



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Fall Calendar



Sept. 21 and 22
 10:00-2:00pm

Voter Registration at Schoolcraft College in Livonia

Sept. 22
 Belleville HS
 7:00 pm

Candidates Forum: Van Buren School Board

Sept. 27.
 10:00-2:00pm

Voter Registration at Wayne County Community College in Belleville

Sept. 29
 Livonia City Hall
 7:00 pm

Candidates Forum: Livonia School Board, Wayne County Commissioner, 9th District, State Representative 19th District

October 6
 Plymouth Library
 7:00 pm

Candidates Forum: Plymouth Canton School Board, State Representative, 20th District

October 10
 Canton Twp. Hall
 700 pm

Candidates Forum: Canton Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Board of Trustees

October 11
 1:00 pm

Voter Guide Stuffing at Paula's home in Plymouth (see page 4)

October 15
 10:30-12:30

Membership Meeting at Scrambler's Restaurant: 43225 Ford Road (SE corner of Ford Rd and Morton Taylor, next to Office Max)

October 22
 11:00-1:30pm

League Auction (see page 5)

SEE DETAILS about the Voter Registration Drives and our Candidate Forums on pg. 3. League member help is needed for these events.



President's Message

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2016--17:

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Angela Ryan
cruiserryan@ameritech.net

1ST VP: DEVELOPMENT

Lena Packer

2ND VP: VOTER SERVICE

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Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER

Toni Shepherd

VOTER EDITOR

Paula Bowman

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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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.

Last month I attended a Women's Equality Day Luncheon. Our League was well represented with eight members in attendance. Kudos to League member Laura Callow for her part in organizing this excellent event. Laura also spoke about the history of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the need for continuing efforts to get it passed. Laura reminded the crowd that the only right guaranteed to women in the Constitution is the right to vote. Laura alerted everyone to bills that are sitting in Committees in the U.S. House and Senate.

I sent an email to League members soon after the luncheon asking them to contact the House and Senate Republican and Democratic leaders of the two Judiciary Committees asking them to hold hearings on House Bill 51 and Senate Bill 15, which would remove the deadline that was imposed on the ERA. While the recommendation was to contact them on August 26, Women's Equality Day, you can still send them an email on this matter. In the House, it would be Reps. Bob Goodlatte and John Conyers, Jr., and in the Senate, it is Sens. Chuck Grassley and Patrick Leahy. Email addresses for all of them are their last name.house.gov or senate.gov, as appropriate, for example goodlatte.house.gov.

There are many League activities coming up between now and early October. Check out the Voter Registration and Candidate Forum opportunities on page 3, as well as the Voter Guide consolidation/delivery needs. If you can volunteer a couple hours for any of these activities, both the League and public will be grateful for your service.

I will be speaking to five Schoolcraft College classes in the next few weeks, working with two professors. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to engage the students in the electoral process. One of the professors is gathering questions from the students before my presentation. It will be interesting to see what issues they raise.

Don't forget about the upcoming auction. It's Saturday, **October 22**, at **11:00 a.m.** at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia. The site is a mini-Greenfield Village, so the surroundings alone are worth a visit. There's no charge for the auction, and there are many ways that you can participate in this vital fundraising event for the League.

It will be a busy few weeks and so much more successful if many members pitch in. I hope you'll be able to participate in one or more of the upcoming League events. As always, your membership is greatly appreciated.

Angela Ryan

Opportunities to Serve

4 NIGHTS, 10 RACES

Our League is planning candidates forums on four evenings in September and October and all but one covers multiple races. The venues, moderators and video arrangements have all been set. Timers, question screeners and ushers are needed for the Livonia, Plymouth and Canton forums on September 29, October 6 and October 10.

If you've never attended or seen (on local TV or YouTube) a League forum, it's worth your while to take the time to attend one. They are nothing like the Presidential debates. At our forums, all candidates for a particular office get the same questions and the same amount of time to answer. And we do not allow personal attacks. At the end of the evening, the attendees actually know something about the candidates' views.

If you can volunteer a couple hours, you will be helping with a key mission of the League: to bring non-partisan information to the voters. Whether the forum is for candidates on your ballot or not, please consider volunteering. Contact Paula Bowman if you can help.

VOTER REGISTRATION AT 2 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

As we have done for many years, we are hosting a voter registration table at Schoolcraft College's "School Daze" fair on September 21 and 22. Volunteers are needed, and no experience is necessary.

Here are the details about the volunteer needs:

Wednesday, September 21— Schoolcraft

10 a.m. to noon – 2 volunteers

Noon to 2 p.m. – 2 volunteers

If you can help on September 21, please contact Rachel Rion at 734-522-5246.

Thursday, September 22—Schoolcraft

10 a.m. to noon – 1 volunteer

Noon to 2 p.m. – 2 volunteers

If you can help on September 22, please contact Roberta Young at 734-425-1842 or roberta-young@juno.com

We will also be hosting a voter registration event at Wayne County Community College at the 9555 Haggerty Road, Belleville campus on September 27th, which happens to be National Voter Registration Day. The event will take place in the main building near the cafeteria.

Tuesday, September 27—Wayne CC

10 a.m. to noon – 1 volunteer

Noon to 2 p.m. – 1 volunteer

If you can help on September 27, please contact Elaine Gutierrez at 734-740-3011 or elainegutz@hotmail.com

VOTER GUIDE STUFFING: OCTOBER 11

Our state League of Women Voters will publish a Voter Guide this fall that includes all the Congressional and state offices throughout Michigan. Our NW Wayne County League will publish 7 versions of a "local" Voter Guide that includes contests for our local school boards, community college boards, library boards, township offices, county commission and state house of representatives. Members who can help are asked to come to Paula Bowman's house at 9000 N. Lilley in Plymouth at 1:00 on Tuesday, October 11 to help "stuff" the local voter guides into the state voter guides. The voter guides are then loaded into boxes and members are asked to help deliver them to public libraries. If you can help with this project—no experience necessary, but a bit of fun! - please contact Paula at 734-277-2243 or paulabowman9000@gmail.com.

VOTER GUIDES COMING SOON!

League member Megan Chenoweth has been working since early Spring on our on-line Voter Guide at VOTE411.org — first for the primary and now for the general election. The Guide should be “live” by the first of October. Print copies of the Voter Guides will be available in libraries after October 12th.

OCTOBER 15TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our calendar for September and October is loaded with Voter Service obligations. Though most are highlighted on page 1, some others are still in the planning stages at press time.

By Saturday, October 15th, we hope to have all the candidate forums finished, the Voter Guides completed and distributed and the voters all registered. So please join us for a membership meeting for brunch (pay for your own) at the Scramblers Restaurant at 43225 Ford Road in Canton. This is a new spot for us— one that we hope will be equi-distant for our members coming from Belleville, Livonia and Redford. Come and hear about our plans for what’s going on AFTER the election! Hope to see you then.

LEAGUE CALENDARS FOR 2017

League member Roberta Young is taking orders for the big-block/easily erasable League calendars that are a favorite among users every year. They are printed by the Missouri League of Women Voters, which uses this as a fundraiser. Depending on the number of orders, the cost is about \$7.50.



Orders are being taken by Robert now, but only **up until TODAY—September 12**. No money is due until the calendars come in. Roberta’s contact info: phone:734-425-1842 or cell # 734-658-9981 roberta-young@juno.com

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

Thank you to the members who paid their \$60 renewal dues right at the annual meeting in June. Those who weren’t able to do that were sent invoices several weeks ago.



Membership dues to a volunteer organization are sometimes hard to justify, however, please know that your dues are used at the local, state and national level to provide non-partisan information to voters that can be found nowhere else. The League is the most trusted source of candidate and election information across the country, and your dues help all voters make educated decisions.

We value the membership of each of you and appreciate the confidence you put in our leadership to continue the noble traditions of this 96-year old organization.

If you have not sent in your renewal dues, please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters to our treasurer:

Toni Shepherd
6484 Curtis, Plymouth, 48170.

Renewal dues are \$60 per year, however, if you joined mid-year, you owe only a prorated portion. The invoice sent to you in August indicated the amount of your dues.

If you did not receive an invoice in the mail, your dues are either already paid or nothing is owed if you are a newer members. If you have any questions about your dues, please contact Toni.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Our annual meeting was held on June 28th. Just under thirty members and guests attended and we enjoyed a pleasant dinner at Claddagh's Irish Pub. Some highlights of the meeting:

- ♣ A budget (frugal, as always) was passed for the new fiscal year.
- ♣ A Board was elected. The names of our 2016-17 Board members can be found in the grey margin on page 2. We especially welcome our new Secretary, Kathy Mchahwar.
- ♣ We agreed on the League program for the upcoming year: we will participating in the LWVMI study on Government Financing, and we will continue to work on Voting Rights and Redistricting.
- ♣ Our basket of League products was won by Mary Visos and raised \$87 for the League treasury
- ♣ Two new members joined (welcome Judy Neal and Shirley Tolliver), and many others renewed their dues
- ♣ Annual Meeting booklets that included reports on our year's activities were distributed.
- ♣ Many of those who attended volunteered to participate in the upcoming LWVMI study, be a part of the Budget, Nominating or Minutes Reading Committees and help at Candidate forums and with Voter Guide distribution.

Thank you all for attending and participating in this important meeting.

LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL LEARNS ABOUT THE REGIONAL TRANSIT PROPOSAL



At a City Council meeting in late August, a presentation of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) helped educate the council and the public about the benefits of the plan if the 1.2 mill proposal passes in November. As part of the public comment section, League Board member Lynda Franklin delivered comments from the League in support of the proposal.

Lynda pointed out the shortcomings of Livonia's current system and the benefits to seniors, families, workers and employers if public transit comes to Livonia. Here's just a small part of the League comments she delivered:

"The RTA plan is designed to bring the Detroit metropolitan area into the 21st century. If you have lived in or visited any U. S. or foreign city that has a good public transit system, you can easily see how such a system is a benefit to all of the communities that it serves. It is a detriment to this area that there is such a hodge-podge of transit options, or lack thereof. Whether or not you think that you personally would use the bus or rail system, it's important to look at the economic and quality-of-life benefits to the community and the entire region. I hope you will consider supporting the RTA plan."

LEAGUE AUCTION: October 22 at Greenmead

If you've not attended our League's auction in past years, you've missed out on a fun afternoon. Your chance for fun this year is on October 22nd at the Alexander Blue House at Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park (20501 Newburgh Rd). There are wonderful things to bid on: household and holiday items, gifts, jewelry, outings and events and even homemade goodies. This is the League's main fundraiser of the year, so members are asked not only to donate an item, but also to attend and bring friends with them. The doors open at 11:00 am and the bidding runs from 11:30 to 1:30. Free admission and light refreshments. If you have any questions about the auction, contact Lena Packer or Rosemary Doyle.

Next Membership Meeting: Oct. 15

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