

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

Established in Livonia in 1960
www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org

Voter

February 2020

Serving: Belleville, Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter Twp., Van Buren Twp., Wayne and Westland

Upcoming Events

- Sat., Feb. 1
10 am - 12:30 pm **General Meeting**
Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton
- Wed., Feb. 12
7 pm **Census & Voting Rights Presentation**
Canton Summit, Chestnut Rm., 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton
(see article on p.3)
- Fri., Feb. 14
 Action Day: Women Power the Vote
(see article on p. 3)
- Tues., Mar. 10
 Presidential Primary Election
(see article on p. 4)
- Thurs., Mar. 12
7 pm **Is Our Water Safe to Drink?**
Presentation by Erma Leaphart from Sierra Club of Detroit
Livonia Civic Center Library (in the Civic Center Complex at
Farmington & 5 Mile Rd.)
(see article on p. 4)
- Mar. 12 - 20
 Census
You will receive a notice about how to participate in the Census count.
Once received, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail.
- Sun., May 31
1 pm. **Save the Date**
Annual Meeting and Anniversary Celebrations
(see article on p. 4)

**To find the most current news about the League, go to the website
www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org
or
<http://facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersOfNorthwestWayneCounty>**

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2019--2021

PRESIDENT

Paula Bowman
paulabowman9000@gmail.com

VP VOTER SERVICE

Carrie Moon-Dupree

VP DEVELOPMENT

Angela Ryan

SECRETARY

Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER

Susan Rowe

VOTER EDITOR

Ann Abdoo

DIRECTORS

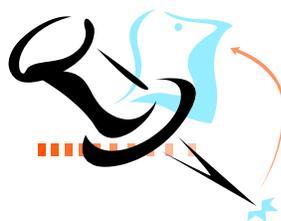
Virginia Belinski
Donna Gilkey-Lavin
Lori Gilbo
Maureen Hughes
Manny Lavin
Deanna Master
Carin Meyer
Val Nelson
Lena Packer
Judy Patrick
Jackie Peters
Mary Visos

LWV of NW Wayne County
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151
(734) 421-4420
EM: lwwmail@yahoo.com
www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

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
and advocacy.



President's Message

Happy New Year everyone. Before we launch into all the excitement of 2020, I'd like to thank Deanna and Neal Master for hosting our League's holiday party on December 15th. Deanna's home was perfect for a party and she made it even more hospitable by providing a pianist who entertained us with holiday songs. Many of the League members who came brought wonderful appetizers, desserts or wines. I think it's safe to say that no one needed a big dinner that night. Thank you, Deanna and Neal for your kindness.

We are in the first month of what will be one of the most active years in League history. Further in this Voter you'll see Carrie Moon-Dupree's article about what our League is doing to celebrate the dual centennial anniversaries of the 19th amendment and the birthday of the League of Women Voters. We have 13 cities and townships in our service area, and we hope to do something in each one. We appreciate all the help from the volunteers that are working on these projects.

Did you know it is the Northwest Wayne County League's 60th birthday this year? We will be celebrating at our annual meeting, which will be held at the One Under Restaurant on Sunday, May 31. Mark your calendar! We are asking every member to try and bring a younger guest to the event so that we can expose our mission and goals to a new generation. Your guest doesn't have to live in our service area – our goal is to share the values of the League in general and if that causes a younger person to join wherever she/he lives, we will have accomplished something.

Due to family and work challenges, Laurie Kelly has had to resign her position as treasurer. We will miss Laurie's energy on our board, but we hope to still see her at League meetings and events. Our new treasurer is long-time League member, Susan Rowe. Susan has served in a variety of board positions in the past, and we welcome her experience. She will begin as our treasurer on February 1st.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on February 1. Fingers crossed that we don't get hit with another snowstorm.

Paula Bowman

CENSUS AND VOTING RIGHTS PRESENTATIONS

by Paula Bowman

A number of League members joined us in Westland in November when we presented the Census and Redistricting Commission programs prepared by the League of Women Voters of Michigan. On February 12, we are offering a similar program in Canton (7:00 pm at the Canton Summit), open to all members and the public. The program will focus on the Census and Michigan's new voting rights. We will be joined by the Canton Township Clerk, Michael Siegrist. You are welcome to join us and to recommend this program to others



ACTION DAY

by Ann Abdo

Not only is it Valentine's Day, but February 14th is also the 100th birthday of the National League of Women Voters. LWVUS is asking all local Leagues to do something on this day that reminds the public that the League continues the fight to defend democracy.

Our League has chosen to deliver a thank you gift to all of our local clerks. We will be giving them a box of cookies with the message about the League's birthday and our appreciation for their work to empower voters. Sign-up sheets for both bakers and delivery people will be circulated at the February 1st meeting.

Along with the cookies will be a message about voter suppression, and the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters. We are celebrating the League's formation that came out of the suffrage movement and are centering our Day of Action around the theme: **Women Power the Vote**. We are using this theme to acknowledge the 70-year fight to ratify the 19th amendment and to focus the members on the work that still needs to be done.

.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

by Paula Bowman

March 10 is the Presidential primary. LWVUS has not yet posted the candidate information that will be on the ballot, but Megan Chenoweth has already posted information about various ballot proposals in our area. There is a renewal of the Art Institute's millage for *all* Wayne County residents. Northville Schools and Plymouth-Canton Schools have millages on the ballot, and the City of Wayne has 3 City Charter proposed amendments. Finally, the City of Westland has a sanitation millage proposal. Check out the wording of the proposals in your community by visiting VOTE411.

IS OUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

We're pleased to present a program on March 12 at 7 pm. concerning water quality in SE Michigan. Erma Leaphart, Conservation Organizer from the Sierra Club in Detroit will discuss defending and restoring the Great Lakes and threats to our water system such as lead and PFAS. The presentation is open to the public, which will be at the Livonia Civic Center Library (in the Civic Center complex at Farmington and 5 Mile Rd.)

Welcome New Members:

Jane Cimo, Canton; Katharine Faitel, Livonia;
and Pat Bindas, Canton

CELEBRATIONS

by Carrie Moon-Dupree

This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversaries of women suffrage, and the National League of Women Voters as well as our League's 60th anniversary. The Celebrations Committee is in full swing. The committee, made up of Ann Abdo, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Val Nelson, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Paula Bowman, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Dian Slavens, Jackie Peters and Kathy Faitel, have been hard at work. These anniversaries will be celebrated throughout 2020. Some of the planning highlights are:

February 14th Day of Action: We will be delivering homemade "Vote" cookies to our local Clerks as a reminder of the 100th Anniversary and the important role the clerks play in our elections.

Displays at Local Libraries: Displays will highlight the 100th anniversary of the women's suffrage and our League's 60th anniversary. We hope to have all the libraries in our geographical service area covered. This is a traveling exhibit going from one library to another.

Annual Meeting: this year it will be a luncheon held **Sunday May 31, 2020**, at One Under Banquet Hall in Livonia. We will be celebrating our Anniversaries at this luncheon. We encourage members to bring guests to see and hear where we have been and what is before us. There will be a guest speaker TBA. Please save the date.

Parades & Festivals: We are in the investigative stage of checking with our local towns to see who is having parades and festivals. We would like to march, and/or ride in local parades holding banners about the voting anniversary and encouraging everyone to vote. Some may even choose to dress as Suffragettes, while others will wear white with sashes.

This all sounds so exciting, so much work and so much fun. As details become available, we will forward the information to you. In the meantime, if there is one or more of these activities you would like to be part of, please let me know: 734-748-5564; moondupree@comcast.net.

Women's Equality Day Luncheon *Sat., August 22, 2020*

By Laura Callow

We will be celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage, and hopefully the ratification of the ERA in Congress. Eileen Davis, a leading member of VAratify ERA* will be the featured speaker. She will present a first hand account of action taken by the Virginia legislature in the early months of 2020. If all goes as anticipated, it will be a second celebration on finally putting the ERA in the Constitution. Reservation forms will be sent out soon.

*VAratify ERA is an all volunteer, non-partisan organization supporting the ratification of ERA in Virginia.

2019 AUCTION UPDATE

by Angela Ryan

Since the conclusion of the 2019 fundraising auction, we've had a number of people sign up for events that were offered at the auction. I'm happy to report that the May 16 **Detroit bus tour sold out soon after the auction, and we had great response to four other** events.

The one event coming up which still has availability is the **documentary**, *Uncle Jessie White - Portrait of a Delta Bluesman in Detroit*. The documentary took over twenty years to complete and has been shown in film festivals in eight countries.

The documentary is sixty minutes long, and a discussion will follow the showing. Hosted by Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, the film will be shown at **noon, February 29**, at a place to be determined. Light movie snacks will be served. Cost is \$20 each, and there are several slots available. If interested, email Anne Marie at agrahamhudak@hotmail.com to reserve a seat. Once you get confirmation that there is an opening, please send your check, made out to LWV NW Wayne, to League President Paula Bowman, 9000 N. Lilley Rd., Plymouth, MI, 48170.

To date, the revenue from the auction is \$4,312.85. We hope to get a few more attendees at the documentary. It's a very interesting film, and attending will provide one more opportunity to support the League's upcoming projects and events.

Mark your calendars for **October 3**, the date of the 2020 auction. Once again, it will be held at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, starting at 11:30 a.m. It's never too early to think about how you can participate in this fun event. Without the contributions of time, food, auction items, or financial donations from many members, this fundraiser couldn't be a success.

CLERK ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

By Paula Bowman

Nineteen of our League members will be interviewing the 13 city or township clerks in our service area in the next several weeks. The LWV of Michigan is working on this project in conjunction with other voting rights groups, but at least in our area, the interviews are only being done by League members.

The goal of this initiative is to make sure that the voters in each community are receiving accurate information about the new voting rights laws as a result of the passage of Proposal 3 last November. Another goal is to further our good relationship with the clerks' offices by letting them know that we are willing to assist in educating the public and helping their offices recruit poll workers if that is a need.

Many of our community clerks are already on top of the new voting rights laws. We have only to look at their websites to see a link to an absentee ballot application that anyone, for any reason, can use now, or a link to the on-line voter registration. But we're also looking for other voter information tools such as polling locations posted on-line or a sign-up to be on a permanent absentee list. These are among the issues that will be discussed at each of our short meetings. We are grateful to the members who are involved in this project and we'll provide a summary when the interviews are completed.

PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION

By Paula Bowman

The LWV of Michigan's Board of Directors took action at its January meeting to be ready to oppose a *possible* law that would make it a felony for medical providers to perform what's known as a dilation and evacuation abortion, a procedure commonly used in the second trimester of pregnancy. If this sounds familiar, it's because similar legislation was passed in the Michigan legislature last May, but was vetoed by Gov. Whitmer.

Anti-choice groups who supported this legislation have moved on to Plan B, and have now submitted almost 380,000 signatures to get this on the November 2020 ballot. It is anticipated that instead of allowing the proposal to advance to the November ballot, the state legislature will approve the legislation, making it a law that the Governor can not act upon .

The League of Women Voters supports a woman's right to make decisions about her own reproductive health. This legislation would restrict her choice by making it a crime to access a procedure that's often necessary to protect a woman's health.

We are waiting for the bureau of elections to determine whether there are enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. If so, the legislature will have 40 days to adopt it as a law. It is during this period that the State League will be advocating that this proposal not become law in Michigan. If the issue does advance to the November ballot, we will also be advocating for Michigan voters to vote no. Stay tuned!

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S ART CAUCUS PRESENTS

The 19th Amendment at 100: Women's Voices Then and Now

at

Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery
located in the Central United Methodist Church
33 E. Adams, Detroit 48226

This juried art show honors and recognizes the centennial of the 19th Amendment that was ratified on August 18, 1920. It is important to remember the strength of the suffrage movement that campaigned for 70 years before the 19th Amendment was passed, and the continuing campaign for women to have equal pay for equal work, and the right for women to make their own decisions about their health and bodies.

The exhibit is on now through Feb. 29th.
Hours 1 – 4pm., Thurs., Fri., and Sat.
Phone: 313-963-7575