

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

Established in Livonia in 1960
www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org

Voter

November 2019

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

Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting

Sat., Nov. 16
10 am –12:30 pm

Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Rd. (N. of Ford Rd.)

Census Meeting

Mon. Nov. 18
7 pm - 8:45pm

Westland Public Library, 6123 Central City Pkwy 48185
(N. of Newberry Estates Dr.)

Holiday Party

Sun., Dec. 15
3 pm - 5 pm

Deanna Master's home in Northville
(A detailed flyer will be sent later)

**For the most current news about the League go to
www.lwvnorthwestwayne.org**

or

<http://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersofNorthwestWayneCounty>

*Welcome to our New
Members - - - -*

Dan Packer , Livonia; Judy Westra, Plymouth, and Ann McCarthy, Canton

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2018--2021

PRESIDENT

Paula Bowman
paulabowman9000@gmail.com

VP VOTER SERVICE

Carrie Moon-Dupree

VP DEVELOPMENT

Angela Ryan

SECRETARY

Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER

Laurie Kelly

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Carin Meyer
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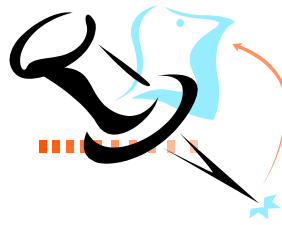
WV of NW Wayne County

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Web:
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 organization
that encourages informed and ac-
tive participation in government,
works to increase understanding of
major public policy issues, and
influence public policy through edu-
cation and advocacy.



President's Message

2019 city elections are now behind us and it's time to start planning in earnest for a busy 2020. A presidential election, the League's 100th birthday, the anniversary of women's suffrage, our own League's 60th birthday, the census and brand new voting rights in Michigan – wow! We're ready: we have a solid voter service team, a committee in place to work on our anniversaries, and thanks to the state League, we have excellent presentations available on the Census, Voting Rights and Redistricting.

Please note our membership meeting on Saturday, November 16 at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton at 10:00 am. Two days later, on November 18, we have our first Census meeting at the Westland Library at 7:00. pm Come and learn the How, What, Why and When of next year's Census. All League members should be ambassadors for Census promotion – come and learn the scoop so you can speak knowledgeably. We will also talk about the Redistricting Commission at this meeting.

A second meeting on the Census and Voting Rights is in the planning stages now for February. We will let you know the details when they're available.

Deanna Master has graciously volunteered to host our League's holiday party on Sunday, December 15, from 3:00 to 5:00 at her home in Northville. Mark your calendar for this fun, social event – spouses and significant others are invited too. A flyer will come out with more details.

If you know of a group that would like to hear any of the League's presentations about the census, the new voting rights or the redistricting commission, please contact me. We are especially eager to reach groups that have been under-counted in the past: minorities, renters and families with young children (so we need to reach their parents). Let's work together to make a difference.

Later in this Voter you'll see a recap of our successful 2019 Auction. The funds we earn from this event help us to continue our work of providing non-partisan information to our area voters. Voter Guides, equipment, video services, room rentals, convention costs, website fees, a phone line—these are some of the expenses we incur each year. Your donations and purchases at the auction allow us to breathe a little easier when it comes to paying the bills. Thank you to everyone who participated, and especially to Angela Ryan for her leadership.

I hope to see many of you at our membership meeting on Saturday, the 16th.

Paula Bowman

Auction Events Still Available

by Angela Ryan

There are three events that were offered at the Auction for which seats are still available. All of these events are open to non-League members, so invite family and friends to join you.

First, there will be a **Euchre party** at Paula Bowman's house in Plymouth. It will be sometime in January or February, and lunch will be provided. There are 3 spots available at \$25 each. If interested, email Paula at paulabowman9000@gmail.com.

Second is a showing of the **documentary**, *Uncle Jessie White - Portrait of a delta bluesman in Detroit*. The documentary took over 20 years to complete and has been shown at film festivals in 8 countries. The documentary is 60 minutes long with a discussion to follow. 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 8 slots available. If interested, email Anne Marie at agrahamhudak@hotmail.com.

For either of these events, once you get confirmation that there is a slot available please send your check, made out to LWV NW Wayne, to League Treasurer Laurie Kelly, 7554 Trophy Court, Grass Lake, MI, 49240.

The third event is the **Bizarre Detroit Tour** on May 16, 2020, from 5-9 p.m. The tour bus will leave from Ford Field in Livonia at 5 p.m. The cost is \$70 including dinner at the Polish Village Café. For further details about the tour or to sign up, contact Sue Wabeke at 734-459-0016 or bunkierose769@gmail.com. In this case, checks are to be sent to Sue at 11397 Parkview, Plymouth, MI, 48170.

2020 - A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES

by Paula Bowman

What a big year 2020 will be! We'll celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, the 100th birthday of LWVUS, and locally, the 60th birthday of the LWV of Northwest Wayne County. These three milestones cry out for a committee! Board members Carrie Moon-Dupree, Val Nelson and Donna Gilkey-Lavin have agreed to chair a committee that will plan ways we can commemorate these events, especially at our annual meeting when we'll celebrate our own birthday. We are looking for other volunteers to participate in the planning process- **can you help?** If you want to join this fun committee, please contact any of the 3 chairs. Thanks!



Dues Reminder

by Laurie Kelly

We know you all want to be part of the League's historic year in 2020 – and we NEED you too! Your continued support is necessary for us to continue our mission, and we're sure you want to be part of the excitement next year. We've been working on dues collection for fiscal year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 since our annual meeting in June. If you have not paid your dues (\$60 individual, \$25 for 2nd person in a household and \$5 for students), please renew on-line through our website, or send a check to me at 7554 Trophy Ct., Grass Lake, 49240. We are bumping up against the deadline to eliminate non-payers from the membership rolls. If you're unsure about whether you've paid or not, please send me an email at lauriekkelly@gmail.com. Thanks!

THREE FORUMS- LOTS OF HELP!

By Carrie Moon-Dupree

Our League successfully staged three candidate forums this fall. On September 17th a forum was held for Northville City Council and Mayor; September 23rd a forum was held for Westland City Council, and on October 2nd a forum was held for Belleville City Council.

These valuable educational services could not have been put on without the dedication of loyal League members. We thank the following members for their participation in one or more of these events: Paula Bowman, Val Nelson, Deanna Master, Angela Ryan, Kathy Mchahwar, Lena Packer, Linda Curry, Carin Meyer, Maureen Hughes, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Laura Callow, Earlene Fisher, Lori Gilbo, Marjorie Lynn, Jewel Butler, Dian Slavens, Anne Marie Graham Hudak, Roberta Young and Susan Rowe.

VOTER REGISTRATION

by Lena Packer

On September 18 and 19 our League participated in Schoolcraft's School Daze event. We registered 45 new voters from 19 communities. I would like to thank the following members who helped make our drive so successful: Lori Gilbo, Nancy Williams, Roberta Young, Joan Gebhardt, Rachel Rion, Jackie Peters, and Valerie Nelson.

Our League is also involved in another voter registration activity in downtown Detroit. Last spring our League joined Fems for Change and others in registering new citizens as new voters. Since March the following members have helped 821 new citizens become registered voters: Lisa Asquini, Maureen Hughes, Valerie Nelson, Mary Visos, Elizabeth Downs, and Angela Ryan. Thank you! If you would like to participate in this continuing activity, please contact Angela Ryan at cruiserryan@ameritech.net.

Board Approves New Policy

by Paula Bowman

Our Board of Directors adopted this Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy at their meeting on October 23:

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

This policy was adopted earlier this year by LWVUS and LWVMI, because all three levels of the League, in both its values and practices, affirm the belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making, and subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds. Inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs,

and therefore, our League will, in both principle and practice, promote the inclusion of all interested parties in any League activity in accordance with this new DEI policy.



VOTE411 - LOCAL SUCCESS

by Paula Bowman

Of the seven cities in our service area, six had elections, and four of those cities had contested city council and/or mayoral races. Megan Chenoweth sent questionnaires to ALL of the candidates, even those that were running without a challenger. For the contested races, she had a remarkable 90% success rate in getting candidates to respond to questions. We believe this is because candidates realize the impact of VOTE411 and the corresponding print voter guides. VOTE411 has become the most trusted source of non-partisan election information, and on-line viewership grows with every election. For those without computer access, 1,250 print voter guides were provided to the libraries of the cities with contested elections: Livonia, Belleville, Northville and Westland. Thank you to Megan for all her work on VOTE411, and to Carin Meyer and Jackie Peters for preparing the print voter guides. We also appreciate the delivery help provided by Marjorie Lynn, Nancy White and Maureen Hughes. This joint effort surely helped more voters make thoughtful election decisions.

2019 Fundraiser a Huge Success

by Angela Ryan

On October 19 we held our annual fundraising auction. Each year, the auction gets bigger and better than the year before. This year, we had 42 attendees, including 18 guests. Thanks to the members who donated items, were Auction Angels, or solicited donations from businesses, we raised over \$4,000 with more donations to come from upcoming events.

As always, the success of the auction depends on the efforts of many people. A big thanks goes out to our auctioneer, Charlie Mahoney, who kept the crowd engaged and entertained. Paula Bowman and Lori Gilbo did a fantastic job in presenting items as bids were coming in. Linda Priest and Sue Wabeke were great at checking everyone in as they arrived.

We had a wonderful array of food. Kathy Mchahwar took the lead in preparing wonderful treats and coordinating the contributions of Ann Abdoo, Earlene Fisher, Mary Visos, and Lynda Franklin, who was literally lying on her living room floor dealing with back problems when I stopped by to pick up the cookies and brownies she'd prepared. We had cider as a bonus beverage from Greenmead thanks to it being left over from an event earlier that week.

There were many people who helped with the set up for the auction, including Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Lena Packer, Mary Visos, Susan Rowe, and Sue Wabeke. Others who arrived early pitched in as well. These same people helped with the cleanup of the room. Laurie Kelly, Lena Packer, and Maureen Hughes staffed the checkout table and did a masterful job of keeping track of who got the winning bid and what events they signed up for.

We added a few new business donors this year to bring our total to 24. Roberta Young, Joan Gebhardt, Rachel Rion, Susan Rowe, and Judy Patrick worked with me to canvas these businesses. Since many of the businesses have donated in the past, our job is easier when we visit them.

Please consider patronizing these businesses as thanks for them supporting the League. They are:

MERRI-CRAFT FLORIST
PHOENIX THEATRES
TRADER JOE'S

ROCKY'S OF NORTHVILLE
GEORGE'S SENATE CONEY ISLAND
RESTAURANT
BOOKS CONNECTION
ONE UNDER CRAFT BEER & EATS

THE HONEY BAKED HAM COMANY
FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR

GOLDEN GIFTS JEWELERS
SHEESH MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

SORELLA'S CUSTOM CAKES
FRENCH TOAST BISTRO

EXERCISE COACH
SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

FASHION NAILS
DETROIT HAM & CORNED BEEF
ORIN JEWELERS

RED LOBSTER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
ANNIE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
HELIUM STUDIO

AFFORDABLE MASSAGE
CENTERED BODYWORK
GREENMEAD HISTORICAL PARK

Special thanks to Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki. Not only did she provide us with tickets to two Tigers games but she also agreed to host a Meet a Commissioner event some time in 2020.

This year's flyer was designed by Paula Bowman. Publicity was handled by Jackie Peters. She contacted local print and online newspapers, and she put out the suggestion that members put copies of the flyer in public libraries and other public places. Jackie put some at the Plymouth Library and Colleen Mills left them at the Livonia Senior Center and Bennett Library. At least 2 of the guests came because of seeing the flyer. Thanks to Jackie, Colleen, and any other members who acted on this suggestion.

In addition to the many business donations that we got, our members delivered a wonderful array of items on which we could bid and/or they were Auction Angels. A big thank you to Marjorie Lynn, Paula Bowman, Laurie Kelly, Earlene Fisher, Sue Wabeke, Roberta Young, Colleen Mills, Kathy Mchahwar, Rachel Rion, Rosemary Doyle, Lena Packer, Ann Abdoo, Laura Callow, Jackie Peters, Mary Ann McAllister, Nancy Williams, Lori Gilbo, Gordon Bowman, Linda Priest, Nancy White, Deanna Master, Linda Curry, Claude Curry, Barbara Zysk-Berman, Douglas Berman, Pat Tavidian, Toni Shepherd, and two non-members, Pat Williams and Dave Schultz, for their donations.

Thanks to anyone I may have missed, as well as to all those I've named. The auction would not have been a success without the contributions of one and all.

Next year's auction has been scheduled for October 3. It's not too early to think about how you can participate. I guarantee you'll have a great time, whatever you can do.