



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

# VOTER

[www.lwvwww.org](http://www.lwvwww.org)

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

July, 2011  
Volume XLVIX, No. 5

## League Calendar

Tuesday, August 2

**Primary Election Day** (Cities of Livonia, Westland and Garden City)

Sat, Aug. 25  
11:30-2:30  
One-Under Restaurant  
Livonia

**Women's Equality Day Luncheon.** Celebrate the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote! Featured speaker: Sara Fitzgerald, author of "Elly Peterson, Mother of the Moderates." Sponsored by Michigan ERAmerica, AAUW and co-sponsored by numerous womens' groups, including the League of Women Voters. A number of our League's members will be attending this event, so join us! Tickets are \$25 until Aug. 13th, then \$30. Contact Laura Callow at 734-425-3572 for more information.

September 13-15  
Schoolcraft College  
10:00-2:00 daily plus  
4:00-7:00 on 9-15 only

**Voter Registration** at Schoolcraft's annual School Daze Fair for students. We need volunteers! If you can sign up for a shift, please contact Charlene Krygier. You'll be paired up with at least one other League member. No experience necessary for this basic League function.

Sat, Oct. 1  
Noon  
Place: TBD

**Membership Meeting:** Jim Fausone, member of the Detroit Water and Sewage Board of Commissioners. Mr. Fausone will speak to us about recent controversies at the Detroit Water Department.

Sat, Nov. 5  
Noon-3:00 pm  
St. Pauls  
Presbyterian  
Church: 5 Mile and  
Inkster

**Membership Meeting.** Silent Auction! This will be our League's principal fundraiser this year. We are encouraging all the members to not only donate one or more items, but to attend and bring guests. Be creative in your donations, but if you need some ideas, here are a few: card parties or a luncheon at your home, tickets to an event, gift certificates, baked goods, house cleaning service, holiday items, pet sitting, or any other item, service or function you can imagine. This is a FUN event that we hope will bring in some operating funds to the League.



At the annual meeting in June, Joan Gebhardt showed us how the event would work by auctioning off two sets of her own Tiger Baseball tickets. The tickets went quickly and the League earned over \$50 for Joan's generous donation. The Auction Committee will be meeting this summer to finalize plans, so you'll hear more about this event soon. If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Lena Packer.

LWV NWW Board of Directors  
2011-12:

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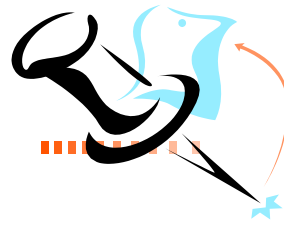
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

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



## President's Message

I'm writing to you today as the new co-president of our League. Paula and I will be working in tandem this year to continue all of the League's good works. Next year, I'll handle the job on my own. I've got some big shoes to fill, but I know that Paula will be a great mentor this year. I hope she'll also be available to help me out if I need it next year!

For those of you who don't know me well, let me tell you a little about myself. I spent most of my life in the Washington, DC area, and through two relocations to Michigan, I've lived here 24 years. I worked for the U. S. Customs Service (now Customs and Border Protection) for 33 years before retiring in 2004 from the position of Port Director in Detroit. I was the first woman in that position, and I managed the staff at the bridge, tunnel, three airports (Metro, City, and Oakland/Pontiac), a foreign mail facility, and a marine operation as well as over 100 employees in the McNamara Building. When the Department of Homeland Security was created, I gave up responsibility for the airports and gained Immigration and Agriculture employees at the bridge and tunnel.

I've been a League supporter for decades, but I didn't get actively involved until I retired, with one memorable exception. In 1995, I marched in Washington, DC with other League members to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Women's Suffrage.

In recent years, I've attended three state conventions, and one national convention representing our League, and I've learned a lot about the League through these sessions. At the most recent state convention, in Traverse City in May, I was pleased that we had four delegates from our League. Between the four of us, we had at least one attendee at each of the workshops and gleaned much information from them. Our very own Paula Bowman won the Leadership in Civic Empowerment Award for her League activities at the local, regional, and state level. The nomination came from the Oakland League with a little help from some of our board members.

I'm excited about the year ahead of us. I hope that the board's decision to schedule our meetings consistently on the first Saturday of the month starting in October will enable more of you to attend. One issue that the League is taking on is redistricting. At present, the League doesn't have an official position on this important matter. As we've seen from this year's redistricting plan, we have the legislators choosing their voters instead of the voters choosing their legislators. There's not much we can do about this cycle, but our efforts now will be beneficial 10 years from now. I know that's a long way off, but we can't afford to ignore this issue until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

**Angela Ryan**

## ANNUAL MEETING DRAWS A BIG CROWD

Charlene Krygier was our host for our annual meeting this year. More than 20 people attended our pot-luck luncheon. We munched on wonderful food and enjoyed each other's company in Charlene's lovely home. The primary purpose of our annual meeting is to make decisions about our local League, and we did just that: elected new officers (see page 2), passed a budget, changed a bylaw, and made decisions about our program for the upcoming year.

We also had lively discussions about topical issues and when we left, we all learned something new. Joan Gebhardt and Natalie Mosher discussed Wayne County Redistricting. Charlene talked about a new format for the upcoming Livonia City Council forum. Lena Packer led an enthusiastic discussion about our upcoming (November 5th) silent auction fundraiser. We're hoping for lots of people - both men and women, League members and non-members - to help us raise funds for the League. This promises to be an enjoyable afternoon.

We are still seeking one or two additional members to fill open director's positions on our board. If you would like to be part of the board's decision making, please contact Angela Ryan or Paula Bowman. We need you!

## VOTER GUIDES ON LINE

In early July, voter guides for the contested City Council races in Livonia and Garden City will be available on our website. Livonia has 13 candidates and Garden City has 10 candidates who will face off in the August 2nd primary. The top 8 vote-getters in both Cities will then advance to the general election in November. Our non-partisan voter guides are a great way to compare the candidates, so please visit our website to assist you in making your election decision.

## HELP WANTED FOR EDUCATION STUDY

At the 2010 LWVUS convention, delegates voted to conduct a study on the federal government's role in public education. The study committee has completed their job, and the consensus questions are now available for local Leagues to discuss and vote on (on the LWVUS website). The timeline is short - responses to the consensus questions must be in by November, 2011.

We are looking for several people to participate in a committee to discuss the consensus questions. Are you interested? If so, please contact Angela Ryan.

## LAURA CALLOW HONORED

On May 14th, League member Laura Callow received the "Headliner Award" at the Women of Wayne's 45th annual Headliner Luncheon. As an alumnus of Wayne State, and for her visibility in the media in the past year - specifically, her induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame - Laura was honored along with other notable recipients for their achievements. Paula Bowman and Roberta Young attended the luncheon and cheered vigorously for Laura!



*Paula Bowman, Honoree Laura Callow, Roberta Young and former Livonia member Jean Federspill at the Women of Wayne Luncheon*

## WAYNE COUNTY REDISTRICTING

Members of our League attended all of the Wayne County redistricting committee meetings. Ann Abdo and Paula Bowman attended several meetings, but Natalie Mosher and Joan Gebhardt were there for every one of them, even when very little notice was given. We appreciate their dedication to this project, which was educational for all of us.

Though our involvement was limited at the meetings, members did speak at two of the meetings on behalf of the League, urging transparency in the process and public involvement. Regrettably, the redistricting process was hasty, expedient and provided little opportunity for public input. The proposed maps discussed by the Redistricting Commission and eventually approved by them were unavailable to the public until right before the vote.

Many thanks to Ann Abdo who authored a great letter about our disappointment at the way County Redistricting was handled. It appeared in the Wayne County Observers on Thursday, June 30th. We are still watching for it to appear in other Detroit area papers this month.

Our League's monitoring of the County redistricting process has enabled us to apply for a pass-through grant via the state League. So not only did we learn a lot about the process, but we earned funds for our League while learning!

## LWVMI CONVENTION 2011

Our Northwest Wayne County League was represented by four delegates at the recent biennial convention in Traverse City. Paula Bowman, Toni Shepherd, Charlene Krygier and Angela Ryan attended plenaries and workshops and brought home new ideas gleaned from other members across the state. We enjoyed a Saturday evening banquet where former Governor William Milliken was presented with the "Making Democracy Work" award. The Governor is as charming and insightful as ever! At the same event, Paula Bowman received the Leadership in Civic Empowerment Award for her work at the local, regional and state League. The delegates spent many hours in meetings, but walked away with new enthusiasm about the League and our determination to work the mission.



NW Wayne County's delegates at the 2011 LWVMI Convention: Paula Bowman, Angela Ryan, Toni Shepard and Charlene Krygier

## LIVONIA CANDIDATES FORUM: JUNE 9TH.

Voter service chair Charlene Krygier, hastily put together a candidates forum for the 13 Livonia City Council candidates running in the August 2nd primary. We were fortunate to line up BrightHouse Networks to film the event and to secure the Livonia City Hall auditorium on one of the few available nights all summer. Eleven of the thirteen candidates attended, and about 75 people were part of the audience. Moderated by Charlene, we included a 'lightening round' of yes and no questions for the candidates, which was an interesting (and quick) way of learning where the candidates stood on some key issues. In addition to Charlene, we thank the League members who assisted with the forum on the 9th: Laura Callow, Ann Abdo, Paula Bowman and Angela Ryan. It was also great to see a number of League members in the audience!



Membership Dues Notice Enclosed!

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