



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

VOTER

www.lwnwww.org

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

September, 2011
Volume XLVIX, No. 6



Fall Calendar

Membership Meetings

Thurs, Sept 29
7:00 pm
Livonia Civic Center
Library

MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Detroit Water Board Commissioner, Mr. James Fausone, will speak to us about the new governing structure of the Detroit Water Board and the continuing challenges of providing clean water at a reasonable price. The public is invited to attend.

Sat, Oct. 1

Meeting previously scheduled has been cancelled

Saturday, October 15
12:00-2:00 pm
Buschs' Grocery Store
37083 6 Mile Rd, Livonia
(just east of Newburgh)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Bring your lunch or buy lunch (from the buffet or the deli) and join us in the upstairs lunchroom. Elevator access is available. Look for a League person near the cashiers who will give you directions. Updates about League activities will be the focus of this meeting.

Sat, Nov. 5
12:00-3:00 pm
St. Pauls Presbyterian
Church: 5 Mile and
Inkster

MEMBERSHIP MEETING. League Auction!
Invite your friends and family! (Come to the October 15th meeting to learn more details about the auction.

*See Page 3 for more calendar items:
Voter Service and Special Events!*



LWV NWW Board of Directors
2011-12:

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cruiserryan@ameritech.net

Paula Bowman
paulabowman9000@gmail.com

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Lena Packer

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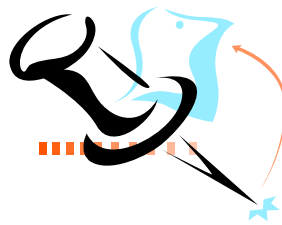
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

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



President's Message

As summer comes to an end, we are ready to go into high gear with our League activities. As you'll see from this newsletter, we have a lot on our plate in the coming months.

Despite our best efforts to keep our meetings to the first Saturday of the month, we had to cancel the October 1 meeting. Jim Fausone, our speaker for that meeting, had forgotten about a previous commitment that he had for that date, so we have rescheduled his presentation to a meeting on September 29th.

I recently learned that Busch's Grocery Store at 6 Mile and Newburgh has a meeting room that is available free of charge for the use of community groups. It's a good location for our membership meeting on October 15. See the calendar on page 1 for details.

At the October 15 meeting we'll be discussing the upcoming auction. The fundraising committee has worked tirelessly to find a location to have a book sale this year, but there's just nowhere available. There's a possibility that Westland will have the Borders location available some time in the future. In the meantime, the committee is organizing the auction as a fundraiser. Many of the League members are also members of the Livonia American Association of University Women (AAUW), a group which has hosted an auction for several years. The AAUW auctioneer has agreed to handle our auction at no charge. You will soon get a call from a committee member asking what you are willing to donate to the auction. I hope everyone will participate, either by donating something (it can be a good or a service) and/or by attending the auction.

Charlene Krygier and I are working with other League members from around the state to develop a redistricting position for the state League. Our first meeting is scheduled for September 13, so we'll provide an update on this project at the October meeting. There will also be an update on the education study that's being conducted nationally, with local input. To hear more about all of these topics, be sure to attend the October 15 meeting, which will start at noon.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one or more of the exciting events and activities we have scheduled in the next couple of months.

Angela Ryan

FALL CALENDAR: Continued from Page 1

Voter Service Candidate Forums and Activities

Sept. 13 - 15
Tues-Thurs.

VOTER REGISTRATION at Schoolcraft College's School Daze Fair. This is a fun event and no experience is necessary (brief training is available). Shift times for Voter Registration are 10:00-2:00 daily plus 4:00-7:00 on 9-14 only. Contact Charlene Krygier if you can help.

Thursday, Sept. 15
7:00-8:30
Livonia City Hall

CANDIDATES FORUM: Livonia Mayor and City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 21
7:00-8:45
Wayne Public Library

CANDIDATES FORUM: City of Wayne Mayor and City Council. *Member help needed!*. Contact Paula Bowman if you can help at this forum.

Monday, Oct. 3
7:00-9:00
Cherry Hill Village
Theatre, Canton

CANDIDATES FORUM: Plymouth-Canton School Board. *Member help needed.* Contact Paula Bowman if you can help at this forum.

*Help
needed
at these
two
Forums!*

Thursday, Oct, 13
7:00-8:30
Livonia City Hall

CANDIDATES FORUM: Livonia School Board

Special Events

Wednesday, Oct. 5
7:30 pm
Lena Packer's home

STUDY COMMITTEE meets (Federal Government's Role in Public Education). If you would like to attend, contact Lena Packer or Paula Bowman who can direct you to the study materials.

Thursday, October 6
7:00
Livonia City Hall

Member Laura Callow is inducted into the **LIVONIA HALL OF FAME**. The public is welcome (no charge), so we're hoping to fill a cheering section for Laura!



Wednesday, October 12
9:00-4:00pm
Lansing

TAKE ACTION FOR CONVENIENT VOTING DAY (see article on Page 4)

Saturday, November 19
Livonia Civic Center Library

SE MICHIGAN REGIONAL MEETING for League board members

TAKE ACTION FOR CONVENIENT VOTING DAY

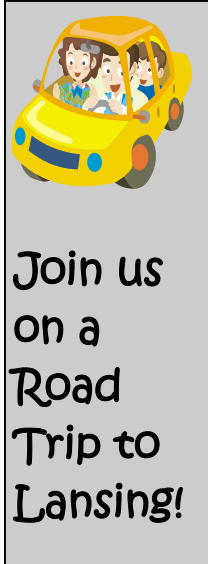
On Wednesday, October 12, 2011, LWVMI's Michigan Voter Power is sponsoring Take Action for Convenient Voting, a day devoted to honing our advocacy skills and discussing policy reform priorities, with a focus on "no reason absentee voting". The event will take place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lansing from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

League members will :

- Listen to a briefing on the status of voting reform issues from the MI Association of Municipal Clerks.
- Get an inside view on how to influence policy, provided by government relations expert Jean Doss.
- Receive advocacy training and practice, facilitated by Tim O'Brien, LWVUS Project Specialist.
- Enjoy lunch and networking with fellow advocates.
- Participate in meetings with legislators to discuss voting reform issues (afternoon).

We already have a group from the NW Wayne County League who are attending , but we'd like others to join us. Let Angela Ryan know if you can attend, and you also must pre-register with the LWVMI state office.

You can visit the lwvmi.org website to register, or if you're reading this on-line, you can click on this link: <http://fs16.formsite.com/lwvmi/ActionDay/index.html>>



OCTOBER 1: VOTER GUIDES ON LINE

Election day on November 8th includes many local races. In addition to the multiple candidate forums that we are holding within the next two months, the NW Wayne County League is also preparing voter guides that will be available on our website on October 1. The following races will be covered:

City Councils and Mayor: Livonia, Westland, Wayne, Plymouth and Northville
School Boards: Livonia, Plymouth-Canton and Clarenceville

The League continues to be one of the best sources of non-partisan election information; please encourage your family and neighbors to attend a forum and review the Voter Guides on our website so that they can make educated decisions on election day.

GENTLE REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE

We are grateful to all of you who have submitted dues checks already, and especially to those who have included contributions with their dues.

The dues of \$55 that each member pays goes to support the state and national LWV offices, and a small portion remains with the Northwest Wayne County League. We depend on, and always welcome donations to the League at dues time to cut down on our need for fundraising.

Your dues and contributions help support our grassroots efforts to educate the electorate with (increasingly rare) non-partisan information and to safeguard democracy. If you have not paid your dues yet, please know that we need you! Your check can be sent to the League in care of our treasurer:

Toni Shepherd
6484 Curtis
Plymouth, MI 48170

FALL AUCTION

by: Lena Packer

Our auction is coming soon! This will be our big fundraiser of the year. It is a new event for us, and we are really excited about it! It will be held on Saturday, November 5 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at 27475 Five Mile Rd. in Livonia. The auction will run from 12-3 pm.

We are asking all members to help in this fundraiser. We will need items to be auctioned off. Some suggestions are: tickets to concerts or sporting events, guided tours, homemade jams or candy, craft items homemade or purchased, home card parties or spa parties, luncheons, baskets of items, or holiday items. Please let your imagination go to work! Be creative. If you are unable to donate an item, maybe you could contribute money to help pay the room fee or donate some refreshments.

To help make this event a success, we would like to have at least 30 items to auction off. Also, we are asking each member to try to bring 2-3 guests to join us in this fun-filled activity.

Starting in September, committee members will be contacting league members to find out what they would like to donate or how they would like to help to make this fundraiser a success.

Please attend the October 15th luncheon meeting to learn more about the auction.

If you have any questions, please contact Lena Packer at 734-420-4439 or email her at pengldy1@wowway.com.



LEAGUE'S NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY

Our local League's non-partisanship policy was confirmed at a board meeting on August 2nd. As we gear up for another election, we are reminding our members of key parts of the policy:

The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. However, it shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Recognize that the League experience uniquely equips members for public life and wishing to encourage members to utilize their knowledge and abilities, non-board members are urged to participate fully in political activities (on an individual basis). Board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan position.

The president, the voter service director and any other board member whose position is deemed sensitive shall not run for or hold elective office. If a board member declares for an elective office, the member should resign from the board.

Board members shall not undertake any action under the auspices of the League that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party. The president, voter service director and holder of any other board position deemed sensitive shall not participate in any political campaign in any way. Other board members shall not chair or administer fundraising or political campaigns, chair campaign events, or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate.

A board member may not speak or in any way work against a League position.

If you would like a complete copy of our Non-Partisanship Policy, please contact Paula Bowman.

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