



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

MAY, 2016

Spring Calendar



Pre-Primary Candidate Forums

Redford Township: Wednesday, **May 25**
6:45-9:00 at Thurston High School

Van Buren Township: Thursday, **June 16**
7:00-9:00 at Wayne County Community College
Lecture Hall D-100

Sumpter Township: Wednesday, **June 22**
7:00-9:00 at Sumpter Township Community
Center

Plymouth Township: Thursday, **June 30**
6:30-8:45 at the Plymouth Library

League Member help is needed at all the June forums. If you can be a timer, question screener or usher, please contact Paula Bowman at paulabowman9000@gmail.com

Note: Additional forums prior to the November election will be organized in late summer.

Membership Meeting

Community Conversation: "Restoring Public Trust in Michigan State Government": Wednesday, **June 9th**, 7:00-8:45 at the Livonia Civic Center Library (32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia). Co-sponsored with the Livonia Citizens for Peace, this is a 'public engagement campaign facilitated by the Center for Michigan. The Center will be gathering feedback on public services delivered by state government, Michigan elected officials and the political process, and perhaps most importantly, your ideas for improving state government services and Michigan politics. The public is invited, but we need a head count, so please RSVP to Angela Ryan in advance. See the flyer on page 6.

Annual Meeting

The NW Wayne County League is holding its annual meeting on Tuesday, **June 28** starting at 6:00 pm at Claddagh's Irish Pub (17800 Haggerty Road, Livonia, 48152). Members will order off the menu and pay on their own. No RSPV is necessary. All members are urged to come and help make the decisions that will guide the League in the next year. See page 3 for all the annual meeting details.

Auction

The League's annual fundraiser is set for Saturday, October 22 from 11:00-1:00 at Greenmead Historic Park in Livonia. Hold the date so you can bid on some fabulous treasures!



President's Message

LWW NWW Board of Directors
2015-16:

PRESIDENT

Angela Ryan
cruiserryan@ameritech.net

1ST VP: DEVELOPMENT

Lena Packer

2ND VP: VOTER SERVICE

Paula Bowman

SECRETARY

Mary Visos

TREASURER

Toni Shepherd

VOTER EDITOR

Paula Bowman

DIRECTORS

Laura Callow Laurie Kelly
Lynda Franklin Linda Curry
Sue Wabeke Diane Wittl
Gail Sullivan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Susan Rowe
Rachel Rion

LWW 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.

League Members -

Maybe it's the news sources that I access, but I am frequently reminded of the disrespect for women in this country and the second-class status that we have. Let's start with something really basic, the U. S. Constitution. The only right for which women have protection under the Constitution is the right to vote. Why is that? Because we've never passed the Equal Rights Amendment. Now, most of you may know that, but what about your daughters, nieces, cousins, or your sons and nephews for that matter? Maybe it's time to enlighten them about the unequal status of women.

Then there's the equal pay issue. Having worked in the Federal government, I was paid the same as my male counterparts. Many women in the private sector are not so fortunate. Why? Because we don't have that protection under the Constitution.

What about the presidency? Why have we never elected a woman president, and why are so many Americans still opposed to the idea? I'm not even talking about Hillary Clinton. Many people are convinced that a woman can't handle the job. Yet, look around the world. Between 1966 and 1988, India, Israel, England, and Pakistan had women prime ministers. I certainly wouldn't consider India and Pakistan as hotbeds of women's rights, but they were far ahead of us in recognizing a woman's ability to lead their country. Today there are women leaders in a number of countries, but not the US.

Women are even being assaulted in restrooms. No, not by men who are pretending to be women, but by other women. Apparently, for quite a few years, there have been self-appointed bathroom police who have challenged women, yes ones who were born women and identify as women, because they don't "look like a woman".

Let's not forget the reproductive rights battles taking place in state legislatures throughout the country. Legislators proclaim that there is too much government in people's lives at the same time they are passing laws impacting a woman's decision about what to do with her own body. What could be more intrusive than that?

Recognizing all of the battles still to be fought, I'm grateful to be a part of the League of Women Voters. I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm and activism of our new Belleville Geographical Unit. There are already 19 members of the Unit, and it's still growing. I'm also grateful for the State Board members who spend countless hours monitoring pending State legislation and testifying as needed. They notify us when we need to call or email the legislators or governor about something we support or oppose, but we should also be checking out this information on our own from time to time.

You may not be able to attend meetings or otherwise participate in League events. What you can do is fight for women's rights in whatever way works for you.

- Angela Ryan



ANNUAL MEETING

Our bylaws require us to make our members aware of key decisions on which votes will be taken at the annual meeting on June 28th.

Election of Officers

The nominating committee (Susan Rowe, Rachel Rion and Laurie Kelly) propose the following slate of candidates to be elected at the annual meeting:

Vice President/Voter Service: Paula Bowman
 Secretary: Kathy Mchahwar
 Directors: Mary Visos, Lynda Franklin, Diane Wittl

These officers will continue to serve the 2nd year of their 2 year terms:

President: Angela Ryan
 Vice President/Development: Lena Packer
 Treasurer: Toni Shepherd
 Directors: Sue Wabeke, Laurie Kelly

Budget

Members are encouraged to review the budget that appears on page 5 of this *Voter*. We are grateful for the work our budget committee has done. They are: Nancy White, Susan Rowe, Toni Shepherd, Denise Partridge and Angela Ryan.

Bylaw Amendment

The Board recommends a change to Article IX of the Bylaws which concerns the recommendations for Program that must be presented to the membership 30 days prior to the annual meeting. The following statement is proposed to be added at the end of Article IX: *“f. If no recommendations for Program have been received prior to the Annual Meeting, members may submit program recommendations at the Annual Meeting. These recommendations will*

be reviewed, and accepted or rejected by the Board of Directors within 60 days of the Annual Meeting.”

Rationale: Disqualifying credible program ideas first presented at the Annual Meeting as 'directions to the board' is a dis-service to the members. Furthermore, this will allow the new Board to have more say in the next year's program rather than only accepting the Program recommended of the outgoing Board.

Program

The Board recommends the following program topics for the next year:

- ♣ Participation in the LWVMI study on “Government Finance” (financing local and state governments)
- ♣ Redistricting
- ♣ Voting Rights

Where is the meeting?

Our dinner meeting will be at Claddagh's Irish Pub at 17800 Haggerty Road, Livonia, 48152 starting at 6:00pm.



Traffic note: Northbound #275 remains open. Exit at Six Mile Road, turn north onto Haggerty and Claddagh's is in the row of restaurants on the east side. PF Changs is across the street.

We will order off the menu, with each member paying for her/his own meal. No RSVP needed.

Need a ride? We want robust attendance at our meeting, so if you need a ride, contact Angela Ryan and she'll help arrange for you to be picked up.

Join us for a pleasant dinner with your League friends. Help make decisions, meet new members, learn about what happened at the LWVUS convention, pick up an Annual Meeting Booklet and more!

TIP: Bring your checkbook to the annual meeting so you can pay your dues on the spot!

VOTER REGISTRATION IN FULL GEAR

Diane Wittl, Voter Registration Chair

In the past month, we have registered voters at a Mosque, a Hindu Temple, two Sikh Gurdwaras and an Ace Hardware store. These non-traditional registration venues, especially the religious locations, gave us a peek at cultures that many of us were unfamiliar with. In some of the locations, scarves had to cover our heads, or our shoes had to be removed. We were happy to conform to the venue's regulations; these were not hardships. Our hosts were welcoming and hospitable— even providing meals in some cases! All of these locations have been staffed by helpful, willing LWV members who gave up Saturdays and Sundays to help with the registrations.



Laura Callow registers a new voter at the Canton Gurdwara

We thank all of you who have helped with this most



Diane Wittl, Gale Arciero, Judy Patrick and Susan Nicholas help a registrant

basic League service: Rachel Rion, Pat Tavidian, Linda Curry, Angela Ryan, Paula Bowman, Judy Patrick, Lena Packer, Virginia Belinski, Laura Callow, Nancy White, Jewel

Butler, Susan Nicholas and Gail Arciero, Some of you attended multiple events, and we are grateful for your assistance. We estimate that we have registered over 100 new voters in the past six weeks.

Ed Note: We also thank Diane Wittl for her tireless work in organizing these events! She attended every event and did all the follow up work to make sure the registrations got to the correct clerk.

VOTER SERVICE IN 2016

As you noticed on page 1, our League is holding four forums prior to the Primary Election, all in Townships whose candidates are either all—or almost all— Democrats or all Republicans. For these Townships, the election of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees is decided by Primary voters, since almost all of the winning candidates will have no competition in the November election.

We are still needing helpers for the three June forums, so please contact Paula Bowman if you can help be a timer, usher or question screener.



Besides the forums, our League is preparing on on-line voter guide using the VOTE411 program that the League uses across the country. Megan Chenoweth has taken over this responsibility and is working hard to have our voter guide 'live' by the end of June.

Print copies of the voter guides will also be available in the libraries of Plymouth, Redford and Belleville, and will feature the township races that will be decided in the August 2nd Primary.

Our League needs to increase the number of forum moderators. If you are interested, please consider the **moderator training** that will be held on the morning of **Saturday, July 16th** in Dearborn. This will be a 2-3 hour training session and is free to members. The first step in learning how to moderate is to attend a variety of forums. Leagues all over SE Michigan are holding forums in the next few months, and it's always interesting to sit in on a few to learn how different moderators handle the candidates and the audience. Details about the training will be available soon, but in the meantime, contact Paula Bowman if you have any questions.

.....to these new League members:



Anil Kumar, Bloomfield Hills
Nancy Grandillo, Northville
Phillip Miller, Belleville

Mohan Ys, Rocheser Hills
Jewel Butler, Belleville
Kevin McNamara, Belleville

**LWV Northwest Wayne County Proposed Budget
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

		EXISTING BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
<u>EXPENSE ITEMS</u>		7-1-15 to 6-30-16	7-1-16 to 6-30-17
1. Board & Administration			
A. Officers	Expenses/office supplies	\$25.00	\$25.00
B. Committees, Meeting Supplies		\$25.00	\$25.00
C. Meetings	Room Rentals	\$150.00	\$150.00
	Annual Report	\$40.00	\$40.00
2. LWV Conventions	State	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
	National	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
	State Meetings	\$25.00	\$25.00
3. Voter	Print & Paper	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Postage & Labels	\$25.00	\$25.00
4. PMP	State (45/63 @ \$23)	\$1,035.00	\$1,449.00
	National (45/63 @ \$31)	\$1,395.00	\$1,953.00
5. Educational	Program, Action, Video Recording	\$300.00	\$500.00
	Voter Service (Includes Postage & Labels)	\$100.00	\$100.00
	Voter Guides	\$400.00	\$500.00
	They Represent You	\$200.00	\$400.00
	LWVNWW Web Page/Domain Name	\$230.00	\$300.00
6. Operations	Insurance	\$40.00	\$40.00
	Postal Box	\$60.00	\$60.00
	Telephone	\$120.00	\$120.00
7. Fund Raising		\$150.00	\$300.00
8. Miscellaneous		\$100.00	\$100.00
9. Rainy Day Fund		\$0.00	\$8.00
10. Scholarship		\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$5,945.00	\$7,345.00
<u>INCOME</u>		EXISTING BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
		7-1-15 to 6-30-16	7-1-16 to 6-30-17
1. Dues	45/63 @ \$60	\$2,700.00	\$3,780.00
2. Contributions	Member - cash	\$750.00	\$750.00
	Member in kind	\$90.00	\$100.00
3. Fund Raising			
Auction		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	(Westwick Sq.-election oversite / AP reporting)	\$300.00	\$300.00
4. Dividends		\$5.00	\$5.00
5. Ed Fund Reimbursement		\$600.00	\$910.00
6. Transfer from Reserves		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$5,945.00	\$7,345.00
<i>Budget Committee: Angela Ryan, Nancy White, Susan Rowe, Toni Shepherd, Denise Partridge</i>			



Please join us for a **Community Conversation** about
Restoring Public Trust in Michigan's State Government

This is your opportunity to participate in a non-partisan discussion on how to make Michigan's Government work better for the people of Michigan. Topics will include state government services, management of the public purse, and oversight of Michigan's political system.

We invite you to join us to share thoughts, insights, and ideas!

This Conversation is sponsored by The Center for Michigan.

WHEN: Thursday, June 9, 2016

WHERE: Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 5 Mile Rd., Livonia, MI

RSVP: Angela Ryan, 734-591-0995, cruiserryan@ameritech.net, or Colleen Mills, 734-425-0079, cmills0079@yahoo.com

**Hosted by League of Women Voters, NW Wayne County
and Citizens for Peace Livonia
Co-sponsored by AAUW, Livonia**

Community meetings just like this are **happening all over Michigan**. Make sure your voice is heard.



For more information call 734-769-4625 or visit thecenterformichigan.net.

Community Conversations are presented by The Center for Michigan, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, non-partisan organization working throughout the state to amplify the voices of ordinary citizens and find common ground solutions for a more prosperous future. Please visit www.thecenterformichigan.net for more information.



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thecenterformichigan/>
or follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @CenterforMI

Next Membership Meeting: June 9th

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