudak (in red) is sworn in as a new Canton Twp. Trustee on Nov. 22

WHAT'S NEXT FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT?

As you all know by now, the regional transit funding ballot measure lost by a close 17,000 votes. Advocacy groups, like Transportation Riders United (TRU), put an enormous amount of effort into getting this proposal passed, and were naturally, terribly disappointed at the outcome. Said Megan Owens, Executive Director of TRU, "I am extraordinarily proud of the effort we undertook. The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) crafted a great plan that would have benefited so many people. Hundreds of organizations (*like the League of Women Voters*) and businesses came together to speak about the need for reliable regional transit. Yet ultimately, our efforts proved to not be enough, especially as our calls for compassion and bringing the region together were drowned out in an election of fear and anger at "others."

According to Owens, the RTA is committed to continuing its work to improve public transportation in the Detroit Metro Region, which is woefully lacking in basic public transit options for senior citizens, workers, the disabled, residents without cars, and tourists.

The problem has not disappeared, nor have the efforts for more and better transit. If you would like to stay connected to public transit advocacy, visit www.detroittransit.org. You can join as a supporting member, sign up for advocacy emails or just stay in tune with the next steps of this necessary effort.

SHOUT OUT TO THE LEAGUE

In an October 15, 2016 article in the Detroit Free Press, entitled, "Can we rekindle civility in the post-election world?" columnist Brian Dickerson spoke about the desperate need for respectful dialog concerning the many critical issues of our day.

Dickerson says, "And let's not forget the League of Women Voters, whose Michigan affiliate has spent decades providing conscientious voters with the opportunity to meet and question the candidates seeking their favor. I have no idea how much longer these islands of civility can withstand the hurricane-force invective unleashed by social media and cable news networks. But as Campaign 2016 limps to the finish line, they offer a safe dry dock in which to begin the repair of our bruised and battered democracy."

FALL AUCTION

Lena Packer, VP Development

Our fall auction was held on October 22 at Greenmead in Livonia. Our very generous members provided a wide variety of items for the auction along with a wonderful assortment of snacks and beverages. I am very pleased to report that we made over \$3000! Many of those who attended took home a variety of treasures.

This fundraiser was truly a group project with so many people helping to make it such a success. I would like to thank everyone who helped with this auction starting with Rosemary Doyle and Linda Curry called our members (some hard to reach!) to solicit donations for the auction. Louise McGhie was our auctioneer and she did a fantastic job running the auction and kept everyone laughing.

A special thanks to Diane Wittl who worked at the table to sign in guests and to our refreshments committee - Nancy White, Mary Visos, and Rosemary Doyle who planned and provided tasty goodies.

Several members helped in the set up and clean up of this event: Paula Bowman, Gail Arciero, Diane Wittl, and Kathryn Mchahwar. Toni Shepherd, with the help of Angela Ryan and Paula Bowman, took care of handling the auction checkout table. Toni does a wonderful job of keeping our records in order.

Thank you to Laura Callow who designed our action flyer and to Ann Abdoo and Paula Bowman for taking care of our publicity. Our business donations committee was especially active: Roberta Young, Angela Ryan, Susan Rowe, Joan Gebhardt, and Sue Wabeke brought in a wide variety of fantastic business donations! I know they made repeated visits to businesses to acquire these donations. We are so grateful for all of your time and effort.

Our auction could not have been successful without the fantastic donations we received from our members. A very special thank you to all of these members who donated items and/or were Auction Angels; Laura Callow, Rosemary Doyle, Angela Ryan, Toni Shepherd and her friend Pat Stouder, Pat Tavidian, Sue Wabeke, Nancy White, Roberta Ann Abdoo, Paula Bowman, Joan Gebhardt, Susan Rowe, Esther Friedrichs, Judy Patrick, Mary Visos,

Colleen Mills, Rachel Rion, Lynda Franklin, Linda Curry, Sandi McClennan, Laurie Kelly, Kathryn Mchahwar, Cyndi Burnstein, Frank Kalinski, Jewel Butler, Barbara Rogalle Miller, Virginia Belinski, Kristen Farmer, Veronica Hitchcock, Jean Norman, Diane Wittl, Gail Arciero, Shirley Zaetta (non-member), Lena Packer, and an anonymous donor.

I would like to give a special thank you to the following businesses for providing items for our auction:

1 Under Craft Beer and Eats
The Books Connection
HoneyBaked Ham of Livonia
O'Malley's Supper, Spirits, & Song
Phoenix Theaters
Sheesh Mediterranean Cuisine
Showerman's Fine Wine & Liquor
Beyond Nails
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Barr
BRAVO! Cucina Italiana
Golden Gifts Jewelers
Trader Joe's
Helium Studio
Le'cakery Bake Shop
Leo's Jewelers
Orin Jewelers
Bill & Rod's Appliance
Independent Carpet One
Merri-Craft Florist
Joe's Produce Gourmet Market
Schoolcraft College-American Harvest Restaurant
Greek Islands Coney Restaurant

I would also like to thank Wayne Co. Commissioner Terry Marecki for her donation of Tiger tickets.

A special thank you to Sue Wabeke who assembled auction baskets and arranged for our Detroit tours—always a favorite feature at our auction.

As you can see, so many people were involved in this event. Without all of you, this auction could not have happened. This is such a wonderful group of people to work with. Thank you so much for all of your time and effort to make this auction such a success!

Ed Note: *The League also thanks Auction Chair Lena Packer for her dedication, time, and excellent organizing skills that made for a very successful and fun auction.*

ROBUST VOTER SERVICE IN 2016

Paula Bowman, VP, Voter Service

In addition to all the candidate forums, voter guides and voter registration events that preceded the August primary, the NW Wayne County League was even more active prior to the general election.

Within a 3-week span in late September and early October, we held candidate forums for 11 more contests. Thank you to all the League members who helped (many at multiple forums): Laura Cal-low, Angela Ryan, Lena Packer, Roberta Young, Kathy Mchahwar, Megan Chenoweth, Toni Shepherd, Laurie Kelly, Denise Partridge, Virginia Beliski, Barbara Miller, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Paula Bowman, and Anne Abdo. We are grateful to the candidates who participated—we had almost 90% participation.

We prepared 8 versions of local Voter Guides that were blended with the state version. A total of 2,600 Guides were distributed. Thank you to everyone who joined us to “stuff” the local Guides into the state version and then immediately helped with delivering them to libraries and other venues: Susan Rowe, Roberta Young, Nancy White, Mary Ann McAllister, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Diane Wittl, Pat Tavidian and Paula and Gordon Bowman.

A special thank you to Megan Chenoweth, who spent many hours in front of her computer working on both the primary and then the general election races in all of our communities to produce the on-line Voter Guide: VOTE411. Megan did an excellent job of creating this non-partisan tool for voters who continue to look to the League as their most trusted source of objective candidate information.

In addition to the voter registration events we held this past spring and summer before the Primary, our League also held several more events prior to the General Election. We appreciate the time that these members gave to this important work at the fall events: Elaine Gutierrez, Virginia Belinski, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Angela Ryan, Roberta Young, Rachel Rion, Susan Rowe, Linda Curry, Susan Nicholas, Ann Abdo, Christine Litka and Rosemary Doyle. If we have omitted any September or October workers, please let me know so we can properly thank you.

INSPIRING YOUTH

Angela Ryan, President

On Election Day, I spoke to a group of young ladies in Canton’s Lead #Like a Girl program. I was asked to speak about the League, my background, and voter-related issues. I arrived wearing all white and a “Votes for Women” sash. That led to a discussion of how long women have had the right to vote. After I talked about my work and League history, we discussed current women political leaders and how women lead compared to men. (All the girls said, “Better”.)

At the end of my presentation, they had a mock presidential election and we took pictures. I expect great things from the girls in this group, and I look forward to attending their graduation next June



Angela with all the girls holding their “VOTE” bookmarks.

NEED A GIFT IDEA?

Consider the gift of civic engagement by giving a \$60 LWV membership. Fill out the form on page 6 and let Paula Bowman know so she can send you a membership certificate to give to your lucky recipient. If you’d like to buy a membership for someone in another community or state, Paula can help you with that too.



Next Membership Meeting: Jan. 5th

League of Women Voters
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151



Become a Partner for Change with
the League of Women Voters.

Yes, I wish to join the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ E-Mail _____

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 16.
My check of \$60 is enclosed.
Make check payable to LWV of Northwest Wayne County
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151