



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 **April, 2018**

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Sat., May 19; 11:30 am - 2 pm
Claddagh's Irish Pub
17800 Haggerty, Livonia, 48152
(See article on p. 3)

State League Workshops

Sat. April 28 in Ann Arbor
Sat. May 5 in Grayling
(Registration deadline extended. See article on p. 5)

LWVUS Convention

June 28 - July 1
Chicago

Women's Equality Day Luncheon

Sat. Aug. 25: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
St. Mary's Cultural & Banquet Center
18700 Merriman, Livonia
(see article on p. 5)

Auction

Saturday, October 29, 2018
Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia



LWV NWW Board of Directors
2017--18:

PRESIDENT

Angela Ryan
cruiserryan@ameritech.net

VP: VOTER SERVICE

Paula Bowman

SECRETARY

Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER

Linda Curry

VOTER EDITOR

Ann Abdo

DIRECTORS

Diane Wittl Laurie Kelly
Lynda Franklin Barbara Miller
Virginia Belinski Lena Packer
Donna Gilkey-Lavin
Toni Shepherd

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kathy Mchahwar

LWV of NW Wayne County

PO Box 51502

Livonia, MI 48151

(734) 421-4420

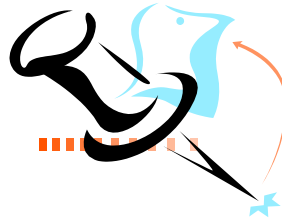
EM: lwwmail@yahoo.com

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

While many people are looking forward to the end of the school year and going on summer vacations, League members are gearing up for many events. In the coming months, we'll be holding the Annual Meeting (May 19), attending workshops, working on the Promote the Vote ballot proposal, joining with the Center for Michigan for two very interesting presentations, and hosting candidate forums, to name a few.

We've held the Annual Meeting in June for the last few years, after the State or National Convention has taken place. This year, the National Convention will be at the end of June. Since our fiscal year begins July 1, we have to hold the meeting before the Convention.

The slate of officers for 2018-19 is on page 3 of this Voter. I was hoping to have a co-president this year, but those who were asked declined. While it's nice to know that members are happy with the job that I'm doing, I also recognize the need to have a new perspective. I'm disappointed to see that for the second year in a row, we have no candidate for VP, Development, and it's just a one-year assignment. That's so surprising to me because the main duty of that office is just to **organize** the annual auction. There's a committee to help with the planning and one to handle refreshments the day of the auction. Lena Packer, who held this VP position for several years, developed a plan that anyone can follow. We can take nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting for either of these positions. Please consider running for one of them.

It seems to me that newer League members often think that workshops or conventions are intended for more experienced League members. The upcoming workshops in Ann Arbor and Grayling are designed for both. One of the topics is League Basics. Need I say more? If you are relatively new, or a seasoned League member, I urge you to attend. **The League will even cover the registration cost**, and what you'll learn in one day is priceless.

Check out the article in this Voter on the Promote the Vote ballot proposal. If we can all pitch in to collect signatures, we'll get this proposal on the 2018 ballot.

Many of you have attended Center for Michigan's Community Conversations in recent years. The information that's gathered has resulted in much good legislation being passed. This year, we're planning to host two events. One will be a documentary film showing. The other will be similar to the Community Conversations. Stay tuned for further details.

We'll be holding candidate forums prior to the primary election in August and the general election in November. We'll need members to help us with these forums, so keep that in mind when the dates, races, and locations are announced.

There are many ways that you can participate in League activities. I hope to see you at one or more of the upcoming events.

Angela Ryan

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

May 19, 2018



Our bylaws require us to have an annual meeting in May or June, wherein members vote on a budget, elect officers, vote to change bylaws and decide on a program for next year,

Our annual meeting will be held at Claddagh's, 17800 Haggerty, Livonia 48152. All members and guests are invited to have lunch (order off the menu, pay individually) and participate in the discussion and votes.

Our dues of \$60 per year are not increasing.

No bylaw changes or local studies were proposed by the Board or the membership. The program for the next year will be discussed at the luncheon.

Please let Angela Ryan know if you will be attending: 734-591-0995 or cruiserryan@ameritech.com

The proposed budget for 2017-2018 is an attachment

The nominees for Board of Directors are

VP VOTER SERVICE:	Paula Bowman
VP DEVELOPMENT:	Vacant
SECRETARY:	Kathy Mchahwar
DIRECTOR:	Mary Visos
DIRECTOR:	Lori Gilbo
DIRECTOR:	Carrie Moon-Dupree
Nominating Committee Chair:	Kathy Mchahwar
Nominating Committee Members:	Barbara Miller; Sue Wabeke

The following board members will be continuing the 2nd year of their 2-year terms:

PRESIDENT:	Angela Ryan
VP DEVELOPMENT:	Vacant
VOTER EDITOR:	Ann Abdoo
TREASURER:	Linda Curry
DIRECTOR:	Barbara Miller
DIRECTOR:	Donna Gilkey-Lavin
DIRECTOR:	Virginia Belinski
DIRECTOR:	Lena Packer
DIRECTOR:	Toni Shepherd
DIRECTOR:	Laurie Kelly

SAVE OUR LEAGUE TIME & MONEY

Bring your checkbook to the annual meeting on May 19th and pay your dues of \$60. This saves us the cost of mailing you an invoice and possibly several reminders.

Your dues of \$60 cover July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. New members who joined before March 1, 2018 will owe a prorated amount, and if you joined after March 1, 2018, you owe zero.

The League also accepts contributions to our operating account and our education fund, which is tax deductible.

PROMOTE THE VOTE- Be Part of the Movement!

By: Paula Bowman, Promote the Vote Coordinator

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is co-sponsoring a ballot proposal that, if passed, will make voting more convenient for voters. League members all over the state are gathering petition signatures so that we help with the collection of 400,000 signatures by June 30th. Our League has held several training meetings to distribute proposal information and petitions, and at least 15 members are actively working on gathering signatures.

This amendment to Michigan's constitution provides a common-sense approach to safeguarding our elections, puts voters first, and removes barriers for working families by:

- Protecting the right to vote a secret ballot
- Ensuring military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count
- Automatically registering citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines
- Allowing a citizen to register to vote 15 days before an election by mail or in person. After that citizens may register to vote in person with proof of residency up to and on Election Day.
- Providing all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason
- Ensuring the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results

The LWVMI has been fighting for many of these convenient voting changes for many years and we are proud to be a front-runner of this initiative. We urge you to be part of this movement by signing a petition to get this proposal on the November ballot – and then voting "yes" in November – or, to be part of the signature collection process. This does not mean going door-to-door, or standing in a parking lot in the rain. Most League members are getting signatures from family and friends at church, offices, book groups or their gyms. It's easier than you think!

If you would like to learn more about collecting petition signatures, please contact Paula at paulabowman9000@gmail.com

VOTER REGISTRATION

By Lena Packer

On January 24 and 25 our members participated in Schoolcraft's Winter Daze event. We registered students from 9 communities in 4 counties. Thank you to: Carrie Moon-Dupree, Kathy McHahwar, Virginia Belinski, Lisa Asquini, Sue Wabeke, Pat Tavidian, Marjorie Lynn, and



Our new members are Rose Libbon, Canton and Linda Priest, Belleville

STATE LEAGUE WORKSHOPS

By Angela Ryan

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is offering workshops this spring that will appeal to both new and experienced League members. The workshops run from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Ann Arbor on April 28 and in Grayling on May 5. \$20 Registration fee covers early refreshments, lunch, and materials. This fee will be reimbursed by our League. Members can attend both a morning and an afternoon session covering the following topics:

Democracy Agenda: Promote the Vote, LWVMI vs. Secretary of State Gerrymandering lawsuit, Voter Not Politicians Redistricting Ballot Proposal and more. (offered in morning and repeated in afternoon)

League Basics: LWVMI's New Membership Program, Treasurers' Best Practices, Engaging New and Current Members, Programming- Positions and How It Works, Fundraising & Development (morning only).

Voter Service: Voter Registration ("Pop Ups" and School Programs), Get Out the Vote Ideas, 2018 Voter Service Calendar (afternoon only).

Lunch: a simple box-type lunch and time to network. Includes a 20-minute presentation on the LWVUS Transformation process. If you have specific dietary needs, please contact Christina Schlitt at bc Schlitt@aol.com.

You can register for the [workshop online at lwvmi.org](http://workshoponlineatlwvmi.org) or you can print the online form and mail it in with your check. Registration deadline is April 23, 2018 for Ann Arbor and April 30 for Grayling.

There's no limit to how many members can attend from each League. I've attended similar workshops in the past, and they are particularly beneficial for newer members. It's a great way to learn a lot about how the League operates as well as get to know League members from other communities. I hope many of you will attend.

LWVMI Action Alerts

By Angela Ryan

The State Board (LWVMI) has members who monitor the State legislature, watching for the introduction of bills for which the League has a state or national position. When such bills are introduced, LWVMI often sends Action Alert emails to members of the local Leagues, urging them to contact their legislators regarding these bills. There is always an attached letter, which you can send as is or edit to your own words. Typically, only about 1/3 of the members follow through.

Please watch for these emails in the future. They don't always say "Action Alert", but they always come from LWVMI. It will take a few minutes to complete the first one, as you'll need to provide contact information. After that, it will take less than 2 minutes to send the letter to your representative and/or senator. Legislators pay attention to these letters, and the more that are sent, the better chance we'll have of impacting the vote on these bills. It's a small thing that you can do but it may have a great effect.



Women's Equality Day Luncheon

By Ann Abdoo

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 11:30 am – 2:30 pm at St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center at 18100 Merriman, Livonia 48152. The keynote speaker is Lisa Brown, Oakland County Clerk and former Michigan State Representative, whose talk title is "Keeping the Momentum Going." Luncheon: \$30. Reservation deadline: Aug. 15th. Call 248-355-5233 or 734-425-3572 for more information.

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