

# Voter

**November & December, 2022**

Serving the people of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville City and Township, Plymouth City and Township, Redford Township, Sumpter Township, Belleville, Van Buren Township, Wayne, and Westland, Michigan

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## League Calendar

**LWVNWW County Holiday Party**  
**December 11, 2-4 p.m.**  
**RSVP by December 9!**

Lois Baughman at [loisbaughman1960@gmail.com](mailto:loisbaughman1960@gmail.com)

### **Other Important Due Dates:**

Outstanding Dues: December 30, 2022

League Event Jan. 28 at Karma: RSVP before Jan. 2, 2023  
(see Events article)

Check out the [League's Calendar Page](#) for up-to-date information on events.

<https://my.lwv.org/michigan/northwest-wayne-county/calendar>

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## President's Perspective

By Carrie Moon-Dupree



Downright giddy, that's exactly how I felt the morning after the election. I couldn't believe my eyes as I read the returns; all three ballot proposal passed. Not trusting anything to chance, I checked several sources, and yes, they all confirmed that the people of Michigan saw the wisdom in three constitutional amendments that protect our voting rights, our reproductive rights and improve transparency in our elections.

As you know, the League of Women Voters MI supported all three ballot proposals and worked hard to educate voters on what was on the ballot. Through

the League's advocacy and hard work, the voters understood what was at stake and responded to the call to defend democracy.

A heartfelt thank you to all our members who contributed in any way to this

positive outcome. Whether you worked on the Promote the Vote 2022 petition drive, signed a petition, spoke in a public setting or spoke to someone one on one, you made a difference. If you encouraged a young adult to get out of bed and vote, you made a difference. Those of you who did candidate forums, voter guides, Vote 411, observed the ballot counting, you made a difference. Poll workers, you upheld democracy under sometimes trying conditions, thank you. Even if the only thing you did was to vote, you still made a difference.

At last it felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. If you are like me, I have been dispirited since the 2016 election. In fact, that is why I joined the League. Democracy was not going down without a fight if I had anything to say about it. Whew, I can breathe easier for the next few days. Yup, you heard me right; the next few days. It is never really over. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels and avoid paying attention to what is happening in our state. Enjoy your holidays, keep smiling and know you had the power all along to effect change. Thank you for a job well done.

Carrie Moon-Dupree, President [moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net)

(photo: Susan B. Anthony's gravestone in Rochester, NY will be covered in stickers after Election Day)

## Voter Services

by Valerie Nelson

It was a busy election season. We conducted a candidate forum for State Senate District 5 on Zoom and our first "Meet Your Candidates" sessions for Wayne Westland school board. Thank you, Ann Abdoo for producing the state senate forum and Susan Rowe for moderating. Meet Your Candidates is a new format that allows for each candidate to be recorded at a time that works for them. We found this format to be a good option especially for races where there are too many candidates to find a time when all can attend a forum. Thank you, Linette Popoff Parks and Laura Mack for conducting these sessions.

Print voter guides were made available this election. Thanks to Toni Jones, Gwen Hooks, and James Moon-Dupree who put together the voter guides for each of our eight regions. This was an especially big job this year because redistricting changed all the districts associated with our communities. The guides were then printed, assembled and distributed to all area libraries.

Several of you participated in assembling and delivering our print voter guides - Thanks to all of you!

As always, Vote411 was available online with complete voter information for all of the races. This year required additional time to track down candidate contact information in order to invite them to participate. Thank you, Megan Chenoweth for the great work behind [vote411.org](http://vote411.org).

### Membership Update Our Work Continues

By Maureen Hughes

With the election behind us, we can reflect on the significance of the mid-term elections. As a member of the League, you contributed to maintaining our democratic process and the constitution. Whether you

### DEI Committee Book Club

By Lena Packer

In January, the DEI Committee will be starting a book club to develop a wonderful opportunity to meet more League members while reading about and discussing various issues related to diversity, equity, and

worked at the polls, observed the count, participated in candidate forums, collected signatures for League sponsored proposals or simply paid your dues, you are part of the success.

If you haven't had a chance to pay your dues yet, please make your payment no later than **Friday,**

**December 30<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are one of the 17 members who have yet to make your dues payment, we look forward to seeing your check or Paypal payment for \$60 primary, \$30 second in household or \$5 per student.

As always, if you are in need of financial assistance, please contact me at 734-620-5715. We value your membership and look forward to speaking with you.

[mhughes616@yahoo.com](mailto:mhughes616@yahoo.com)

inclusion. A book club provides an opportunity to socialize while sharing thoughts and ideas about current issues. We invite all you to consider joining our book club. If you are interested or have any questions about this, or if you are interested in joining the DEI Committee, please contact Lena Packer at [lena.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lana.packer@yahoo.com).

See Laura Baughman's Book Report at the end of the newsletter.

Here is a link to our developing book list:

[DEI Reading List link](#)

## Observer Corps Update

By Lena Packer

The Observer Corps observes meetings of local government entities to watch for good governance and open transparency to the public. The following is a recent report from **Laura Jannika** who observed the Livonia City Council in October:

"The Livonia City Council has been heated lately. The Non-Discrimination Ordinance has garnered a meeting date along with pondering a place to fly the Gay Pride flag from city buildings during pride month in June. The council agreed to talk about the pride flag, but they just don't want it flying behind the Livonia City Hall. They also have two versions of a Non-Discrimination Ordinance to consider.

Also, one member of the council spoke for 6 minutes about his opposition to Proposal 3, which was followed by people standing up and speaking on both sides. Two weeks later many people came to again support his position, and he reiterated his opposition to Prop 3 for another 6 minutes. There has been much more participation by people with views on both sides of these issues. It is nice to see more people coming to the council meetings. Attendance has gone from an average of 5 or 10 to over 45 at the meetings, sometimes 55 people staying the whole time.

The meetings are civil, and there is a police officer outside the room at all times to make sure of that."

As you can see, it is important for us to be present at these meetings to watch these proceedings. If you are interested in observing your city council, your board of trustees, your school board, or another governing body, please contact Lena Packer at [lana.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lana.packer@yahoo.com) or call 734-634-1728.

## **The League's Fundraiser Comes Back with a Bang!**

**By Angela Ryan**



We held our first fundraising auction in three years on November 12, and it was a great success. We had 41 attendees with 13 of them being guests. In 2019, we had 42 attendees with 18 guests. This year, most of the guests were invited by members.

Linda Curry handled the publicity, and we attracted guests through flyers in one of the five libraries where Linda left them and through a notice in a Livonia online newsletter written by Bill Joyner. Linda also left flyers at the Livonia and Canton Senior Centers and invited members from the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights League as well as the Livonia Democratic Club.

We grossed over \$3,000 thanks to business donations, member-donated items, and Auction Angels. Our expenses, including the room rental, totaled just \$338. With donations still coming from two scheduled events, we expect to net over \$2,800.

It takes many people to make the auction a success, and members stepped up in many ways. Donna Gilkey-Lavin chaired the Set-up and Clean-up Committee and got much assistance from Manny Lavin, Maureen Hughes, Lena Packer, and Laura Jannika in displaying all of the auction items. Laura and Lena Packer served double duty by working with Marjorie Lynn to carry auction items around the room for attendees to get a better look at them for bidding. All of these members and others helped to make the cleanup go quickly.

Laura Callow took care of signing people in and giving them their bidding plates. Roberta Young and Linda Priest assisted Laura in identifying guests and members who'd invited them. Raffle tickets were given to the guests for door-prize drawings, and members got a thank-you gift for bringing one or more guests.

Linda Priest headed the Refreshments Committee. Along with Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Lois Baughman, Mary Visos, Karlene Steckowski, Paula Bowman, and Linda Curry, the Committee provided a feast of goodies including roll-up sandwiches, meatballs, cheese and crackers, several snack mixes, and coffee and tea.

We received donations from 23 businesses thanks to the efforts of Joan Gebhardt, Roberta Young, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Susan Rowe, Maureen Hughes, Lena Packer, Kathy Faitel, Linda Curry, Jean Norman, Liz Poterala, and Angela Ryan. In many instances, we received enough donations (e.g. multiple gift certificates) from a business to constitute more than one auction item from that business. For many of these volunteers, it was their first time visiting businesses for the auction, and they all were hugely successful. We had a poster at the auction naming all of the businesses who donated. I

hope you'll consider **visiting these businesses** as a thanks for supporting the League. They are:

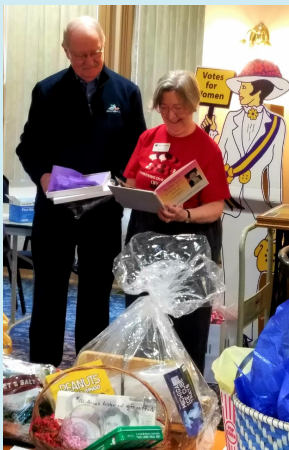
Annie's Restaurant	Black Label Tavern
Books Connection	Detroit Ham & Corned Beef Co.
Fashion Nails	Trader Joe's
Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar	
George's Senate Coney Island	Golden Gifts Jewelers
Greenmead Historical Park	Helium Studio
Karma Café	Joe's Produce
Mary Jane Radloff, Scentsy Director	Merri-Craft Florist
One Under Craft Beers and Eats	Orin Jewelers
Phoenix Theatres, Laurel Park	Red Lobster, Westland
Rocky's Restaurant	Schoolcraft College
Sheesh Mediterranean Cuisine	Sorella's Custom Cakes

In addition, Laura Riley, Lena Packer's friend, donated a handmade basket.

This year was the first time we had a separate check-in location for events. While it didn't receive as much attention as we had hoped, Lena Packer did a great job staffing that site. Gayle Groshko and Susan Rowe handled the checkout process for those who had winning bids. Since the vast majority of attendees won at least one bid, the two of them had their hands full and did an excellent job.

We had some members (and one non-member) who made money donations as Auction Angels. They included people who couldn't attend the auction as well as some members who rounded up what they owed at the auction. Many thanks to Paula Bowman, Linda Curry, Earlene Fisher, Rachel Rion, Susan Rowe, Pat Tavidian, Mary Visos, and Chris Zech (a friend of Susan Rowe) for these additions to our fundraising effort.

There were at least 25 members who donated items from themselves and/or businesses, and we are grateful for all of these donations. We can't overlook the efforts of our auctioneer, Charlie Mahoney. As she has done in the past, she injected humor and energy into the offerings, not to mention contributing many free tickets to the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's season of concerts to be auctioned off with other items. Her efforts resulted in increased bidding in many instances.



Some of you know that I got married in October, and I will be moving to Maryland permanently. While I'm remaining on the Board until the end of my term, this event was the last duty I'm likely to perform as the VP, Development. Before the auction started, President Carrie Moon-Dupree invited my new husband, Bill, and me to come to the front of the room. She presented us with a lovely cake, and a book of photos of my many years with the NW Wayne County League. I will eventually join a League in Maryland, but I don't expect my involvement there to be what it has been in this League. I have lots of wonderful memories of my time with many of you, and this book will keep those memories fresh in my mind.

I want to thank everyone who had a part in putting together the book and getting the cake. I understand that is at least Paula Bowman, Maureen Hughes, and Carrie Moon-Dupree. I also want to thank everyone who helped

to make this auction the success that it was, even if you think your contribution was a small one. Many of the people I mentioned in this article really stepped up since I was making these arrangements while traveling back and forth to Maryland, and I'm eternally grateful for their assistance.

## The Auction Fun Continues

by Susan Rowe and Angela Ryan

At the League auction, **two events were offered**. There are still slots available for each event, so consider signing up for one or both of them. These events are open to non-League members, too, so invite family and friends to join you.

The first event will be one to take you out of the doldrums of that period from New Year's Day to Valentine's Day. We will be hosting **A Winter Break Lunch at Karma Coffee Shop & Kitchen** on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The meal will consist of four courses plus a beverage. The cost is \$35, \$10 dollars of which goes to the LWV NWW. It will begin at 12:30PM with lunch served at 1:00PM. Karma is located at 35634 Michigan Avenue in Wayne. *This is a prepaid-reservation-only event.* We've held other events at Karma, and they've been well received. Any questions you may have, please contact Susan Rowe at 313-949-8905, or via email at [srowe922@gmail.com](mailto:srowe922@gmail.com) (You must confirm by 1/2/2023).

The second event is the **Newburg Intersection Tour at Greenmead** planned for May 6, 2023. It's a tour of Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia that will include the Newburg Church, School, Bungalow, and A.J. Geer General Store. The cost is \$10, and the tour starts at 10 a.m. There will be the option of going to lunch at a nearby restaurant at the end of the tour at your own expense. Greenmead is Livonia's version of Greenfield Village, and it's a hidden gem of the city. You'll learn a lot of history of the area through this tour. If you are interested in this tour, please contact Angela Ryan at [cruiserryan@ameritech.net](mailto:cruiserryan@ameritech.net) or 734-591-0995.

For either of these events, once you get confirmation that you've been added to the event list, please send your check, made out to LWV NW Wayne, to League Treasurer Susan Rowe, 35415 Elm St., Wayne, MI, 48184. We hope you'll consider joining in these fun opportunities to support the League.

## Getting to Know You

by Carrie Moon-Dupree

On November 19th, the League had a "meet and greet" for new members at my home. It was so nice to put names with faces of new members and enjoy the company of current members. The last two years of pandemic living has shown us that we need to see each other and enjoy the warmth of a smile, discuss interesting ideas and have a good laugh. I am so thankful that at both the Auction on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the "Meet and Greet," I got to see women and men I didn't know I had been missing. Yes, we were able to continue the League's work by Zoom, but

something was missing.



*(photo: New member Lisa Martin, Carrie Moon-Dupree, and long-time member Laura Callow at the Meet and Greet.)*

Lately I've realized that one of the things that has been missing is leadership development. Now before you roll your eyes and move on to the next article, hear me out. Every organization needs leaders, as well as worker bees. We have very talented women and men in our organization. We need to identify their strengths, mentor them if necessary, and help them step up into leadership positions. Now you may think, not me, "I am not a natural born leader." Leaders

come in all shapes and sizes. They are loud and they are quiet. Most of all they are passionate for the groups they are leading. Most leaders are not born that way, but develop into leaders.

Part of identifying potential leaders is knowing the members. When I was approached by the Nominating Committee to be President, the Committee thought of me because I had become involved in the League when I joined and slowly went from ushering at the forums to VP of Voter Service and then on to the Presidency. All along the way I had mentors, especially Paula Bowman and Angela Ryan McWhirter. Even now, I sit down with them to bounce ideas off of them. No one does it alone.

At our last board meeting in November, I suggested to the board that we identify someone in each of our areas to show them what we do and perhaps mentor them for a future position. I will use myself as an example. Eventually, I will not be the President. Whether it is a natural turnover or a sudden life event, it is good to have someone in the pipeline who has a basic understanding of the position and a realistic expectation of what it entails. To that end, I've asked the board members to think of someone who might be a good candidate for their area before we actually need to fill the position.

**As a way to facilitate a chance to meet all of you, I will be scheduling informal meetings at four local coffee shops in our geographical area. Everyone will be invited to come to one and meet each other.** The dates will be in the first part of 2023. In January, look for a Constant Contact invitation listing the various dates, times and places. You may RSVP to any of the coffee hours. Pick the one that works for you, whether it is date wise or location wise, just come. Let's spend some time together and get to know each other.



### **Goodbye and Thanks!**

It is with sadness and joy that we will be saying good-bye to Angela Ryan McWhirter at the end of her term of VP of Development in June. She has gone and gotten married and has moved to Maryland. While she will be with us until the end of June by Zoom, here is a leadership position we will have to fill. Angela has been such a big part of the League's life and a great mentor to me that we will all miss her terribly. If it wasn't for such a happy reason, it would really be a bummer. Good-bye Angela, you will be gone but not forgotten.



## The Importance of the League of Women Voters: A Personal Reflection

By Laura Carter Callow

Recently, I was asked to tell our new members why I joined the League of Women Voters for a Meet and Greet for new members at Carrie's home. In thinking of a response, it occurred to me that so much has changed for women in the last 60 years

that most might not understand my reason for joining. And why I stayed a member.

In 1962, middle-class women were expected to be "Happy Homemakers". They were supposed to love not only their children but to be contented cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing clothes. In those days, we did not have automatic washers or disposable diapers. There was a lot of mind numbing drudgery.

I began my professional career as an elementary art teacher in Detroit, in 1951, but had to take a pregnancy leave when I was expecting my first child who was born in 1953. At that time, the Detroit Board of Education had a ruling that did not allow pregnant teachers to teach past their fourth month.

I had a second son fourteen months later and planned to go back to teaching when he turned two and his brother was three. However, the cost of day care was prohibitive. Care for the two boys would take all but \$10 dollars of my weekly salary.

I will interject here that the need for affordable day care still persists. And we could have had a form of it, even then, because in the early 1970s Leagues across the country supported legislation that would provide day care for welfare mothers, in the belief that if they were able to work, they would ultimately become self-sufficient and not need welfare. This legislation passed both Houses of Congress, but was vetoed by President Nixon in 1971 because he said that Communists have day care. An attempt to override the veto failed. Back to my life, in 1962, a good friend was invited to a League meeting. She called the next morning and was very excited, eager to tell me about this amazing organization of educated women. I can still hear her saying how interesting the meeting was and "No one talked about their children."

In short, I joined the League to get out of the house and to have some stimulating adult conversation.

### **Why I stayed.**

Before attending the first meeting, I considered myself well informed. I read the daily paper, listened to newscasts on the radio, watched them on TV. I also subscribed to "Life" and "Time" magazines. That meeting was eye opening. These women were talking about legislation I had never heard of and I wanted to be informed as they were.

But more important, I agree with the League's goal that our government works best with an informed citizenry. I don't know of any organization that does this better than the League.

First, League members inform themselves with in depth studies on an Issue. For example, the first study I participated in was Public Welfare and its history. I learned that our welfare laws were originally based on the 1597-98 Elizabethan Poor Laws. The study went from there to present-day laws.



After studying an issue, the League develops positions that members will support. When legislation is introduced that agrees with the League's position, we work to enact it. Incidentally, the League's support for day care was based on the Public Welfare Study.

Also, the League educates the public through Voters' Service. Following every State and National election we publish a "They Represent You" pamphlet that helps citizens quickly identify who their particular local, state and national elected officials are.

Prior to elections, we hold Candidate Forums where citizens can see and hear the candidates for elective office and we publish a Voter Guide where candidates answer questions.

At the same time the League is scrupulously non-partisan by inviting candidates of all parties to Candidate Forums and printing their answers, unedited, in our Voters Guides.

In recent years the League's role has expanded to protecting citizens' right to vote. Following is a recent example:

A CNN report by Marshall Cohen, on November 1, 2022, reported that a group called "Clean Elections USA", in Maricopa County, AZ, was monitoring voting drop-boxes. They were openly carrying guns, accusing citizens, who were putting their ballots in the box, of being 'mules' and taking pictures of voter's license plates.

The group was taken to Court. At first, the judge declined to restrain them because he didn't want to infringe on their First Amendment rights.

Four days later, the judge reversed himself saying, the group's "vigilante ballot security efforts" were likely illegal and they "raise serious concerns of voter intimidation."

Between the two rulings the Justice Department had intervened.

The article concluded by saying, "The Justice Department didn't formally take sides, but its filing endorsed some of the legal theories put forth by the group that filed the lawsuit, the League of Women Voters."

After reading the above, online, I felt very proud to be a League member. If I weren't already a member, I would join.

## **Diversity Equity Inclusion —A Challenging Book Recommendation**

By Lois Baughman

The DEI Committee members have been sharing books we are interested in reading or have read on the topic of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This brought to mind a book I read and continue to read and work through called *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad. This New York Times bestselling nonfiction book and related workbook from 2020 grew out of a 28-day antiracism journaling challenge on Instagram that offered a reflection process for white participants to critically examine their own blind spots specific to race and skin color.

One might think the term "White Supremacy" in the title refers to far-right extremist groups, but here the term is used to describe a racist ideology that extends to systems and institutions that facilitate white dominance and privilege. In the 28-day challenge, each day a term/topic is introduced and explained, including its origin, and why it matters. Readers complete journaling prompts that call for introspection, critical thinking, and reflection. The challenge's final week addresses how the participant will use what is learned

from this experience as direct action in the future.

My experience in working through this book has been very enlightening but also challenging and at times, difficult. There were moments when I said to myself, "Surely this doesn't apply to me!" but upon further reflection and deeper thinking, I found applicability. Experiences were shared in the book that allowed me to see a different perspective that challenged my thoughts and beliefs. I went through many emotions, learned things about myself and my ways of thinking, and challenged myself in ways I had not before. Although there were some difficult moments, I came to realize those moments were necessary to allow me to become a better ally and citizen.

I recommend this book to others so that we can have the vocabulary and understanding necessary to bring diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of ALL our lives. Since this book demands intense personal reflection, it probably is not suitable for our Book Club, however.

If you are interested in joining the DEI Committee, please contact Lena Packer at 734-634-1728 or [lena.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lena.packer@yahoo.com).

# Welcome!

Welcome to our newest League member:

Paige Plante

## League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County Board of Directors

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**VP Development:** Angela Ryan  
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**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:**  
Lena Packer  
**Financial Review:** Nancy White  
**Legislative Interviews:** Susan Rowe

**Membership:** Maureen Hughes  
**Nominating:** Linda Curry  
**Observer Corps:** Lena Packer  
**Redistricting:** Angela Ryan  
**Scholarship:** Angela Ryan  
**Voter Registration:** Mary Visos  
**Voter Service:** Val Nelson

League of Women Voters of  
NW Wayne County  
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151  
734-421-4420

Visit our website

Membership in the League is open to anyone age 16 & older. Dues: Student \$5, Individual \$60, Household \$90. Join through our website or call 734-421-4420.

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 influences public policy through education and advocacy.

[Email us](#)

[Membership Information](#)

[League of Women Voters of Michigan website](#)

[League of Women Voters of US website](#)



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