



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

# VOTER

www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

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

AUGUST 2015



## League Calendar

Tuesday, Aug. 25  
 7:00 pm– speaker  
 8:10 pm– member mtg.  
 Livonia Civic Ctr Library

Membership Meeting. Featured speaker: Mr. Nick Krieger, a constitutional law attorney who will discuss constitutional amendments. This is in preparation for the consensus questions we will tackle on this LWVUS study in the fall.

August 26

Women’s Equality Day. Join in the 95th anniversary celebration of women voting!

Aug.31—Sept. 3

Voter Registration at Schoolcraft College. See article on Page 4.

Tuesday & Wed  
 Sept. 22 & 23  
 10:00am-2:00pm

MORE Voter Registration at Schoolcraft College’s annual School Daze Festival. Diane Wittl is the Chair and is looking for a few more volunteers. See information on Page 4.

Thursday, Sept. 24  
 7:00-9:00 pm  
 Livonia City Hall

Candidates Forums for Livonia Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and City Council. League member help needed. See article on Page 4.

Tuesday, Sept. 29  
 7:00-8:30 pm  
 Westland City Hall

\*\*\* Tentative \*\*\*Candidates Forums for Westland City Council and Clerk. Co-sponsoring this event with the Westland Jaycees. League member help needed; see article on Page 4.

Tuesday, Oct. 6  
 7:00-8:30 pm  
 Plymouth City Hall

Candidates Forum for Plymouth City Commission. League member help needed; see article on Page 4.

Saturday, Oct. 17  
 11:00 am

LWV Auction at Greenmead. Member help is needed. See article on page 5

Wednesday, Oct. 21  
 7:00 pm  
 Livonia Civic Ctr Library

LWVMI-sponsored Town Hall Meeting about Redistricting. The public is invited to this educational event.

Thursday, Oct. 29  
 5:00 pm, Lansing

Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame. Nominated by members of our League, we will be celebrating the induction of Janet Cooper in to the Hall of Fame. See Page 4.

LWV NWW Board of Directors  
2015-16:

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LWV of NW Wayne County

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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

Many organizations have no meeting in July, and many people take vacations in August. The League doesn't take those breaks, though. We were busy in some communities this summer hosting candidate forums and conducting candidate interviews in advance of the August 4 primary election. Now, we're scheduling candidate forums for the November 3rd election.

The Board held its first meeting for the fiscal year earlier this month. One of the subjects we discussed was the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program. We hope to get more members involved in our events and activities. We have lots of ideas for people to participate in small and large ways, and we'll be sharing those ideas in the months ahead.

The current national study includes three parts. One is on Constitutional Amendments. We have received the questions for this piece, and we have to submit our responses to the questions by December 15. Lena Packer has agreed to head the committee to work on the questions. Several Board members volunteered to work on the committee, and we could use a few more members. If you are interested, please contact Lena at 248-536-2583 Or [lana.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lana.packer@yahoo.com). We've arranged for Nick Krieger, a constitutional lawyer, to speak on this topic on **August 25 at 7 p.m.** at Livonia Civic Center Library. After his presentation, we'll hold a short members' meeting.

The second part of the national study is on Money in Politics. We've not received any questions for this part of the study yet, but the LWVUS website has a PowerPoint presentation on this topic. We plan to use this presentation to prepare for the study. The third part of the study is on Redistricting. The State League is planning 30 Town Hall meetings statewide on Redistricting. I have been asked to be one of the presenters. I'll be doing 3-4 presentations throughout the state, including one for Northwest Wayne County on **October 21 at 7 p.m.** at Livonia Civic Center Library.

We'll have two opportunities this year to register Schoolcraft students to vote. The first will be from **August 31 to September 3**. The second will be at the School Daze Festival, **September 22 and 23**. If you can help out, contact Diane Wittl at [dwittl36@gmail.com](mailto:dwittl36@gmail.com) or 734-261-7959.

Plans for this year's auction on **October 17** are coming together. For the first time, we'll hold the auction at Greenmead in Livonia. I like to describe Greenmead as a smaller version of Greenfield Village. If you've never been there, that will be reason enough to come to the auction. We hope to have lots of goodies to auction off, and we hope to have a large crowd to bid on what we have. The past auctions have been lots of fun, and they are good fundraisers for our League.

I'm excited about all the League activity in the next couple of months. I hope you will be able to participate in some way.

*Angela Ryan*

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

The League's fiscal year is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Membership dues of \$60/each are now due. We need each and every one of you to renew and be part of our mission to ensure voting rights, engage our electorate, and maintain the principals of good government

The dues invoice/contribution form is on page 5 of the *Voter*. Please fill it out and send it with your check(s) to our treasurer, Toni Shepherd.

*If you are receiving this Voter by regular mail, it means that your dues have not yet been paid. An envelope addressed to our treasurer is included for your convenience. Your prompt payment is appreciated!*

We thank these members who have already renewed their dues:

Ann Abdo, Paula Bowman, Cindy Burnstein, Laura Callow, Megan Chenoweth, Linda Curry, Rosemary Doyle, Lynda Franklin, Joan Gebhardt, Sandi McClennen, Lena Packer, Rachel Rion, Susan Rowe, Angela Ryan, Toni Shepherd, Gail Sullivan, Nancy White, Diane Wittl and Mary Visos.

**WELCOME**

to these new members:

Frank Kalinsky, Livonia  
Sharon Elster, Farmington  
Gordon Bowman, Plymouth  
Judy Patrick, Plymouth

## PREPARE FOR AUGUST 25TH MEETING:

We're honored to have Mr. Nick Krieger speaking to us regarding our constitutional amendment study. But let's face it—this is a complicated topic that most of us know little about. If you want to review the study materials and the consensus questions, you can find them on the LWV website:

Go to: <http://forumlww.org> and type in "Constitutional Amendment" in the search bar, or follow this direct link:

<http://forum.lww.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide>

## JANET COOPER: HALL OF FAMER



Nominated by members of our League, we will be celebrating the induction of Janet Cooper into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on October 29th. Janet, who died in 2002, was a longtime LWV member, and a civil rights attorney. Most of her career was spent as an attorney with the Michigan Commission of Civil Rights. She also served as the President of the ACLU of Michigan, and of the Detroit chapter. Janet was the chair of the Ethics Committee for the Livonia City Council and drafted Livonia's Ethics Ordinance which was passed in 1996.

Janet was an active member of the League and most of all, a warm, friendly person who served as mentor to many of us. If you would like to join our group going to Lansing on the 29th (tickets are \$150/ea) let Paula Bowman know so you can join our caravan to Lansing. Tickets can be purchased on the Hall of Fame's website: [www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org](http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org).

**Ed Note:** Janet joins Laura Callow as the second LWV NWW League member to be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.



## LEAGUE AUCTION: OCTOBER 17

Our major fundraiser this year is a League Auction on Saturday, October 17. A committee is already working hard to make this event fun and successful, but we need YOUR help.

Need are donations of new (or slightly used) items, gift certificates, services, baked goods, or anything you think others would be willing to pay for. A committee member will be contacting you soon to discuss your donation.

Also needed are your friends and family to participate in this event. A crowd of people stimulates the bidding and makes the auction a lot of fun. There is no cover charge to attend, and free refreshments will be available. Get October 17th on your family calendar now!

Lena Packer is the chair of the Auction. She is **still looking for a few committee members to fill the following roles:**

- ♣ Publicity
- ♣ Contacting members for donations
- ♣ Contacting business for donations

If you can help, please call Lena at 248-536-2583.

Note: A flyer is included with this *Voter*. Please post it, pass it along to a friend, or email it to ALL your friends!



## VOTER REGISTRATION

We will be registering Schoolcraft College students to vote on two separate occasions this year. The School Daze Festival will be September 22-23. Board members volunteered for some of the slots for this event, but we still need three helpers from noon to 2pm both days, and we need one person from 10am to noon on September 22. Interacting with students makes this a fun event. No experience is necessary and you'll have other League members working with you.

In addition, Schoolcraft is planning a welcoming event from August 31 to September 3, and we've agreed to participate from 11am to 1pm each day, again, to register voters. We need one volunteer for August 31, one for September 1 and two each for September 2 and 3. If you are interested and can help out any of these times, please contact Diane Wittl at [dwittl36@gmail.com](mailto:dwittl36@gmail.com) or at 734-261-7959

Note: National Voter Registration Day is September 23!

### VOTER SERVICE: FALL, 2015

From the front page calendar, you will see that we have three area candidate forums in September and October. **We need League member help on at all of these events. If you can be a timer, a question screener, or an usher (question collector), please email or call Paula Bowman at 734-455-4726..**

We will also be preparing both on-line and printed Voter Guides for the contests in our communities: the cities of Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City, Wayne and Westland.



**The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County**  
Membership Invoice

Annual dues for the League of Women Voters are now due. We value the membership of each citizen and ask you to remit your dues promptly. Payment of your dues assures you of another year of promoting political responsibility through the active and informed participation of citizens in government.

Membership Dues:                 \$     60.00

Second Person dues:            \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (*Dues for second person in the same household are \$30.00*)

Plus contribution:              \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (*But if you want to claim a tax deduction for your contribution,  
you must write a separate check to LWV Education Fund*)

Total:                               \$ \_\_\_\_\_

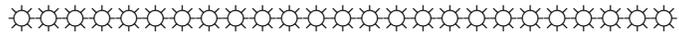
**Please make your dues check payable to the League of Women Voters and send it to :**

Toni Shepherd:                   6484 Curtis  
  Plymouth, MI 48170

If you are also writing a check to LWV Education Fund, please send that check to Toni too.

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have a new email address, please write it here:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(*E-mail addresses are only used to send you occasional League updates*)



If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the League, please indicate the name and address below so that we may personally contact the prospective member.

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Membership dues are due!

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