

Annual Meeting

2020

*Reporting on the League's work in 2019-2020, and
celebrating these events in 2020 :*

- ♦ *The 60th birthday of the League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County*
- ♦ *The 100th anniversary of women's suffrage*
- ♦ *The 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters US*





2020 ANNUAL MEETING BOOKLET

CONTENTS

Meeting Rules	2
Nominating Committee Report/Slate of Nominees	3
Proposed 2020-2021 Budget	4
Proposed Program	5
Minutes: 6-22-19 Annual Meeting	6-8

Reports

Voter Service	9-10
Communications	11
2019 Auction	12-13
Membership	13
President's Activity	14-15
Clerk Engagement and Making Democracy Work Grant	16
100 th Anniversary	17-18

Other

History of LWV Livonia/Northwest Wayne County	19
League Presidents Since 1960	20
Provisional League Recognition: 1960	21
Membership Roster as of May 15, 2020	22-25



ANNUAL MEETING RULES: 2020

The Annual Meeting rules our League has followed for many years have been shelved this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic which prevents us from having an in-person meeting. Our bylaws do not include a provision to hold a “virtual” Annual Meeting, so we are following the guidance issued by the League of Women Voters of Michigan on April 3, 2020:

“The League of Women Voters of Michigan is encouraging local League Boards to suspend Roberts’ Rules of Order and vote to hold emergency elections electronically or to use the methods available to vote from home: email and/or US mail, Survey Monkey, etc., whether or not they are in your bylaws. We encourage you to be practical, equitable, transparent, and fair.”

The procedure for our 2020 Annual Meeting will be as follows:

1. Membership votes will be limited to:
 - a. The election of members to the Board of Directors
 - b. The 2020-2021 budget
 - c. Program for 2020-2021
2. A May, 2020 *Voter* was sent to all members which included information on the items on which they will vote. Members received the *Voter* either by email or surface mail. As a substitute for “nominations from the floor”, members were notified in the *Voter* that additional nominations for open Board of Directors positions were welcome before voting commenced.
3. An emailed ballot was sent to all members with confirmed emails in mid May, 2020. Results will be submitted online to the President, and reviewed by all board members. Final results will be available to the membership.
4. A paper ballot, similar to the emailed version, was sent to those members who do not use email. Results of those using the paper ballot will be blended with the on-line results for a final tally which will be presented to the membership at an on-line meeting in late June, 2020.
5. As of May 15, 2020, there are 97 members of our League. Though Article VII, Section 3 of our bylaws states that 10% of the members constitute a quorum, we strive for full participation from members. Members from whom we have not received votes will be contacted by phone or email, encouraging their participation.
6. Final votes will be announced at a late June “ZOOM” on-line meeting to which all members will be invited. The results will be recorded as final decisions by the Secretary in the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

NOMINEES FOR OFFICES: 2020-2021

Vice President, Voter Services: Carrie Moon-Dupree (2 year term)
Secretary: Deanna Master (2 year term)
Director: Kathy Mchahwar (2 year term)
Director: Carin Meyer (2 year term)
Director: Mary Visos (2 year term)

Thank you to our 2020-21 Nominating Committee:

Angela Ryan (Chair)
Kathy Mchahwar
Sue Wabeke
Joan Gebhardt

Continuing the 2nd year of their 2-year terms:

President: Paula Bowman
VP Development: Angela Ryan
Treasurer: Susan Rowe
Voter Editor: Ann Abdoo
Director: Donna Gilkey-Lavin
Director: Lena Packer
Appointed Directors: Maureen Hughes
Manny Lavin
Val Nelson
Judy Patrick
Jackie Peters

LWV Northwest Wayne County Proposed Budget			
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021			
		EXISTING BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
<u>EXPENSE ITEMS</u>		7-1-19 to 6-30-20	7-1-20 to 6-30-21
1. Board & Administration			
A. Officers	Expenses/office supplies	\$50.00	\$50.00
B. Committees, Meeting Supplies		\$25.00	\$25.00
C. Meetings	Room Rentals	\$150.00	\$250.00
	Annual Report	\$100.00	\$100.00
2. LWV Conventions			
	State	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
	National	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
	State Meetings/Workshops	\$25.00	\$25.00
3. Voter			
	Print & Paper	\$75.00	\$75.00
	Postage & Labels	\$25.00	\$25.00
4. PMP			
	State (87 @ \$23)	\$1,978.00	\$2,001.00
	National (87 @ \$31)	\$2,666.00	\$2,697.00
5. Educational			
	Program, Action, Video Recording *	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
	Voter Service (Includes Postage & Labels)	\$100.00	\$100.00
	Voter Guides	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
	They Represent You	\$250.00	\$600.00
	LWVNW Web Page/Domain Name **	\$300.00	\$450.00
6. Operations			
	Liability Insurance (Board and events) (LWVMI)	\$80.00	\$200.00
	Postal Box	\$75.00	\$100.00
	Telephone	\$120.00	\$120.00
7. Fund Raising Expenses			
		\$500.00	\$500.00
8. Miscellaneous			
		\$546.00	\$607.00
9. Rainy Day Fund			
		\$0.00	\$0.00
10. Scholarship			
		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL		\$11,265.00	\$12,425.00
		EXISTING BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
<u>INCOME</u>		7-1-19 to 6-30-20	7-1-20 to 6-30-21
1. Dues			
	87 @ \$60	\$5,160.00	\$5,220.00
2. Contributions			
	Member - cash	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
	Member in kind	\$100.00	\$100.00
3. Fund Raising			
	Auction	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	Miscellaneous (Westwick Square-election oversite / AP reporting)	\$700.00	\$700.00
4. Dividends - checking account			
		\$5.00	\$5.00
5. Ed Fund Reimbursement			
		\$2,000.00	\$3,100.00
6. CD dividends			
		\$200.00	\$200.00
7. Transfer from Reserves			
		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL		\$11,265.00	\$12,425.00
* \$150 per Video Candidate forum			
** new website platform, renewal of domain names			
Budget Committee: Angela Ryan, Linda Curry, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Carin Meyer, Nancy White, Susan Rowe			

PROPOSED PROGRAM: 2020-2021

League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward.

No new studies or updates were suggested by members or recommended by the board.

The board recommends the following program items for the 2020-2021 fiscal year::

- Participating in the LWVMI Study Concerning Lame Duck Legislative Sessions
- Support of the Making Democracy Work platform which includes voting rights, campaign finance reform and redistricting reform (which has largely been accomplished in Michigan but we may be called upon to monitor the Redistricting Commission).

LEAGUE POSITIONS:

- Our local League positions can be found on LWVNorthwestwayne.org
- State positions can be found on LWVMI.org
- National positions can be found on LWV.org

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 22, 2019**

The meeting was held at Claddagh's Irish Pub in Livonia beginning at 11:30 a.m. President Angela Ryan called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

President Ryan welcomed everyone including 28 members and 1 guest. Members were given an Annual Meeting Booklet and a current treasurer's report. Angela also began circulating sign-up sheets for these volunteer opportunities: Minutes Reading Committee, Budget Committee, Nominating Committee and Meeting Refreshment Committee plus a sheet for Auction Committees.

Angela recognized the contributions of several members for their outstanding service over the past year:

- Board Members finishing terms: Toni Shepherd who has served on the Board for 10 years first as Treasurer, then as a Director, and Barbara Miller who was instrumental in starting the Belleville Geographical Unit.
- 2019 State Convention Award Winners: Laura Callow, Maryanne Mahaffey Award for outstanding commitment to community service and public leadership. Belle Ringer Awards presented at the Convention went to Carrie Moon-Dupree for Voter Service and Lena Packer for Strategic Planning/Fundraising. Presented at today's meeting were Belle Ringer awards for Rachel Rion for Advocacy and Mary Visos for Member Recruitment.
- Those who worked at/attended Convention were also thanked and given one the commemorative candles that our League furnished at the convention: Virginia Belinski, Pat Tavidian, Susan Rowe, Joan Verla, Judy Patrick, Sherrie Brindley, Rachel Rion, Jackie Peters and Linda Priest.

REPORTS:

The Annual Meeting book includes reports on Membership, the 2018 Auction, Voter Service and the President's report. Angela Ryan stated the 2019 State Convention was the best one yet! One quarter of our League's membership attended/participated in the Convention. She hopes we'll share our Convention take-aways with new members. Those who attended 2019 LWVMI Convention from May 17-19, 2019 gave reports. Laurie Kelly read aloud the comments emailed to Angela prior to Annual Meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Laura Callow moved to adopt the Agenda and Meeting Rules on pages 1-2 of the Annual Meeting Booklet. The motion was seconded by Lena Packer, and the motion passed.

Roberta Young moved to accept the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes on pages 3-5 of the Annual Meeting Booklet. The motion was seconded by Lori Gilbo, and the motion passed.

Privilege of the Floor: Angela Ryan made a request to offer privilege of the floor to our guest Pat Bindas, and there were no objections.

The May 31, 2019 Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Linda Curry, who reported that the League was in great shape. Highlights included the checking account balance of \$5,101.82 and the income from the Detroit History Tour \$2,115.00.

Bylaw Changes: Angela noted that no bylaw changes were proposed this year.

Proposed Budget: Our budget committee this year included Jackie Peters (chair), Linda Curry, Laurie Kelly, Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Angela Ryan. The Budget is on page 6 of the Annual Meeting Booklet. Jackie Peters spoke of the reduced monies allocated for Voter Services this year's budget due to more things being emailed. Laurie Kelly moved to approve the Proposed Budget as it appears in the booklet. The motion was seconded by Lori Gilbo, and the motion passed.

Angela Ryan presented the Program Report on page 7 in the Annual Meeting Booklet for the Issues of Emphasis suggested by the Board. Linda Curry moved to adopt the Issues of Emphasis recommended by the Board:

- 2020 Census
- State study on lame-duck legislation
- Campaign Finance Reform

The motion was seconded by Sue Wabeke and the motion passed.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS:

Members of the 2019-2020 nominating committee were Sue Wabeke (chair), Paula Bowman, Pat Tavidian and Kathy Mchahwar. Sue Wabeke presented the slate as presented on page 8 of the Annual Meeting Booklet. Sue Wabeke moved to accept the slate as presented.

The following were elected to two-year terms:

PRESIDENT: Paula Bowman
VP DEVELOPMENT: Angela Ryan
TREASURER: Laurie Kelly
VOTER EDITOR: Ann Abdoo
DIRECTOR: Donna Gilkey-Lavin
DIRECTOR: Virginia Belinski
DIRECTOR: Lena Packer
Elected to one-year terms:
VP VOTER SERVICE: Carrie Moon-Dupree
DIRECTOR: Carin Meyer

The following board members will be continuing the 2nd year of their 2-year terms:

SECRETARY: Kathy Mchahwar
DIRECTOR: Mary Visos

DIRECTOR: Lori Gilbo

DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD:

- Ann Abdoos requested privilege of the floor to present Angela Ryan flowers, card and gift thanking her for her 8-year term as our League President.
- On behalf of LWV member and Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson, Laura Callow asked our members and area Leagues to contact our representatives in Wayne County requesting transparency for the meetings by televising them.
- Angela Ryan proposed we get to know our local clerks to offer our help with educating the public about Proposal 3 roll-out.
-

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Paula Bowman reminded the New Board members and Elected Board members to be prepared for an August meeting.
- Paula also stated Vote 411 has already gone live and all but 3 of the 15 candidates responded to Livonia's contested race. The Candidate Forum is July 11, 2019.
- Remember to place your Name Badge order with Paula Bowman as it will be submitted soon.
- Angela Ryan reminded the student dues continued reduction until further notice.
- Please remember to send in your check payment for the Women's Equality Day Luncheon Saturday, August 24, 2019. Note LWV table on your check if you'd like to sit together.

VOLUNTEER LIST:

The following members signed up on the Volunteer List:

Nominating Committee: Sue Wabeke; Joan Gebhardt; Angela Ryan

Budget Committee: Nancy White; Carin Meyer; Donna Gilkey-Lavin; Linda Curry; Angela Ryan

Minutes Reading Committee: Marjorie Lynn; Virginia Belinski; Roberta Young; Linda Priest (needs script)

Meeting Refreshments: Laura Callow; Rachel Rion; Lori Gilbo; Jackie Peters; Roberta Young; Ann Abdoos; Carin Meyer; Barbara Miller; Kathy Mchahwar; Paula Bowman; Marjorie Lynn

Meeting adjourned: 1:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Kathy Mchahwar, Secretary

VOTER SERVICE REPORT: 2019-2020

Report Contributions from:

Carrie Moon-Dupree, VP Voter Service

Lena Packer, Director, Voter Registration

Angela Ryan, VP Development

Paula Bowman, President

Candidate Forums

We held these forums since the annual meeting on June 22, 2019

Livonia City Council	July 11
Northville City Council and Mayor	September 17
Westland City Council	September 23
Belleville City Council	October 2

We had excellent candidate participation at all of our forums and even though the physical audiences may have been disappointing. Videos of all the forums were available on our website for access by the public.

Many members pitched in and helped to make our candidate forums a success. Thank you to all these members who helped our League continue a tradition of non-partisan, professional forums this past year (several people participated in *multiple* forums): Deanna Master, Angela Ryan, Kathy Mchahwar, Susan Rowe, Lena Packer, Linda Curry, Carin Meyer, Maureen Hughes, Laura Callow and Earlene Fisher, Lori Gilbo, Jackie Peters, Marjorie Lynn, Dian Slavens, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Paula Bowman, Carrie Moon-Dupree and Val Nelson.

Voter Guides

In 2019, the League prepared on-line Voter Guides posted on VOTE411.org for all the city elections in our service area, including those with uncontested races. We had a remarkable response rate from the candidates – 90% for the contested races. Many thanks to Megan Chenoweth who handles our local VOTE411 as well as overseeing VOTE411 for all of Michigan. In 2020, Carin Meyer and Judy Westra are assisting Megan to set up VOTE411 for the primary and general elections. Megan and her team spend many hours on this work that is more important than ever in this world where on-line information is more important than ever.

Using the responses that candidates furnished to VOTE411, we also provided 1,250 print voter guides to local libraries for the contested City races in the November, 2019 election (Westland, Belleville, Livonia and Northville.) Thank you to Carin Meyer, Jackie Peters and Paula Bowman for producing the print voter guides and to the team who helped deliver them: Maureen Hughes, Marjorie Lynn and Rachel Rion. VOTE 411 and links to the “print” voter guides were accessible from our website, and highlighted on our Facebook page.

Cooperative Board and Tenant Council Elections

Our League had committed to handling the 2020 cooperative elections in Westwick Square (Wayne) and Colonial Square (Ann Arbor), but both were canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, we worked with the Detroit League of Women Voters to handle tenant council elections for HUD properties managed by the Inkster Housing Commission. Those elections too, have been delayed until the social distancing regulations are lifted.

Voter Registration

As we do every year, we registered voters at Schoolcraft College's School Daze event on September 18-19, 2019. We registered 45 new voters from 19 communities. Thank you to Voter Registration Chair, Lena Packer, and the members who helped make our drive so successful: Lori Gilbo, Nancy Williams, Roberta Young, Joan Gebhardt, Rachel Rion, Jackie Peters, and Valerie Nelson.

On January 22 & 23 we were at Schoolcraft's Winter Daze event and the following members helped register 28 new voters from 15 different communities: Angela Ryan, Marjorie Lynn, Virginia Belinski, and Deanna Master.

In early 2019, members of our League began to partner with Fems for Change and APIAVote (Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote) in registering voters at new citizen naturalization ceremonies in Detroit. Thank you to the following who have helped with this effort: Lisa Asquini, Maureen Hughes, Valerie Nelson, Mary Visos, Angela Ryan, Elizabeth Downs and her (nonmember) husband, John Root. Through February 2020, our members helped register 1519 new voters. Since then, ceremonies have been canceled due to the coronavirus. Members plan to continue to volunteer to assist when the ceremonies recommence.

Also, on March 7 Mary Ann McAllister and Jane Cimo joined Fems for Change at Avondale Forensics International, held at Avondale High School in Auburn Hills, to register 17 students as new voters.

COMMUNICATION REPORT: 2019-2020

Social Media/Facebook

Lynda Franklin has been handling our local Facebook page for a number of years. She has used excellent judgement in posting articles that reflect our values and maintain our non-partisan position. From public transit to voting rights to the census to women's suffrage, Lynda has been a conscientious provider of information on behalf of the League. Our forums, educational events, meetings, VOTE411 and voter guides are all promoted multiple times, educating the public on opportunities and information. We are grateful to Lynda for her trustworthy and efficient work.

Email

We continue to use email as a prime source of communication. Messages are sent out by the President and other board members frequently, and we are grateful to have this inexpensive means of reaching our members with topical news.

Zoom

This year, we have learned how to use this video-conferencing technology, which has come in especially handy during our stay-at-home lock down. Having a computer, iPad or a Smartphone with a camera allows anyone to be a full participant in this new form of communication. Board meetings and committee meetings have taken place using Zoom, which helps our members to efficiently stay in touch and continue the work of the League in a virtual capacity.

Website

On March 1, we launched a new website. Our original site had served us well and was easy to use, but the California League who supported our site and similar sites for other Leagues all around the country announced plans to discontinue service on June 30, 2020. Our League chose to go with MyLO (*My League Online*) also supported by the California League, which provides and supports the web service as a fundraiser. Paula Bowman worked on the transfer of our local League website. The MyLO site is definitely more versatile and trendier, but also more expensive.

Voter

Ann Abdo has published 5 issues of the *Voter* this fiscal year. The *Voter* includes news about our recent achievements and upcoming events. Our mailing list includes not only our members, but League presidents from all over Michigan as well as local, county and state elected officials. Though the majority of our members receive the *Voter* via email, we are careful to mail a hard copy to those members who do not have a computer.

2019 AUCTION REPORT: A HUGE SUCCESS

Angela Ryan, VP Development

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, solicited donations from businesses, or organized events, we raised nearly \$4,000.

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, Judy Patrick, and I canvassed these businesses, some of whom have donated in the past. Please consider patronizing these businesses as thanks for them supporting the League. They are:

*MERRI-CRAFT FLORIST
TRADER JOE'S
GEORGE'S SENATE CONEY ISLAND RESTAURANT
ONE UNDER CRAFT BEER & EATS
FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR
SHEESH MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE
FRENCH TOAST BISTRO
SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
DETROIT HAM & CORNED BEEF
RED LOBSTER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
HELIUM STUDIO
CENTERED BODYWORK*

*PHOENIX THEATRES
ROCKY'S OF NORTHVILLE
BOOKS CONNECTION
THE HONEY BAKED HAM CO.
GOLDEN GIFTS JEWELERS
SORELLA'S CUSTOM CAKES
EXERCISE COACH
FASHION NAILS
ORIN JEWELERS
ANNIE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
AFFORDABLE MASSAGE
GREENMEAD HISTORICAL PARK*

A special thanks goes out 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 auction 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 and the events that were offered, 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 Abdo, 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, Susan Rowe, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, and two non-members, Pat Williams and Dave Schultz, for their contributions.

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.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT: 2019-2020

As of June 1, 2020, our local League is comprised of 97 members, an increase of 12 members from this same time last year. (Another comparison: in 2013, we had 37 members) The breakdown of our residences:

Livonia	27	Wayne	2
Belleville	17	Westland	5
Plymouth	18	Redford	3
Northville	7	Out of Area	3
Canton	15		

Of the 97 members, 86 are primary members, 9 are second-in-a-household members, and 2 are student members. Five of the primary members are lifetime members, having been members 50 years or more.

Each new member is sent a welcome letter and League information by our Membership Chair, Mary Visos.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITY: JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

Paula Bowman, President

I was honored to represent the LWV Northwest Wayne County as president this past year. We had a wonderful Board of Directors who participated in many activities this past year that helped our League run efficiently. I'm grateful to all of them for the help they've provided to me personally and to the League. Angela Ryan, as past president, has been an especially helpful advisor. For the record, I am providing some of my key League activities:

Board Meetings: On August 5, 2019, our board of directors kicked off the year with a meeting and pot-luck dinner at Donna and Manny Lavin's beautiful home in Belleville. Because our board included 19 members, future in-person board meetings were held at a meeting room at the Livonia Library. Beginning in March, board meetings were held on Zoom calls because of the pandemic. I was honored to preside over these meetings with such an energetic and committed board. I appreciated all of the work they did this past year to further the mission of the League.

Voter Service: It's been a pleasure to assist and train Carrie Moon-Dupree, new to the position of VP of Voter Service to carry out candidate forums and other voter service responsibilities. Carrie and Val Nelson took leadership roles in handling several forums in 2019. I moderated the October 1 City of Belleville forum on Belleville HS. I also worked with Jackie Peters and Carin Meyer in the completion of print voter guides prior to the November, 2019 election.

100th Anniversary: A bonus of being president is to participate as an ex-officio member of all committees. The 100th Anniversary committee was my favorite because we were planning to celebrate 3 anniversaries this year: women's suffrage, the 100th birthday of the League, and the 60th birthday of LWV Northwest Wayne. Though we were able to start some of our projects, we had to cancel the majority of our activities. I attended City or Township board meetings in Redford, Van Buren Township, Livonia, the City of Plymouth and the Township of Plymouth to present information on our 3 celebrations and to accept proclamations.

Clerk Engagement Project: Beginning in the fall of 2019, I organized this collaborative project with member volunteers. Nine interviews were conducted using materials created by the ACLU, which I tailored to fit our League. The interview results were sent to both LWVMI and the project chair at the ACLU.

Making Democracy Work Grant: I attended training sessions to deliver the 3 LWVMI-produced power point presentations on the Census, Michigan's New Voting Rights and the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Training included attending an in-person presentation of the Census program in Dexter on October 28. I delivered two programs for our NW Wayne County League: Westland on Nov. 18 and Canton on Feb. 12. Additional presentations had to be canceled because of the pandemic. The grant paperwork was submitted to LWVMI, which triggered a \$400 payment to our League.

LWVMI Connection: I also served as VP of Program on the LWVMI Board of Directors, and various other LWVMI committees and initiatives. This state connection is an asset to the local League since it not only allows for representation of our NW Wayne County League at the

state level, but also provides immediate information about LWVMI decisions and plans to our League.

Membership Meetings: Geneva Presbyterian Church has been our host for our membership meetings this past year. We had meetings in September, November and February. Our April meeting was canceled because of the pandemic. I also organized a membership meeting to which the public was invited on March 12 concerning water quality in our area. Erma Leaphart from the Detroit Sierra Club was our featured speaker.

Website: I devoted many hours to transitioning our website to a new platform. Our website looks more trendy and up to date. I also continue to add content to the site when necessary.

Other:

- Participated in monthly calls between all local League presidents in Michigan
- Wrote a letter (that was published in the Belleville Record) in January, 2020 concerning a citizen's false claim that absentee ballots were not counted
- Attended the 2019 auction with various donations, including hosting a Euchre party in February that brought in \$250
- Worked as a "stringer" for the Associated Press at February's presidential primary election. I was charged with calling in the results from Van Buren Township, and earned \$70 for the League.
- Attended many League webinars with topics including but not limited to voting rights, the census, ERA, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and clerk engagement.
- I acted as interim treasurer for a few months after the departure of Laurie Kelly and before Susan Rowe assumed the position. This was a good learning experience for me! I assisted Angela Ryan in training Susan for her new role.
- I attended a Ranked Choice Voting meeting on February 2 in Ypsilanti to learn more about this election system that is becoming more popular.
- I acted as the original contact for the Westwick Square and Colonial Square Cooperative elections. Though dates and commitments were set up, the elections were canceled due to the pandemic.
- I worked with the Detroit LWV to hold tenant council elections for six HUD buildings in Inkster. A preliminary mailing was sent out, but the events were canceled due to the pandemic.
- The League (cell) phone remains at my home and I respond to inquiries (minimal).
- I produced the Annual Meeting Booklet for 2020.
- Along with our VP of Voter Service, I worked with other Leagues in our area concerning voter service in Wayne County and encouraging support of public transit in the SE Michigan area (HB 5550)
- I monitor the LWV's email and forward information to the pertinent board members.

That's it!

CLERK ENGAGEMENT & MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK GRANT

Clerk Engagement

In the first three months of 2020, our League members completed an amazing 9 interviews with local city and township clerks in our area. Interviews were conducted at the request of a coalition (LWV, ACLU, Voters Not Politicians and NAACP) that wanted to make sure local clerks were aware of all the new voting rights in Michigan as a result of the passage of Proposal 3 in November, 2018. A review of the clerk's website was required before the interview, and in most cases, the information available to the public was clear and complete.

Members who completed the interviews reported that this was a positive event that furthered the bond of mutual respect between clerks and the League. Many thanks to these members who completed the interviews: Lisa Asquini, Angela Ryan (2) Lori Gilbo, Deanna Masters (2), Carin Meyer (2), Carrie Moon-Dupree (2), Rachel Rion, Marjorie Lynn, Manny Lavin, Susan Rowe, and Paula Bowman. Other League members signed up for interviews, but their plans were cut short when the pandemic hit. The efforts of a number of other members were cut short when the pandemic hit. To these members we say, thanks for trying: Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Dian Slavens, Jewel Butler, Lena Packer, Judy Patrick and Jackie Peters.

Making Democracy Work

This past year, our League participated in the Making Democracy Work grant offered by LWVUS but facilitated by LWV Michigan. Leagues would earn \$400 if they could present three presentations on the Census, Michigan's New Voting Rights, and the Citizens Redistricting Commission. This was valuable, new information for Michigan citizens, and we were happy to be part of this project that would educate the public.

LWVMI provided excellent power-point presentations along with handouts. Paula Bowman and Angela Ryan were trained to be presenters. Presentations were given at the Westland Library and at the Canton Summit. A goal of the grant was to arrange these presentations through the lens of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We reached out to the Interfaith Community Leadership Organization who promoted our event to their diverse clientele for the Canton event. As part of her routine presentations to classes at Schoolcraft College, Angela Ryan included the Making Democracy Work presentations to a number of students. Other presentations through the spring and summer months were planned, but had to be canceled as a result of the pandemic. Additional presentations may be done as on-line webinars throughout the summer and fall.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Carrie Moon-Dupree,
VP Voter Service and Anniversary Committee Chair

The committee was so excited to be part of the 100th anniversary celebration of Women's right to vote. We got together at the end of 2019 to begin the process of coming up with ways to celebrate our heritage and move forward to introduce the next generations of the work that still needs to be done. The committee consisted of; Carrie Moon-Dupree, Paula Bowman, Ann Abdoo, Kathy Faitel, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Jackie Peters, Dian Slavens, Ann Marie Graham-Hudak, Laura Jannika, Val Nelson and Susan Rowe. The committee generated some great ideas and quickly did the necessary groundwork to pull these off. The following actions were taken:

- Library displays were planned for the local libraries in our area until the end of the year, highlighting our fight for the vote and the 60th Anniversary of our local league. We covered every town in our area, plus Madonna University.
- Annual Banquet was scheduled for May 31st at Livonia's One Under Restaurant as not only an annual meeting, but a way to introduce guests to our organization and the work we do. A guest speaker was secured who would have spoken on Title IX and how it benefited her as an athlete, coach and now a college administrator. Displays of our League's history were to be displayed and a gift booklet about the history of how women got the right to vote was to be placed at each table setting.
- We were investigating marching in local parades to share our message. *Votes for Women* sashes would have been worn by members in the parade.
- Proclamations were requested for all the jurisdictions in our local League's geographical area honoring both the 100th anniversary and our League's 60th Anniversary.
- On February 14, the 100th birthday of the League, our League answered the "Call To Action" from the LWUS to commemorate this day with action or advocacy that celebrated League values. Our League delivered cookies to all 13 clerks in our service area to show our appreciation for all the work they do to promote voter participation. Thank you to all of these members who either baked and/or delivered cookies: Pat Tavidian, Kathy Mchahwar, Ann Abdoo, Kathy Faitel, Donna- Gilkey-Lavin, Paula Bowman, Rosemary Doyle, Lori Gilbo, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Pat Tavidian, Lena Packer, Angela Ryan, Barbara Miller, Rachel Rion and Pat Bindas. A message commemorating the League's birthday and expressing our gratitude to the clerks was included with each cookie delivery.

As you can see, we were very productive. Unfortunately, and with much sadness, almost all of our plans have gone astray. The library display was put up in March at the Wayne Library, but

has been there ever since with no one to see it. It is hoped that when the libraries open again we can pick up the schedule and offer those that were missed an opportunity for the display next year. The decision was made to cancel the banquet and get our deposit back, as the lock down was going to impact our ability to hold it. The guest speaker was cancelled and is willing to speak at another time. The annual meeting will be held virtually. All towns and cities have indicated that they will not be holding parades and gatherings this year. We had been able to get a number of proclamations completed before the lock down, but not all.

I am sure that our foremothers had many setbacks in their fight for voting rights, big and small, and they chose to rise above it. While we are sad that we couldn't actually do many of the activities we had hoped to do, the spirit of those foremothers lives on in all of us. I want to thank the committee for their hard work, brilliant ideas and most of all for being members of the community who care about fair voting rights.

The next 3 documents are included as part of our celebration of our 60th birthday. Please read the local League history, note the list of Presidents since 1960, and read the Provisional League Acceptance letter sent in 1960 by the LWWUS President to the LWV Livonia President, Barbara LaRue.

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY Established in Livonia in 1960

In July 1960, 35 women, then officially members of the Detroit League of Women Voters (LWV), received permission from the state and national offices to form the Provisional LWV of Livonia. The Livonia LWV was officially recognized as an independent League in 1962.

Under the leadership of its first president, Barbara LaRue, the Livonia League nearly doubled its membership, and proved that it was financially stable, politically non-partisan and that it possessed the leadership skills to provide a study of local government as well as educating the public in the areas of voters service, all of which were requirements to achieve independent League status. In addition, the Provisional LWV of Livonia fulfilled another important requirement for recognition with the preparation and publication of a comprehensive resource booklet on the city entitled [This is Livonia](#).

Livonia was only a 10-year-old city when the LWV originated. Thanks to early League studies on Land Use, Livonia Public Schools, Wayne County Home Rule, Public Libraries, Public Recreation, and the City Charter, the League was able to use their positions to advocate for municipal improvements, school millages, and bond issues in Livonia. The LWV was a significant influence in the establishment of goals, policies and procedures of the young city. In the first 6 years of the League's existence, nine LWV members were elected or appointed to the school board or city commissions.

In 1998, LWV Livonia welcomed members of the Northville-Plymouth-Canton League, which had folded a year earlier. In 2001, the LWV of Livonia was re-named the LWV of Northwest Wayne County to more correctly identify the communities that it served: Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Wayne, Garden City, Westland and Northville Township. In 2016, the NW Wayne County League expanded its service area and membership recruitment to include the 3 Belleville communities. We have also had the privilege of working with other Leagues in the SE Michigan area on regional issues.

Over the years, voter service has been our strength. We are grateful for the volunteer work of so many LWV members who have helped provide LWV services for the greater good. Conducting our candidate forums with professionalism, inclusivity and in a non-partisan way and producing voter education materials that are available to all voters has made our local League a trusted source of election information. We are proud that our forums and voter guides achieve record levels of candidate participation because we know that voters who have the opportunity to learn about all the candidates are educated voters. We do not take this earned respect lightly; we are committed to representing the League of Women Voters with integrity so that all voters can be participants in our democracy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LIVONIA AND NW WAYNE COUNTY PRESIDENTS

Provisional League - Barbara LaRue	1958-1960
Barbara LaRue	1960-1962
Jenny Bates	1962-1964
Mimi Singer	1964-1966
Jean Federspill	1966-1968
Laura Callow	1968-1970
Margaret Thomas	1970-1971
Barbara Quenneville	1971-1973
Georgia Lindstrom	1973-1975
Marilyn Grove	1975-1977
Judy Frock	1977-1979
Jimmy Katz	1979-1981
Phyllis Murch, Margaret Thomas and Nancy Meadow Gray	1981-1982
Carol Lundy	1983
Flora McRae	1984
Jimmy Katz and Roberta Young	1985-1987
Flora McRae	1987-1991
Ann Ramroth (1st yr) Pat Sharpe (2nd yr)	1991-1993
Jean Cogill	1993-1997
Paula Bowman	1997-2011
Angela Ryan	2011-2019
Paula Bowman	2019-present



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

O F T H E U N I T E D S T A T E S

1026 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C. NA 8-3684

Mrs. Robert J. Phillips, President

July 25, 1960

Mrs. John M. LaRue, President
Provisional League of Women Voters of Livonia
9810 Blackburn
Livonia, Michigan

Dear Mrs. LaRue:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the provisional League of Women Voters of Livonia into the family of newly established provisionals. News of your recognition has just come to the national office from Mrs. Howard Lichterman. Your state League counsellors, who are "responsible" for you, will give you excellent guidance and wise advice, and will provide and suggest the right League tools for you to use. Feel free, however, to call upon this office, the national Board or staff at any time, for we too are here to serve you. At the risk of repeating what your adviser may already have told you, I would add that there are many exciting new adventures ahead, and much to be learned, so do not be impatient, but make the most of your provisional period to grow into a strong and effective local League.

We hope you will be able to interest many women in your community in becoming members of the League, and that you will have the participation of all your members in the League activities you will undertake. As you increase in numbers and your members become more familiar with your local government and with the League's state and national Program, your opportunities for reaching and influencing a wider public will increase.

As a provisional League you have a very important role to play, for your community thinks of you as the League of Women Voters, and it is at least partly through your activities that your townspeople will form their opinion of the entire organization - of more than a thousand Leagues and more than 125,000 members. We shall all follow your career with interest, and we do indeed wish you well in your undertaking.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robert J. Phillips
President

CC to League of Women
Voters of Michigan

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2020-2021**

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