



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

December, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Dec. 9
2 pm – 4pm

Holiday Open House
at the home of Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Manny Lavin
(see article on p. 3)

Jan, 26, 2019
10 am - 12:30

General Meeting
Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton

May 17 – 19, 2019

State Convention
Embassy Suites
In
Livonia

WELCOME

to our new members...

Joan Witte, Plymouth and Terri Zyskowski, Westland

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

or

<http://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersOfNorthwestWayneCounty>

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2018--2019:

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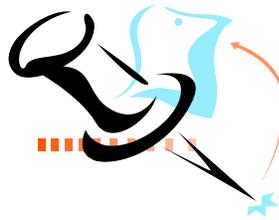
LWV of NW Wayne County

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Membership is open to anyone
age 16 & older.

Dues: Student \$5; Individual
\$60, Household \$85.

The League of Women Voters is
a non-partisan, political organi-
zation that encourages informed
and active participation in
government, works to increase
understanding of major public
policy issues, and influence
public policy through education



President's Message

Members –

We've completed another successful election cycle thanks to the efforts of many of you. There were a variety of opportunities to serve; from such things as working at voter registration events and candidate forums to stuffing local voter guides into State guides and delivering them to the communities that we represent, you got the job done. When requests came out at the last minute, you were always there. For that, I thank you.

The Board members came through to an extraordinary degree. Whenever there was a job to be filled, they stepped in. When we decided to find a new place to hold our meetings, they provided options for us to consider. A special thanks goes to Carrie Moon-Dupree whose church has become our meeting place for the foreseeable future.

As we look back on our accomplishments this year, we also need to look forward. The State Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia from May 17-19, 2019. There will be many ways for League members to participate in this event beyond being one of the delegates. You'll hear more about these opportunities soon.

At this year's LWVUS Convention, a major topic was diversion, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Periodically, I'll be forwarding emails regarding webinars on this topic. All of us are welcome to participate in the webinars. They will provide us with ideas on how to make our League more diverse and inclusive. We'll be discussing this topic at meetings and developing a plan to implement the suggestions from the webinars.

I recently spoke on behalf of the League at a Livonia City Council meeting regarding a new Planned Parenthood facility that is coming to Livonia. There is a League national position supporting women's health and reproductive rights, so I was able to address this topic. Many of the other speakers were strongly opposed to this facility being established, and it's clear that they will continue protests and other actions against it, even though they don't know whether or not abortions will be performed in this facility. We should work to help the facility to operate safely and without disruption. There's no plan developed at this time, but it's an issue we'll be addressing in the coming months.

Remember that we will have the League's Holiday Party on Sunday, December 9, from 2-4 p.m. at the home of League members Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Manny Lavin. If you haven't been to Belleville, I can tell you that it's easy to reach and a lovely place to visit. This party is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other League members. Note that carpooling is recommended. I hope you'll be able to attend.

Thanks for your continuing support of the League. Our work is needed now, maybe more than ever.

Angela Ryan



Holiday Open House

You are invited
to
Our annual holiday party

Sunday, December 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
at
the home of Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Manny Lavin
47266 Denton Rd., Belleville.

League members and significant others are invited. Please bring finger food such as an appetizer or a sweet to share, or beverage of your choice. The League will supply coffee and tea.

Please carpool if possible. Directions: On I-94, west of 275, take the Belleville Rd. exit. After the bridge, turn right at Denton Rd. Denton Rd. jogs to the right and then left. Turn right into the driveway after Jewell Rd.

State League President Visits NW Wayne County League

by Angela Ryan

The guest speaker at our November 10 meeting was State League President Judy Karandjeff. She provided background on the Leagues throughout the state and explained the State League's role. She also shared information about the recent midterm elections, addressing state and local races as well as national races. Twenty-six members attended this meeting, and they asked many questions at the end of her presentation. It was a very informative meeting. Judy is updating the slides that she used, and she'll be sending them to all of the local League presidents. They'll be provided to all of you once they are received. I want to thank everyone who brought refreshments, and those who set-up and rearranged the room at the end of the meeting.

PRE-ELECTION VOTER SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

by Paula Bowman

- 7 Candidate forums between September 11 and October 3, covering races for school boards, state house, state senate, the circuit court and a county commissioner. Fifteen League members helped moderate, keep time, question screen and usher at these events, all of which were well attended and informative. We are thankful to all of those who gave up evenings (many members helped at multiple forums) to further the League's mission of informing the public.
- 4 Wayne and Oakland County Leagues worked together to handle shared races that appeared on VOTE411, and to organize the 11th Congressional district and the County Circuit Court judges forums. This is a good partnership between neighboring Leagues, and together we brought important candidate information to voters.
- 71 Local candidates to whom Megan Chenoweth sent questionnaires. Their responses and pictures appeared on VOTE411 by the end of September so that any voter, merely by typing in their home address, could access their ballot and candidates. Forty-four local races and proposals were handled.
- 2,500 State Voter Guides delivered to our League. Thanks to the help of 8 members on an afternoon in early October, these Guides were "stuffed" with 7 versions of local print voter guides. Information gleaned from the candidates' responses were triggered by Megan's VOTE411 questionnaires.
- 22 Libraries, senior centers, offices and schools received our voter guides in early October. We thank all the League members who helped with deliveries. Though our supply was gone, we continued to receive requests for additional voter guides up until Election Day.
- 6 Ballot proposal presentations given by Megan Chenoweth and Paula Bowman at public and private events prior to the election. These educational presentations focused on the 3 statewide ballot proposals.
- ?? The number of 'hits' to our VOTE411 site aren't in yet; we know that we helped thousands of voters make educated decisions on Election Day. All members should be proud of the non-partisan service we deliver to our communities.

We made a difference!

Auction

By Lena Packer

Our fall auction was held on October 27 at Greenmead in Livonia. Our very generous members provided a wide variety of items for the auction along with a wonderful assortment of snacks and beverages. We brought in over \$3000 that day.

This fundraiser was truly a group project with so many people helping to make it such a success. I would like to thank Charlie Mahoney for acting as our auctioneer. She did a fantastic job running the auction and kept everyone laughing. A special thanks goes to Diane Wittl who worked at the table to sign in our guests.

Our refreshments committee consisted of Nancy White, Sue Wabeke, Kathy McHahwar, Lori Gilbo, Linda Priest, Carrie Moon-Dupree, and Jean Norman. They did a wonderful job organizing the food and beverages. Thank you for all the tasty goodies.

Several members helped in the set up and clean up of this event. Thank you to Jackie Peters, Deanna Master, and Paula Bowman. I would like to thank Linda Curry, Eva Koelzer, and Carrie Moon-Dupree for working at the auction checkout table.

I would also like to thank Paula Bowman for designing our auction flyers. Thank you to Sue Wabeke for taking care of our publicity. Thank you to our business donations committee: Roberta Young, Angela Ryan, Rachel Rion, Colleen Mills, and Susan Rowe for bringing in such a wide variety of fantastic business donations! I know they made repeated visits to businesses to acquire these donations. We are so grateful for all of their time and effort.

Our auction could not have been successful without the fantastic donations we received from our members. A very special thank you to all of these members who donated items and/or were Auction Angels; Laura Callow, Rosemary Doyle, Angela Ryan, Toni Shepherd, Pat Tavidian, Sue Wabeke, Paula Bowman, Roberta Young, Linda Curry, Susan Rowe, Judy Patrick, Kathy Mchahwar, Colleen Mills, Rachel Rion, Barbara Zysk-Berman, Doug Berman, Jackie Peters, Earlene Fisher, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Lori Gilbo, Deanna and Neil Master, Ann Abdo, Nancy White, Shirley Zaetta (non-member), and Lena Packer.

As you can see, so many people were involved in this event. Without all of you, this auction could not have happened. Thank you so much for all of your time and effort to make this auction such a success!

I would like to give a special thank you to the following businesses for providing items for our auction:

1 Under Craft Beer and Eats
The Books Connection
Phoenix Theaters
Sheesh Mediterranean Cuisine
Trader Joe's
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
Golden Gifts Jewelers
Helium Studio
Merri-Craft Florist
Michigan Philharmonic
Sorella's Homemade Baked Goods
Paige Ryan Salon
Livonia Symphony
Valentino's Pizza
Annie's Restaurant & Bake Shoppe
Rocky's of Northville
Pure Pastures
George's Senate Coney Island
The Honey Baked Ham Company
French Toast Bistro
Ooh LaLa Salon

I would also like to thank Commissioner Terry Marecki for her donation of Tiger tickets.

Town Hall: Good Government

by Angela Ryan

On October 22, the League and Citizens for Peace co-hosted a Town Hall meeting on Good Government led by the non-profit group, Center for Michigan (COM). We've co-hosted several of their events in the past, when they were called Community Conversations. The format was the same as the prior events. The COM moderator provided some background information on the topic, and he then presented questions with multiple-choice answers. Each person had a clicker with which we could choose the option that best reflected our viewpoint. Within a minute or so, the results of our choices were shown on a screen, and we discussed the findings. The results from this meeting will be aggregated with those from other such events held throughout the state, and a report will be presented to the state legislators. Past reports have led to some very good legislation being passed. We'll receive a copy of the report early next year. It will be interesting to see how our results compare to the ultimate findings.

They Represent You

By Paula Bowman

The League will be updating our NW Wayne County, They Represent You (TRY) brochures after the first of the year. This pamphlet is a compilation of the elected officials in our service area and their contact information. A separate TRY is done for the Belleville area. We are looking for members to do the research and to create the brochures. We post a more comprehensive version on our website. If you would like to help with this project, please let me know:
paulabowman9000@gmail.com