



League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County
Established in Livonia in 1960

VOTER

www.lwvwww.org

Serving: Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville,
Plymouth, Redford, Wayne and Westland

January, 2010
Volume XLVI, No. 1

NEW YEAR'S CALENDAR

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sat, Jan. 30
Eastside Marios
31630 Plymouth Rd, Livonia
12:00-2:00 pm | Membership Meeting: LWVUS Program Planning. Join us for lunch as we discuss national League positions. We'll choose from a limited menu; each member pays for their own meal. No RSVP necessary. |
| Thurs, Feb. 11
7:15-9:00 pm
Livonia Civic Center
Library | Membership Meeting with Judge Kathleen McCann. Judge McCann, 16th District Court, will speak with us as we continue discussion on the LWVMI Prison Re-Study. |
| Saturday, Feb. 27
12:00-2:00 pm
Livonia Civic Center Library | Membership Meeting: Prison Re-Study Consensus Discussion. Please bring \$5 for a light lunch (we'll provide) as we work to reach consensus on the Prison Re-Study questions. |
| Wednesday, April 21
10:00-4:00 pm
State Capital
Lansing | "Lobby Day" in Lansing sponsored by LWVMI. In honor of the LWVUS' 90th birthday, the state League is calling all members to attend a luncheon and meetings with our state reps. We hope for a solid contingent from our League. |
| April 23-25
Westland Mall | Tentative dates for our Used Book Sale |
| Saturday, May 22
Western Golf & Country
Club—Redford | LWV Northwest Wayne County's 50th Birthday Celebration. (Note date change). Please mark your calendar for this event you won't want to miss! |



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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.



Happy New Year ! We welcome the new year with the hope that 2010 will be the start of a decade that brings peace to those in conflict, freedom and relief to those who suffer, and equality to those who are victims of injustice. We know that the League will continue to fight to improve our systems of government that and we applaud you, its members for being part of this noble mission.

As we continue to celebrate the NW Wayne County League's 50th birthday, it is also the 90th birthday of the national League of Women Voters. You will notice the celebratory League logo on page 1 of the *Voter*, which will be used all of this year to commemorate the LWVUS' birthdate. We are continuing to make plans to celebrate both our own birthday and that of the LWVUS.

At the request of many who attended our November meeting at which we learned much from Penny Ryder, from the Criminal Justice Program for the American Friends Service Committee, we are pleased that Judge Kathleen McCann, Chief Judge of the 16th District Court in Livonia, has agreed to speak to our League on February 11th. She will be accompanied by a court probation officer and they will both discuss the 3 types of justice highlighted in our re-study materials (See page 4-5) . Note that our consensus meeting for the Prison Re-Study is set for the last Saturday in February.

Are you collecting books? The Book Sale Committee, led by Lena Packer, is planning our used book sale for the 4th weekend in April. Though we have multiple collection sources, the books collected directly by League members are always the *best* books (surely, it's the company we keep!) If you have no room to store books, please contact Lena at 734-420-4439 and we'll find a spot.

One last note: my email address has changed. Please change your address book to show my new address:
paulabowman9000@gmail.com

Thanks.

Paula Bowman

PROGRAM PLANNING: January 30th

Every two years, Leagues across the country participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues – *this is how we remain a grassroots organization.*

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues.

The League's "Program", is a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, and is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. While it is important for every League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss possible issues for study at the national level, it is not essential for every League to select an issue. We can simply indicate that issues were discussed, but no change is recommended. This important option gives the LWVUS a more realistic picture of the participation and opinions of all Leagues

We can prepare for the Program Planning meeting by:

- Reviewing the public policy positions of the LWVUS. A short version is located in your League binder, and said version, as well as the full positions, can be found on www.lwv.org. Copies will also be available at our Jan. 30th meeting.
- Join the Convention 'listserve' which in these early months before the convention, includes much discussion about program planning.

To join this listserve, click on the members section of the lwv.org website, log in using your ID and password, and sign on under the "League sponsored email lists".

Those of us who are already on the Convention listserve have seen discussion about 2 studies that other Leagues are trying to promote:

1. The LWV of Palo Alto CA has made a proposal "To study the role of the federal government in public education, with a focus on (1) the basic goals of public education, (2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making, (3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of education governance, including funding, and (4) the development of common standards."
2. The LWV Columbia/Boone County MO proposes the adoption of a national study on the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace. This study would support and expand LWVUS positions on: Violence Prevention in the U.S., International Relations, US Relations with Developing Countries, the United Nations, and Arms Control.

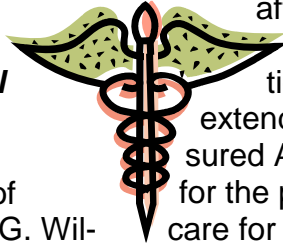
Both of these proposals and others that surface before January 30th will be discussed at the meeting.



An early program planning meeting?

Join us for a casual lunch at Eastside Marios (on the north side of Plymouth Road, east of Merriman). We'll order from a limited menu, with each member paying for her own. Bringing small bills/cash will help with the bill paying. Lunch costs are around \$10. No RSVP is necessary. See you then!

LEAGUE RECOGNIZES SENATE FOR PASSING HISTORIC HEALTH CARE REFORM*Hopeful that Final Bill will Include Public Insurance Option*



12-28-09, Washington, D.C. – League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson today acknowledged the Senate’s passage of health care reform legislation before the Christmas holidays as a step forward in the struggle to extend health care coverage to all Americans.

“The League is encouraged to see the Senate take action that moves health care reform closer to final passage,” said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters. “However, we are extremely disappointed that this deal came at the expense of a public insurance option, an element the League believes is crucial to protecting consumer choice and controlling health care costs in the long-run.”

“The harsh reality is that we can no longer

afford to do nothing, and key provisions of this bill are a step in the right direction,” Wilson continued. “The Senate bill extends coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans, expands Medicaid coverage for the poor, subsidizes some of the costs of care for individuals, and prevents insurance companies from denying insurance to those with pre-existing conditions or dropping coverage due to an illness.”

“These are historic reforms that should not be underestimated, and will greatly reduce the suffering that has gone on for too long in this health care crisis,” Wilson continued. “Our hope is that the bill that comes out of Conference will include these provisions and more, including a government-run insurance option for those who cannot afford private coverage or find adequate coverage in their area.”

“Americans are counting on Congress and the President to finally put an end to this health care crisis,” Wilson concluded.



LWVMI PRISON/JAIL RESTUDY CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Following are the 7 consensus questions that we will discuss at the February 27th meeting. The extensive background information is available at the www.lwvmi.org website.

1. In terms of guiding Michigan’s criminal justice systems, how would you rank the following sets of principles in terms of importance?

Retributive Justice	Important to Include	Irrelevant	Important to Exclude
Restorative Justice	Important to Include	Irrelevant	Important to Exclude
Therapeutic Justice	Important to Include	Irrelevant	Important to Exclude

Cont. on P. 5

2. Should the League support alternatives to incarceration? YES NO
- Should alternatives be used for individuals who can be safely managed in the community? YES NO
- Should an effort be made to find alternatives to incarceration for persons with mental illness who have committed crimes? YES NO
- Should the League support ending incarceration of juveniles in adult facilities? YES NO
3. Should the State of Michigan pay all the costs of an indigent person's defense? YES NO
4. Should individuals sentenced to prison forfeit any of the following rights as citizens?
- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Right to Vote | YES | NO |
| Access to the Courts | YES | NO |
| Access to FOIA | YES | NO |
| Protection of Michigan Civil Rights Act | YES | NO |
5. How important is each of the following forms of oversight?
- | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| Ombudsman | Important | Not Important |
| Media access to prisons | Important | Not Important |
| Policies that encourage visitation | Important | Not Important |
| Careful oversight of privatized services | | |
| penalties for nonperformance | Important | Not Important |
6. Which of the following should be responsibilities of the prison system?
- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Humane conditions | YES | NO |
| Mental health care at community standards | YES | NO |
| Health care at community standards | YES | NO |
| Timely rehabilitative programming | YES | NO |
| Assistance with transitioning to freedom | YES | NO |
7. Which of the following are to be expected of the parole board?
- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Objective rationale for holding someone past his or her minimum date | YES | NO |
| Ensuring that all individuals are released early enough to provide some transitional supervision | YES | NO |

The League of Women Voters: A history of change, a future of hope.

Next Meeting: January 30, 2010

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 _____

Open to any citizen over the age of 18.
My check of \$55 is enclosed.
Make check payable to LWV of Northwest Wayne County
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151