



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

April, 2010  
Volume XLVIII, No. 4

## Coming Up:



Thursday, April 8  
7:00-8:00 pm  
Livonia City Hall

Livonia School Board Forum

Wednesday, April 21  
9:45-4:00 pm  
Lansing

Voting and Elections Training and Action Day. So far, 3 members from our League will be travelling to Lansing to participate in this LWVMI event. We still have room in the car! If you'd like to join us, contact Paula Bowman

Thursday, April 22  
7:00 pm  
Livonia City Hall

City of Livonia's 36th annual Volunteer Day Celebration. The League is one of three organizations being honored. Members should call 734-466-2540 to RSVP (See article below)

Saturday, May 22

50th Anniversary Luncheon. Invitation is attached.

Saturday, June 6

Used Book Sale at Greenmead's Historical Museum

June 11-14

LWVUS National Convention in Atlanta

Saturday, June 19

Annual meeting: Pot-luck lunch at Charlene Krygier's. Details will be in the May Voter.

**LIVONIA'S VOLUNTEER DAY CELEBRATION:** The League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County is one of three community organizations being honored this year by the City. The event will take place on Thursday evening, April 22 at the Livonia City Hall Auditorium starting at 7:00 pm. A short video of the League's work will be part of the program, and it will include interviews with 3 League members previously recorded. The guest speaker at the event will be Heather Johnson, Volunteer Administrator of the American Red Cross. Light refreshments will be served following the program.

All League members (whether you live in Livonia or not) are urged to attend this events, since YOU are the honorees. **Please RSVP to the Community Resources Department by April 12th by calling 734-466-2540.** Spouses/significant others are invited to attend as well. We hope to have a large contingent of League members and their families to accept the honor bestowed on us by the City of Livonia.

LWV NWW Board of Directors  
2009-10:

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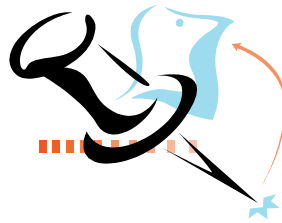
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.



## *President's Message*

We have a lot going on in the next few months, especially concerning our 50th anniversary luncheon on May 22nd. We are inviting many friends of the League, past members and elected officials. The event is open to the public so feel free to bring a guest. Most of all, we want to see **you** there!

Though we hope that the May 22nd luncheon is a delightful affair, it will not include the routine business that must be accomplished each year by each League across the nation. This year, Vice President Charlene Krygier has graciously offered her home for a pot-luck luncheon for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 19th. Our May Voter will include pot luck suggestions and RSVP information.

One of the things we'll do at our annual meeting is elect a new board to serve the League next year. This June, the following positions are open:

First Vice President/Voter Service  
Secretary  
Directors

If you are able to help our League move forward by serving on the board, please contact a member of our Nominating Committee: Joan Gebhardt at 734-522-0552 or Susan Rowe at 734-595-8564.

If you feel that any of our local League's bylaws are outdated or need correcting, now is the time to propose a change so that it can be voted on at the June 19th Meeting. Please contact me if you want to discuss a change and I can walk you through the process.

We are grateful to those of you who have sent in memorial contributions in honor of Jimmy Katz. One of her wishes was to have contributions sent to our local League, but because Jimmy served as the LWVMI Voter Editor in the 1980s, our board of directors has made a modest contribution to LWVMI.

I hope to see all of you on April 22nd, May 22nd and June 19th!

*Paula Bowman*

## PUBLIC DEFENSE: CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

The Michigan Campaign for Justice is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals fighting for a fair and effective public defense system in Michigan. On March 25th, the Deputy Director, Stephanie Chang, and coalition member, Attorney Loren Khogali, attended our membership meeting to discuss why Michigan's public defense system is one of the worst in the country. In 2002, the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Michigan adopted Eleven Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System. The state legislature commissioned a study by a team of national experts, who found that Michigan is an abject failure when measured against the eleven principals, to wit:

- ♣ failing the accused by denying the constitutional right to the effective assistance of an attorney
- ♣ failing our communities by causing innocent people to be wrongfully accused and allowing the real perpetrators to remain free.
- ♣ failing the taxpayer by requiring counties (rather than the state) to fund the public defense system, and, as a result of inappropriate sentences and wrongful convictions, costing millions in unnecessary appeals, lawsuits and sky rocketing prison costs.

The Campaign for Justice is supporting House Bill 5676 which would create the Michigan Public Defense Act. There are two overarching reform goals: a system that meets and enforces minimum American Bar Association and State Bar of Michigan principals for public defense delivery systems, and a system that has adequate state funding.

If you would like to learn more about HB 5676 or the Michigan Campaign for Justice, please visit their website at [www.mijustice.org](http://www.mijustice.org). You may also sign up as a member of the Campaign and receive occasional emailed progress reports.



## NEWS BITS:

Scholarship: Do you know of a student from our service area who is in her/his 3rd or 4th year of a Michigan college or university? Is the student majoring in political science or public policy? If so, please direct them to our website so that they can apply for our League's \$1,500 scholarship that we hope to award at our May 22nd anniversary luncheon. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 17th.

On the Road. Our 50th anniversary display boards are at the Plymouth Library until April 10th, and then will be shipped to the Canton Library until early May. They'll appear at our May 22nd luncheon before finding their way to their 4th library.

Book Sale: Plans are now in place for our used book sale to be held on June 6th at the Annual Flea Market at the Greenmead Historical Museum in Livonia. This book sale will be a scaled down version of our normal 3 day event, so both our budget and the prep time required for the sale are reduced. Book sale chair Lena Packer will provide more details about the event in our May *Voter*. In the meantime, if you have 6-8' tables or a portable canopy that we can use on sale day, please contact Lena at [pengldy1@wowway.com](mailto:pengldy1@wowway.com) or 734-420-4439.

Parade: Though we had interest from a number of you to march in Plymouth's 4th of July parade this year as part of our 50th anniversary celebration, the cost and the relatively small number of participants have caused the Board to withdraw from this event.

Voter Guides: The Voter Guides for the Livonia School Board election on May 4th are now posted on our website. In addition, print copies are available at all 3 Livonia libraries.



## *Come celebrate with us!*

You are invited to join  
**the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County**  
as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Serving the communities of Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Garden City, Wayne, Westland, and Redford, the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County has been informing voters for 50 years, encouraging citizen participation in government and working to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

**Join us for Lunch on May 22, 2010, 11:30 am—2:00 pm**  
**Western Golf & Country Club, 14600 Kinloch, Redford, MI 48239**

*Featuring a performance by The Petticoat Ladies: "Women of Invention"*

**Please return the reservation form below by May 14, 2010.**

Yes! I plan to attend the League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County's 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 22nd. Guests are welcome.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of the League's 50th anniversary.

**Cost: \$30 per ticket.**

Please mail reservation form and check (payable to the League of Women Voters) to :  
Angela Ryan  
15512 Liverpool  
Livonia, MI 48154

For more information, contact the League at 734-421-4420.



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