



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

FEBRUARY, 2017

League Calendar



Thursday, Feb. 23

7:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church
11575 Belleville Road
Belleville, MI

Belleville Members meeting. Please attend and celebrate the one year anniversary of the LWV presence in Belleville and discuss future plans.

Saturday, Feb. 25

10:30-12:30
Livonia Civic Ctr Library
32777 Five Mile Rd
Livonia, 48154

General Membership meeting to reach consensus on the Government Finance Study. A salad and dessert lunch will be served, but please bring your own beverage and \$5 to contribute to the lunch.

March 4-9

Westwick Square Coop
Wayne

The League will facilitate the **annual election** of Westwick Square's Board of Directors. Volunteers are needed! See article on page 4.

Saturday, April 8

2:00—Film starts
Livonia Civic Ctr Library
32777 Five Mile Rd
Livonia, 48154

LWV is a co-sponsor of the film, "**Ganndi's Gift**". See article on page 3. Though the film starts at 2:00, come early (1:00) to enjoy refreshments and social time.

May 19-21

Kellogg Center
E. Lansing

LWVMI Convention. Our League is entitled to 5 delegates, and because we are in good financial shape, the League will pay for almost all expenses. The weekend is filled with plenary sessions where the business of the state League is conducted (electing officers, deciding on program for the next two years, passing a budget, etc), but it also includes many workshop and educational experiences. Delegates mingle with other League members from all of over the state, and are guaranteed to return home feeling more knowledgeable about the League and energized to work on accomplishing its mission. If you would like to attend, please contact Angela Ryan.

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2016--17:

PRESIDENT

Angela Ryan
cruiserryan@ameritech.net

1ST VP: DEVELOPMENT

Lena Packer

2ND VP: VOTER SERVICE

Paula Bowman

SECRETARY

Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER

Toni Shepherd

VOTER EDITOR

Paula Bowman

DIRECTORS

Diane Witt Laurie Kelly
Lynda Franklin Linda Curry
Sue Wabeke Diane Witt

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Mchahwar
Laurie Kelly
Susan Rowe

LWV 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.



President's Message

It's hard to believe that we are already into the second month of 2017. January was a busy time for some League members. On January 5, we held a public meeting with a panel discussion for the State study on Government Finance. Our panelists were Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson and League members Susan Rowe (Mayor of Wayne) and Sherry Frazier (Van Buren Township Trustee). All provided great insight into taxation issues for local communities. The event got front-page coverage from the Livonia Observer, which is always good for the League.

We offered voter registration at Schoolcraft College's winter School Daze event on January 24 and 25. While we didn't register many students, we had the chance to speak to quite a few people, some who may join the League. I also spoke to two Schoolcraft classes in January.

We have two members' meetings coming up this month. On **February 23**, there will be a meeting of Belleville area members starting at **7 p.m.** at Trinity Episcopal Church. We'll be reviewing the first year of their membership in the League and looking at what's in store for the coming year. On **February 25 at 10:30 a.m.**, there will be a meeting for all members at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The primary purpose for this meeting is to decide on our answers to the Government Finance State Study, based on the findings of our League's study committee. Both meetings will be informative.

For several years, we have provided oversight for elections at the Westwick Square Co-op in Wayne. This year's Annual Meeting and election will be on March 9. We will need volunteers to collect proxy votes before the election, and helpers will be needed the day of the election. It's a great opportunity to participate in a unique League function. I hope you'll consider volunteering for this project.

The League is pleased to be a co-sponsor with Livonia Citizens for Peace in presenting the Michigan premier of the documentary, "Gandhi's Gift", on **April 8 at 2 p.m.** I had the opportunity to preview this film last fall, and it was very illuminating. I'm planning to see it again. I hope you'll be able to join me.

There is much League work to be done, and as the saying goes, "Many hands make light work."

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the upcoming meetings/events.

Angela Ryan

LEAGUE MEMBERS ON THE MARCH!

Many of our members participated in a Women's March on January 21. The organizers of the Marches embraced a non-partisan mission and included human rights goals that are important to the League of Women Voters, which signed on as a partner in January. Members Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Virginia Belinski (who was interviewed by and quoted in the Detroit Free Press) and Donna Gilkey-Lavin all went to Washington DC, and others attended marches in Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Detroit.

Wherever they marched, participants were empowered and inspired by the unity of those who attended. Said Ann Marie, "It is wonderful and awesome that every continent in the world supported women that day!" Now our responsibility is to channel the energy and determination evident on January 21 and work together towards a better world.



Members Sue Wabeke, Rachel Rion and Angela Ryan at the March in Detroit



Anne Marie Graham-Hudak's "pussy hat" she wore while marching in DC

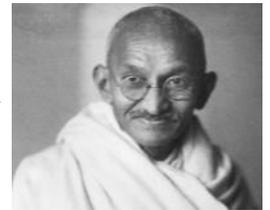
LEAGUE REGISTERS VOTERS AT SCHOOLCRAFT

Schoolcraft College invited us to set up a League table during their winter "School Daze" event on January 24 and 25. This is the second year of the winter event, which introduces students to extra curricular options and local resources. We continue to successfully register college students at both the fall and winter School Daze events.

We thank the League members who worked at the winter event: Diane Wittl, Rachel Rion, Kristen Farmer, Rosemary Doyle, Joan Gebhardt, Angela Ryan, Virginia Belinski, Pat Tavidian, Shirley Tolliver, Kathy McHahwar, and Chair, Lena Packer.

MOVIE TIME

The League is pleased to be a co-sponsor with Livonia Citizens for Peace in presenting the Michigan premier of the documentary, "Gandhi's Gift". The film will be presented at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 2 p.m. Admission is free.



The film's writer and co-producer, Cynthia Lukas, will be at the event to answer questions and provide insight into Mahatma Gandhi's life and work. Refreshments, browsing material, and international children's art will be available starting at 1 p.m.

HOLIDAY PARTY ONE MONTH LATE

Many thanks to Judy Patrick who hosted our League's holiday party on January 22—a month late thanks to a snowstorm that forced our December party to be cancelled. The Patricks have a beautiful home and all of us who attended had a lovely time.

LEAGUE HELP WANTED ON SEVERAL PROJECTS

Westwick Square: As we've done for several years, the League has been asked to handle the Board of Directors election for this Cooperative Housing Development on Annapolis Road in Wayne. We are paid a fee for this service. At least 2 League members are needed at several times/dates at the Coop's clubhouse to register "proxy" voters who cannot attend the actual election. No experience is necessary! Very few proxy voters register (sometimes none), but it is part of our role to give them the opportunity. We need members for these times:

Saturday, March 4 from noon to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, March 7 from 4:00—7:00 pm

Thursday, March 9 from 4:00-6:00pm and then from 6:00-8:00 pm for the actual election

This is not hard work, and it is in a comfortable, safe environment. If you can assist at any of these times, please contact Angela Ryan via email at cruiserryan@ameritech.net or phone at 734-591-0995.

"They Represent You": This pamphlet is a list of elected officials in our service area. The League pays to publish this pamphlet, which is widely distributed to libraries and League events. We are looking for help not with the construction of the pamphlet, but with information gathering for these officials:

National and US Senate
US House of Representatives
Michigan Senate
Michigan House of Representatives

Even if there has been no change in the office holder, there may be office or phone number changes. All of this research work can be done at your home—no meeting is required. If you can help, please contact Paula Bowman at paulabowman9000@gmail.com or 734-277-2243.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Please welcome these new members to our League:

Lara Furar—Canton
Michael McDermott—Westland
Jim Elster—Farmington
Maria Panek—Canton
Sharon Peters—Belleville
Georgette Stubin—Canton
Glenn Anderson—Westland

MICHIGAN IS A LEADER IN VOTE411 USAGE

Our Northwest Wayne County League and the League of Women Voters of Michigan, have been users of VOTE411—the on-line voter guide—for every election since 2012. User activity of this on-line resource grows every election cycle, and the 2016 election was no exception. In 2016, over 6,500 more visitors came to NW Wayne County's VOTE411 pages than in 2014, or a 60% increase. This increase reflects the trend for the general population's movement towards on-line resources instead of depending solely on paper copies of the voter guides. Though we distributed almost 2,000 voter guides to local libraries, we had no reports of shortages (though we expect librarians were careful in how they distributed these guides.)

Our VOTE411 guru this year was Megan Chenoweth, and she did an outstanding job of data collection, meeting deadlines, fielding changes and handling over 140 candidates.

We've already signed up to use VOTE411 again in 2017, which will be primarily for city elections.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE STUDY

On the frigid night January 5th, the League hosted a panel discussion of municipal leaders to discuss taxation, Michigan revenue sharing, the Headlee amendment and other issues concerning how cities, townships and counties finance services for their residents. This discussion was aimed at helping our members learn more about the LWV Michigan Government Finance Study, and to help us answer the consensus questions at a February 25th member-

ship meeting. About 30 people attended our meeting, including an Observer reporter, David Veselenak, who published a good article a few days later.

Our 3 panelists were all League members: Mayor Susan Rowe from the City of Wayne, Van Buren Township Trustee Sherry Frazier and Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson.



Observer photographer Bill Bressler's photo of our Jan. 5th panel: Susan Rowe, Glenn Anderson and Sherry Frazier

The most riveting testimony was delivered by Susan Rowe, who discussed how the housing crisis which led to massive foreclosures and reduced property values, along with the Headlee amendment and drastic cuts in state funding, created the perfect storm in her community of a financial black hole. The City's pleas for help from the state have gone unanswered, and insolvency is a real possibility in the near future.

With this issue of the Voter, members are also receiving the consensus questions and responses proposed by our local study committee (Rosemary Doyle, Megan Chenoweth, Barbara Miller, Virginia Belinski, Paula Bowman, Nancy White, Gale Arciero, Susan Rowe and Laurie Kelly). See the separate attachment being sent to members only.

Please review this information and bring it with you to the February 25th meeting at the Livonia Library (10:30 am). A presentation with some of the study information will be followed by a discussion of the consensus questions.

Remember that the meeting includes a salad and desert lunch! Bring your own beverage and \$5 as a contribution to the lunch costs.

Next general membership meeting: Feb. 25th

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