

Voter

May & June, 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

League Calendar

Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship due date for applications

Friday, June 10

See Angela Ryan's article below

Annual Membership Meeting (IN PERSON)

Sat., June 18 @ 12 noon

Rocky's in Northville

RSVPs were due June 1--Contact Carrie Moon-Dupree with any questions

Deadline to Collect Promote the Vote 2022 Ballot Proposal Signatures

Mon., July 11 @ 5 p.m.

Contact Lois Baughman at loisbaughman1960@gmail.com for details

2022 LWVNWW Auction

Sat., November 12 @ 11:30 a.m.

Alexander Blue House @ Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia

See Angela Ryan's article below

Check out the League's Calendar Page at

<https://my.lwv.org/michigan/northwest-wayne-county/calendar> for up-to-date information on events.

President's Perspective

It is a surprise to me that this is first time I am participating in a petition drive. Over the years I've signed many a petition, but never got out there to collect signatures. I am one of the League's solicitors for the "Promote the Vote 2022" petition drive. We are looking for qualified voters to sign the "Promote the Vote 2022" petitions that, if successful, will put on the November ballot a state constitutional amendment that will enshrine our voting rights. Elsewhere, the actual petition drive will be covered in an article, but I would like to share what I've learned as I've asked people to sign the petitions.

- People are skeptical - there is so much misinformation and disinformation out there, people don't know whom to believe.
- There are too many petition drives happening at the same time. It is a bit overwhelming that we have at least 13 different petition drives going on at the same time. How do we distinguish our petitions from all those other? (You may sign more than one petition on different issues, but not sign more than once on a particular issue.)
- Social interaction on political issues has now become a "full contact" sport. You need to be prepared to be polite, informed and armed with your nicest smile when someone declines to sign in a rude manner.
- The name of "League of Women Voters" stands for something. I have found that when people hear we are one of the partners in this endeavor, they give the petitions the benefit of the doubt. We are still a trusted organization in the public's mind.
- More people feel that the "system" doesn't work for them. I've heard, "Why bother, nothing ever changes," from a number of people.
- There are still good people out there working for positive change and you can count our League members among them.

There are a number of League members who have petitions available for you to sign. We will have them at the Annual Meeting on June 18th. Make sure you stop by the table to sign the petition and make your voice heard. I want to thank Lois Baughman and Jackie Peters for stepping up in leadership positions for this drive. They, along with the other solicitors, are making democracy work the way it was designed to.

We've had a busy year and my crystal ball shows that there is no let-up in sight. With your help, we can do great things. It might take a little more "effort" as we enter our third year dealing with the pandemic, but if we stay focused, encourage each other, and remember that we make a difference, the shared load gets easier to bear. Thank you for defending democracy.

Carrie Moon-Dupree, President



Editor's Note

By Eva Koelzer

Dear League Members,

After a year of serving as the Editor for our League, it is time for me to move on. In August, I will be moving to California to attend graduate school. I am extremely excited to begin this new chapter in my life, though this moment is bittersweet as I am leaving behind many amazing people and opportunities, including this League and all its members. It has been my honor to work with all of you this past year. Our members are dedicated, hardworking, and resilient—qualities which are vital now more than ever. I am proud to have been in such great company.

This edition of the *Voter* was prepared, with minimal assistance by me, by Marjorie Lynn, the nominee for the Editor position in our League for this next

fiscal year. I hope you will all welcome her warmly into the role. I am so encouraged by her patience and willingness to embrace the challenges and delights of new technologies, and I know she will do a great job.

Thank you all for your support, kindness, and readership this past year. Wishing you health, joy, and hopefully some wins for voting rights in the near future.

All my best,

Eva Koelzer
She/her

Update on the Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarships

By Angela Ryan

The League's Scholarship Committee has extended the due date for applications for these scholarships to **June 10, 2022**, in consideration of the Memorial Day holiday and vacations. Students enrolled in either Oakland Community College, Schoolcraft College, Washtenaw Community College, or Wayne County Community College are eligible to apply.

Each scholarship will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000, depending on the number of winners, up to a total of \$3,000. Background information and the application form has been provided to the 4 colleges. The same information is posted on the League's website (<https://my.lwv.org/michigan/northwest-wayne-county>), Facebook and Instagram pages. Scholarships will be awarded in July 2022. Winners will also receive a 1-year free membership in our League.

Notice About our Annual Convention

By Carrie Moon-Dupree

The League will be meeting in Denver, Colorado for the 55th National Convention June 25-27, 2022, under the banner of "Women Powered Democracy. This will be a hybrid convention with opportunities for both in person and virtual attendance. The stated purpose of the convention, as listed on the LWWUS website, "The convention is a biennial event that serves as LWWUS's bylaws-prescribed business meeting as well as an opportunity for League members to gather for training and networking." The League's program will be voted on at this time. Per the LWWUS's website, "League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt every national convention to move our mission forward." The big topic this year is the proposed "Structural Transformation Plan."

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is entitled to three voting delegates at this convention. The number of voting delegates is determined by the number of members each League has. The three delegates for our League are Valerie Nelson, Lois Baughman and Carrie Moon-Dupree. Lois and Valerie will be attending in person, while Carrie will be

attending virtually. The delegates have been attending pre-convention webinars and Zoom calls getting information on items to be voted on at the convention. Each delegate is not told how to vote, but rather given an education on what will be presented for a vote. LWVMI has made recommendations on their position on some issues, but the delegates can vote their conscience.

After the convention, we will be reporting back to the members our experiences and what the issues were and what was decided. We thank the delegates for taking on this responsibility. Safe travels and wisdom in your deliberations.

Membership Update

By Maureen Hughes

Thank you and good luck to all those members who have paid their 2022-2023 dues by June 1. One lucky winner will be receiving a check reimbursing you for your paid annual dues. Announcement of the winner will be made at the Annual Meeting on June 18.

As of May 26, nearly 50% of our members have paid their dues. If financial assistance is needed, please email me. Any level of participation that you choose is important to the success of the League's mission of promoting voting rights.

Finally, if you have any corrections or changes to your contact information on the membership list, please submit them as soon as possible to me at **mhughes616@yahoo.com**

Voter Services Update

By Valerie Nelson

It will be a busy mid-term election year for our league. We are planning two candidate forums for the primary election on **August 2** and more will be scheduled for the general election **November 8**.

Vote411.org will be providing voter information for all candidates and proposals for both elections; and a printed voter guide will be made available to our communities for the general election. We have distributed voting rights brochures to all of our local libraries.

If you are interested in getting involved in voter service, or **if you are aware of a race that you think is particularly important to the voters in our communities, please contact me at vnelson@prodigy.net**

DEI Committee Update

By Lena Packer

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is a newly formed committee in the Northwest Wayne County League. Our focus is to formulate a strategy to help make our membership more diverse, inclusive, and reflective of the communities we represent. Diversity includes many factors such as gender, socio-economic status, culture, race, and political perspective, to name a few. Equity is an approach to help ensure that equal opportunity is given to all. Different people may have different levels of access to resources. Equity seeks

to balance this disparity. Inclusion is an ongoing process which allows people from diverse backgrounds to participate in the various activities and the decision-making in an organization.

At our last League meeting, our committee presented a cartoon illustrating these three terms and shared information to help raise members' awareness of the scope of these concepts. We are also compiling a suggested reading list which will be made available to our members this fall. During the upcoming year, we will be sharing more information about these concepts. Also, we hope to include some short presentations at some of our meetings.

If you are interested in joining the DEI Committee, please contact Lena Packer at lena.packer@yahoo.com.

We're on Track to Have an Auction this Year!

By Angela Ryan

We are making plans to hold a fundraising auction on November 12, 2022, at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, starting at 11:30 a.m.

At the Annual Meeting on June 18, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for one (or more) committees to help with the auction. They include set up and clean up; check-in and checkout tables; publicity; refreshments; soliciting business donations; and auction coordination.

There are other ways in which you can participate in this fundraising event. Start looking around your home for any new or gently used items to **donate**. Consider **organizing** a tour or planning a home event (e.g., luncheon or card party). You can **be an Auction Angel** by making a monetary donation. Last, but certainly not least, you can **attend** the auction. We can't succeed if no one attends. *We encourage members to bring guests.*

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for one of the committees, please contact Angela Ryan at 734-591-0995 or cruiserryan@ameritech.net.

Observer Corps Update

By Lena Packer

Our Observer Corps is a structured group of members who have volunteered to attend governmental meetings, take notes, and report on the issues being addressed at those meetings. Observers learn more about local government and how it functions and help to promote open, transparent, and accountable government.

Van Buren Township Planning Commission

Observed by Marjorie Lynn

I have valued participating in this LWV activity, more so because I've learned so much than that I have served as some sort of watchdog. I had no idea so much work goes on behind the scene.

I signed up to observe a planning commission. Before I realized I needed to focus on my home area, I sat in on a couple of long and informative, meetings of the Detroit Planning Commission. One got very fiery as a presenter clashed with the Board about its timing rules and stormed off; the next week the presenter apologized. Meanwhile, I learned about the historic Armory, the site being fought over. Also, I learned about some new developments in Midtown.

But then, I began to observe the Van Buren Township Planning Commission via Zoom. These bi-monthly meetings follow parliamentary rules and have a precise format for presentations. The agenda and minutes are posted on the Township website before the meeting. They make strong efforts to get community input. This Planning Commission has a very complete space on the Township website which I have reviewed. Currently, there are 18 projects of different size and complexity in various stages of getting finalized. Proposals include architectural plans, reviews by various departments, and other reports with great detail that focus on maintaining safety and attractiveness. One even counted, measured, and identified a couple hundred trees on a nearby woodland area.

If you are interested in joining the Observer Corps, please contact Lena Packer at lena.packer@yahoo.com.

Welcome!

Welcome to our newest League members:

Lucas Gebhardt
Judge Lisa Martin
Charly Meyer
Linette Popoff-Parks

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County Board of Directors

President: Carrie Moon-Dupree
VP Voter Service: Val Nelson
VP Development: Angela Ryan
Secretary: Deanna Master
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Voter Editor: Eva Koelzer

Directors:
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Donna Gilkey-Lavin Carin Meyer
Gwen Hooks Lena Packer
Maureen Hughes Jackie Peters
Toni Jones Mary Visos

Committee Chairs

Advocacy: Carrie Moon-Dupree
Auction: Angela Ryan
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:
Lena Packer
Financial Review: Nancy White
Legislative Interviews: Susan

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

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

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.

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County | PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151

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