



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, Sumpter Twp, Van Buren Twp, Wayne and Westland

August, 2018

Upcoming Events

Sat., Aug. 4
10:30am - 12:30pm

Membership Meeting
Scrambler Marie's Restaurant, 42600 Ford Rd. at Mor
ton Taylor, Canton

Tues. Aug. 7
7 am - 8 pm

Primary Election

Sat., Aug 25
11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Women's Equality Day Luncheon
St. Mary's Cultural & Banquet Center
18700 Merriman, Livonia
(see attached flyer)

Sat., Oct. 27
11am - 2:30pm

Auction
Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia
(see article on p. 5)

Tues., Nov. 6
7 am - 8 pm

November Election

Recent Dues Change

For a limited time, LWVUS and LWVMI are waiving the per-member-payment for students. As a result, our local student dues are now \$5. If you know a student who would like to join the League, let them know they can join at our website using Paypal.

**To find the most current news about the league go to the website
www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org**

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2018--2019:

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cruiserryan@ameritech.net

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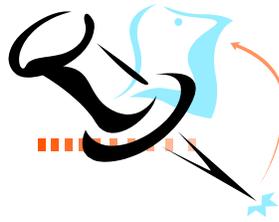
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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Kathy Mchahwar
Pat Tavidian
Sue Wabeke

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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 —

Summer is the time of year that we relax and enjoy the great outdoors. Right? This year League members have done anything but that.

These are exciting times to be in the League. We gathered signatures for the Promote the Vote ballot proposal. We hosted seven candidate forums in preparation for the August Primary election. We held our first Board meeting of the fiscal year to discuss and plan our activities for the year. There will be many events to come, and we'll update you as the year goes along.

Mary Visos and I attended the LWVUS Convention in Chicago from June 28-July 1. As always, it was a jam-packed time, with caucuses in the morning before and in the evening after the "official" sessions took place. We'll provide more details at the next Members' meeting, which will be held on **Saturday, August 4**, at Scrambler Marie's Restaurant in Canton, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Here's just a taste of what we'll share. There were over 1,000 attendees at the Convention. It was one of the largest League National Conventions ever. There was a review of what happened in the 2 years since we last met, but much of the time was devoted to what we will do at the local, state, and national level in the next 2 years. Many speakers addressed the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, and the 100th birthday of the League, which will be in 2020. One speaker made the point, though, that while these are laudable milestones, we need to consider what milestones we can anticipate after 2020.

League membership has grown in the last two years, and we need to consider what to do to retain those new members. Much focus was given to diversity, equity, and inclusion. A constant refrain was to meet people where they are. In the coming months, we'll be looking at how to implement that concept locally.

The League website, www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org, and the League's Facebook page are the best sites for getting the most up-to-date information on upcoming meetings and events. I hope you'll be able to join us at one or more of these events in the near future.

Angela Ryan

DUES REMINDER

By Linda Curry



Greetings from your treasurer! One of my most important jobs is to collect and deposit our annual dues. Thanks to most of you who have already paid. For those who have not, now is the time to do so. Income from our dues, and our annual auction, support all of the activities that promote our mission in the League.

We have already hosted seven candidate forums in June and July for the primary election. As we move into the fall we will be scheduling forums for the general election. Our expenses related to these events include room rentals and video recording services. In addition, we make our printed information available such as [They Represent You](#) and our VOTE411 bookmarks. We have also taken a very active role in Promote the Vote by circulating petitions and contributing \$500 to the ballot committee.

You may pay your dues by sending a check to me or paying through PayPal on our website LWVnorthwestwayne.org. For most of us the amount is \$60, but if you joined the League less than a year ago, I will provide you with a prorated dues amount that covers your membership through June 30, 2019. Dues for the second person in the household are only \$25. Please make your checks payable to the League of Women Voters and send them to me, Linda Curry, at 15145 Fairlane St., Livonia, MI 48154. If you think you should be paying a prorated amount, give me a call at 734-464-2269.

What's So Important About Primary Elections?

By Angela Ryan

Think about it. How often have you heard people talk about the "upcoming" elections, and you realize they are talking about the general elections in November? How often have you skipped voting in a primary election because you think it's not that important?

Typically, 15-20% of the population votes in a primary election. In today's world with so many gerrymandered districts, the winner of the primary for the party that's dominant in a district will glide to victory in November. The general election often amounts to no more than a rubber stamp of the choice made in the primary.

Here's the problem with that situation. If there are multiple candidates from the dominant party running in the primary, it's conceivable, and often happens, that the winning candidate gets fewer than 5% of the votes. Yet, that's the person who will go on to win in November. So, in essence, more than 95% of that community's population has had little input on who will represent them.

The League is proposing not only that you vote on August 7, but also that you contact 5-10 people and encourage them to vote that day. Maybe even take someone to the polls with you. Note that in the primary you'll have to choose a Democratic, Republican, or Libertarian ballot. All your votes will have to be from the party that you choose. In the general election, you won't be restricted to just one party's candidates. Make your voice heard while your preferred candidate is still in the running.





PRE-PRIMARY FORUMS

By Paula Bowman

Our new members are Elizabeth Downs, Livonia; Cheryl Hagen, Northville; Eva Koelzer, Livonia; Lana Barstad, Livonia; and Carin Meyer, Northville.

VOTE411 IS LIVE!

By Paula Bowman

Our League VOTE411 coordinator, Megan Chenoweth, went live with our on-line Voter Guide at the end of June. Besides the local races, state and national races are also available thanks to LWVMI Vice President, Eva Packard. By typing in your address at VOTE411.org, you can pull up all the candidates and proposals on your ballot. Read and compare the un-edited responses of the candidates to questions asked by the League. Megan and Eva will do this all over again in the fall in anticipation of the November election. For that election, our League will also provide print copies of the Voter Guide to local libraries .

Women's Equality Day Luncheon

Women's Equality Day is celebrated every year on the Saturday closest to August 26th which is the day in 1920 when the 19th Amendment was passed giving women the right to vote.. This year the luncheon will be held on Saturday, August 25th .

See attached flyer for details.

The League held 7 forums over 3 nights this summer in anticipation of the August 7th Primary Election. On June 11, we covered the Democratic candidates for Michigan 's 16th District State Representative and the 6th District State Senate . The Republican candidates were unopposed in the Primary. On June 26th, we partnered with the Oakland Area League and held forums for both the Republican and Democratic candidates running for the US House of Representatives – 11th District. Held at the Livonia Civic Center Library, we counted over 150 people in the audience. Though a Township usually doesn't have elections in even-numbered years, Sumpter Township voters will be electing a clerk, a treasurer and a member of their Board of Trustees this year, all to serve out partial terms. The League held a 3-part forum on July 17th for the three offices. All of our summer forums were filmed, and can now be accessed on our website.

We are grateful to all of our members who helped at our forums. Without them, we would not have been able to hold such informative events that are a needed service to our voters. Some of these members assisted at more than one forum; we thank them all: Roberta Young, Lena Packer, Laura Callow, Lisa Asquini, Linda Curry, Megan Chenoweth, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Kathy Mchahwar, Jackie Peters, Marjorie Lynn, Virginia Belinski, Angela Ryan, Jewel Butler and Paula Bowman. You have all served the League well!

NAME BADGES

By Paula Bowman

Want to look official? A LWV name badge makes you look professional at League meetings, forums and at voter registration events. Badges can be ordered directly from the supplier at the LWVMI website, but our NW Wayne County League will be submitting a group order to save shipping costs. The magnet-backed badge costs about \$11. With shipping, we hope to keep it down to \$15. If you'd like to be included in our order, contact Paula Bowman at paulabowman9000@gmail.com by August 15.

PROMOTE THE VOTE - ON THE WAY TO THE BALLOT!

By Paula Bowman

At least 20 members from the NW Wayne County League worked to get 756 signatures on petitions. Over 430,000 signatures were collected from every county in the state and nearly 1,000 volunteers helped in the collection. On July 9th, the Promote the Vote team turned in the signatures to the Secretary of State's office, and we are now waiting for the Board of Canvassers to give the green light so that this voting rights amendment can appear on the ballot. This common-sense proposal will ensure that every eligible voter's voice can be heard at the ballot box and that the integrity and accuracy of our elections are protected.

There will be much work to do to get this proposal passed. The leadership team of LWWMI, the ACLU, NAACP and Michigan League for Public Policy are already working on educational materials we can use to encourage voters to support this proposal.

Many thanks to these local League members who helped with signature gathering process: Lisa Asquini, Lori Gilbo, Rachel Rion, Sue Wabeke, Rosemary Doyle, Megan Chenoweth, Linda Curry, Paula Bowman, Kathy Mchahwar, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Barbara Miller, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Virginia Belinski, Nancy White, Lena Packer, Judy Patrick, Jackie Peters, Angela Ryan, Laura Callow and Roberta Young.



Strawberry Festival

By Virginia Belinski

On June 16, 2018, League members staffed a booth at the Strawberry Festival in Belleville for the purpose of promoting the presence of the League in the area, to gather signatures for the Promote the Vote petition, and to register voters. We also provided information specific to voters in the nearby communities with 'They Represent You' pamphlets and Vote 411 book-marks. Barbara Miller obtained a site for our booth in front of her office, and allowed access to her office for breaks, food and drinks. Linda Curry, Angela Ryan, Marjorie Lynn, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Manny Lavin, and Virginia Belinski staffed the booth throughout the day.

FALL AUCTION SATURDAY, OCT. 27

By Lena Packer

This year's live auction will be at Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh near 8 Mile Rd. The auction will start at 11:30 am with viewing of items starting at 11:00 am. This is our big fundraiser for the year, so **we really need your participation** for its success. We would really appreciate your help in one of the following ways:

Donate an item from you or local business.

Organize a tour or plan a luncheon or card party at your home.

If you cannot donate an item, **be an Auction Angel** by making a monetary donation.

Please mail it to our treasurer: Linda Curry, 15145 Fairlane St., Livonia MI 48154.

Please come to this event and bring friends and family as our guests.

More details to follow.

Livonia, MI 48151
PO Box 51502
League of Women Voters



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