



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

FEBRUARY, 2016



League Calendar

Monday, March 7
 Livonia Main Library
 32777 Five Mile Rd
 7:00pm-8:45pm

Membership Meeting concerning the progress and challenges of regional transit in the Detroit Metro area. Public invited.

Tuesday, March 8
 Polls open 7am-8pm

Michigan's Presidential Primary. Visit VOTE411.org for candidate information and www.lwvmi.org for primary election information

Monday, April 11
 Livonia Main Library
 32777 Five Mile Rd
 7:00pm-8:45pm

Membership Meeting concerning Campaign Financing. Get an update on recent legislation in Michigan that makes it even easier for candidates to hide their funding sources. We'll also hear about the financial challenges of running for state office.

Saturday, April 30
 Lansing
 9:30am-2:30pm

All-Member Workshop hosted by LWVMI. See article on page 5.

Thursday, June 9
 Livonia Main Library
 32777 Five Mile Rd
 7:00pm-8:45pm

Membership Meeting. A Community Conversation co-sponsored by Citizens for Peace. This year's topic: Restoring Public Trust in Michigan's State Government.

Tuesday, June 28
 Claddaghs Irish Pub
 17800 Haggerty, Livonia
 6:00pm-8:00pm

Annual Meeting for LWV Northwest Wayne County. Join us to make decisions about next year's budget, officers and program. And enjoy a nice dinner with your League friends!

Saturday, Oct. 22
 Greenmead
 11:00am—1:00pm

League Auction. Donations and bidders needed! All members, friends and the public are urged to attend the League's annual fundraiser.

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2015-16:

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cruiserryan@ameritech.net

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Livonia, MI 48151

(734) 421-4420

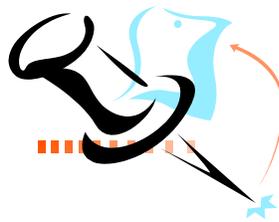
EM: lwvmail@yahoo.com

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

Bears may be hibernating this time of year, but League members are hard at work. We've been busy scheduling a number of events and activities for the coming months. If you didn't pull out your calendars already, now's a good time to do so.

Board Member Lynda Franklin is making arrangements for a presentation on **Monday, March 7**, on Regional Transportation. She's already lined up Travis Gonyou, Community Outreach Communications Manager for the Regional Transit Authority, and she's working on getting one more speaker. The event will start at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Paula Bowman, League VP for Voter Service, has scheduled a discussion on **Monday, April 11**, on Money in Politics. Craig Mauger, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network and Wayne County Commissioner (former Senator) Glenn Anderson have been lined up as speakers and we may also have a third. Again, we'll be meeting at the Civic Center Library at 7 p.m. Seating is limited for this event, so get there early.

For the last two years, the League and Citizens for Peace have cosponsored "Community Conversations" for the Center for Michigan, a non-partisan group in Lansing. The Center has asked both groups if we'll host a Conversation this year on Restoring Public Trust in Michigan's State Government, and we've both said "yes". We've scheduled this Conversation for **Thursday, June 9**, also at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Library.

All of these events are open to the public, so please invite anyone you think will be interested in these topics.

We've scheduled our Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, June 28**, at 6 p.m. at Claddagh's Irish Pub in Livonia. It will be a first to have this meeting on a weeknight. We're hoping that members who can't come on Saturdays will be available on a Tuesday evening.

The last of the Save the Dates for this letter is the League's annual Fundraising Auction. That will be held on **Saturday, October 22**, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, starting at 11 a.m. In past years, we've had lots of great items available but mostly League members in attendance. This year, you've got lots of time to invite non-League members to attend with you.

I hope you will be able to attend one or more of the events described above. We are most effective when many of us are involved.

Angela Ryan

BELLEVILLE JOINS NORTH-WEST WAYNE COUNTY LEAGUE

Angela Ryan, President



The Belleville Geographical Unit is going to be a vibrant, engaged part of our League. As a result of a meeting that we had on a frigid night in January, there are already 11 new members from Belleville. Two of the Belleville members, Barbara Miller and Elaine Gutierrez, attended the League's most recent Board meeting. They were very involved in the discussion from the beginning of the meeting, and they provided information that was useful to the Board. Paula Bowman and I, as well as Christina Schlitt from the State Board, will be meeting with the group in Belleville next month to provide more insight into what it entails to be a League.

Though you received an updated membership list with the January *Voter*, another is attached that now includes our 11 new members from Belleville. Please welcome our new Belleville members!

Virginia Belinski	Cecilia Michalik
Sharon Claxton	Barbara Miller
Sherry Frazier	Joanne Montgomery
Donna Gilkey-Lavin	Rosemary Otzman
Elaine Gutierrez	Denise Partridge
Lena Hermann	

LWVUS CONVENTION

The biennial national convention will be held from June 16-19 in Washington DC. We are allowed two voting delegates. Both Angela Ryan and Laurie Kelly will attend the 4-day event that will be similar to our local annual meeting, but on a bigger scale: the delegates will pass a budget, determine the program for the next two years, and elect new officers. Additionally, the convention is chock-full of workshops. Angela and Laurie will have a lot to report on at our June 28th annual meeting.

LEAGUE COMPLETES TWO LWV STUDIES

In recent months, our League participated in two national studies: Constitutional Amendments and Money in Politics. Both study committees presented their findings and their proposed responses to League members at membership meetings in November and January, and consensus was reached.

Like Leagues all over the country, our responses to the consensus questions were submitted to LWVUS so that the decisions of our membership could be part of the final position.

On February 3rd, the LWVUS announced a new position on Constitutional Amendments. The League calls for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Though the full position can be found on the website (lwv.org), here's a brief recap of the safeguards supported by the League for a Constitutional Convention:

- 1) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret;
- 2) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;
- 3) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state;
- 4) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;
- 5) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention should be called; and
- 6) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

We look forward to the announcement of the updated position on Money in Politics and will let you know when we receive word.

LEAGUE REGISTERS VOTERS AT SCHOOLCRAFT IN FEBRUARY

The League was present at Schoolcraft College's winter "School Daze" event that introduced students to the extra curricular activities available. We were invited to host a voter registration booth, and were delighted to register 68 new voters! Demonstrating the wide, geographic range of



Nancy White helping a student with the voter registration form.

Schoolcraft's student body, the new voters were from 41 different communities. Diane Wittl chaired this event and made sure that each registration was directed to the correct township or city clerk so that those voters can cast a ballot in the March 8th Primary Election.

Many thanks to the members who helped at this event in addition to Diane: Rosemary Doyle, Gail Sullivan, Angela Ryan, Nancy White, Lena Packer, Joan Gebhardt and Rachel Rion,

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SURVEY YET?



Earlier this month, a Membership Survey was sent to all of our members. We hope you took the time to complete the survey that was designed by the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Committee. The more of you who responded, the better we can help our League to grow. Just in case—we're attaching another copy of the survey to those receiving this Voter by email. We hope to provide the results of the survey in the next *Voter*.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EARLY MARCH ELECTION

As we have for the past 3 years, we will be assisting the Westwick Square Cooperative Housing Board of Directors with their annual election. We provide this service to this Wayne community for a fee, which benefits our operations. The election is on Thursday evening, March 10th, but prior to that date, we are committed to be present to issue 'proxy' ballots to those that cannot attend the election on two other days. Some of our League board members have already signed up, but we need one more member at each of the three sessions at the Cooperative's clubhouse :

Saturday, March 5, 4:00-7:00 pm
Monday, March 7, 4:00-7:00 pm*
Thursday, March 10, 6:00-8:30pm

If you can attend, you'll be paired with someone who has done this before— so no experience is necessary. **If you can help, please contact Paula Bowman by March 1** at paulabowman9000@gmail.com

*March 7th is also the League's membership meeting. You can still do both; you would just be about 15 minutes late to the Transportation meeting at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

THEY REPRESENT YOU—2ND PRINTING

We've printed another 1,000 copies of our *They Represent You* pamphlet which includes contact information for our national, state and county elected officials, and local and school district phone numbers. Next time you visit your local library, please check to see if the purple pamphlets are still available. If not, you can pick up a supply to deliver at one of the next membership meetings. Please contact Angela Ryan if you'd like a supply.

LWVMI HOSTS STATE WORKSHOPS

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is hosting two workshops in April. On Saturday, April 30th, the topic will be **Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work**. It will be held at St. Paul's Church, just north of the Capitol in Lansing. This event is open to all League members and will focus on the League's advocacy work on voter rights, voter protection, money in politics and redistricting. An interesting agenda is scheduled, including a session that will be a call to action on issues facing Michigan. This is a great opportunity to meet members from around the state, including the LWVMI board members. The workshop runs from 9:30 to 2:30pm, and a \$17 fee covers materials and lunch. Visit www.lwvmi.org to register (deadline is April 25th) We will plan to car-pool to Lansing, so if you can go, please contact Angela Ryan.

There is also a workshop on April 16th for League coordinators of **VOTE411**, our on-line Voter Guide. Both Paula Bowman and Megan Chenoweth will be attending this event.

100 YEARS AGO.....

The Plymouth Historical Society's February newsletter included a reprint of this article from the local newspaper in February, 1916:

Equal Suffrage Lecture

Mrs. G. Edgar Allen, president of the Wayne County Equal Suffrage League, will address a public meeting at Grange Hall, Tuesday Afternoon, February 15 at 2:15 o'clock, in the interests of the Susan B. Anthony amendment for granting women suffrage. The public is invited and urged to be present. Voters especially are wanted. Please pass the word along and bring a friend.

Local Committee for the Wayne County Suffrage League.



FAREWELL TO LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS

We are sorry to bid goodbye to two, longtime local League members. Natalie Mosher and her husband, Bob, are moving to Alexandria, Virginia. One of their sons lives in DC, and the other is in New York, so they'll definitely be closer to family.

Sandi McClennen and her husband, Doug, are moving to a retirement community in Oberlin, Ohio. They have made generous donations to the League's next auction as a result of personal property reduction prior to the move.

Both of these members have been committed League advocates over the years, and we are sorry to see them go. We are confident that they will keep up not just with our Northwest Wayne County League via our website, but with the Leagues in their new communities. Best wishes, Natalie and Sandi.

"GAG RULE" DISALLOWED

On February 5th, U.S. District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara issued a preliminary injunction to stop the enforcement of a "gag order" provision in Public Act 269 that unconstitutionally was keeping school district and local government officials from communicating with voters before the March 8 election. This controversial Act was a result of SB 571 that was voted on by Michigan legislators in the last hour of the 2015 session, and subsequently signed by Governor Snyder.

Multiple organizations were opposed to PA 269, including the League of Women Voters.

Next Membership Meeting: March 7th

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 _____

Open to any citizen over the age of 18.
My check of \$60 is enclosed.
Make check payable to LWV of Northwest Wayne County
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151