

Voter

January/February 2024

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

LWVNWCC League Calendar

Dates for Our League:

February 13th @ 7pm General membership meeting Via Zoom
(Elections preparation: see below for details)

February 19th @ 7pm DEI Book Club via Zoom

March 19, 2024 @ 7 pm LWV NWW CO. Board meeting via Zoom

Other Important Dates:

January 30, 2024 Westland Primary race, 25th district race for State Representative (View candidate forum on our [website](https://my.lwv.org/michigan/northwest-wayne-county):

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

February 22, 2024 Presidential Primary

February 13, 2024 at 7 pm From Carrie Moon-Dupree: We are trying something new in the hopes of getting more members to attend a meeting. On this **Tuesday evening**, we will be meeting via Zoom. Our guest speaker, Lori Miller Livonia City Clerk, will join us at 7:30 pm to discuss the upcoming election preparations. We are heading into a presidential election with early voting options now available.

Zoom in to hear the joys and concerns of a city clerk. Prior to the meeting, RSVP to me at moondupree@comcast.net and let me know you would like the link sent to you

April 20, 2024 we are holding an in-person meeting at Westland Library at 10 a.m. Since it is Earth Day, our guest speaker, Eric Geerlings, Renewal Energy Project Manager from Metro Energy Consulting Associates, will be speaking on the topic of energy conservation and the ways we can all help. Look for future announcements on time and place.

Annual Meeting June 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars for our annual meeting and luncheon. We are looking at several different locations and hope to secure a venue shortly. This is a great time to meet and renew friendships while celebrating this past year's accomplishments. I am sure you won't want to miss it.

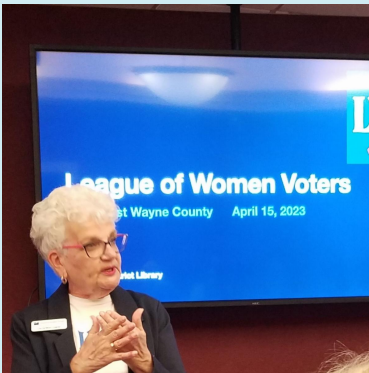
June 27-30, 2024: LWVUS Biannual National Convention

We will be gathering in Washington D.C. June 27-30th for our national convention. Any member can attend the convention, and we will probably have two (2) voting delegates. If you are a voting delegate, your registration, travel, and hotel costs are covered by LWVNW Co. Anyone who has an interest in being a voting delegate should let Carrie know as soon as possible.

Check out the **League's Calendar Page** for up-to-date information on events.
<https://my.lwv.org/michigan/northwest-wayne-county/calendar>

President's Perspective:

By Carrie Moon-Dupree



As I am writing this, we are awaiting the next Lions' playoff game. Can you believe it, the Lions are in the playoffs? Are you still basking in the glow from the University of Michigan's terrific National Championship football season? These teams did not get where they are without teamwork. No matter how good an individual player may be, there is no victory without coordination and good teamwork. In many ways, the League operates in the same fashion. We have a leadership structure, but it is the

team members who carry out the League's on-the-field "plays."

Our 2024 Nominating Committee has started their work to fill a slate of candidates for leadership positions. These candidates will be voted on at our 2024 Annual meeting on June 8th. The committee consists of Linda Curry, Lisa Martin, Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Susan Rowe. There will be various positions to fill, such as VP of Voter Service, Voter Editor, Secretary and trustees. Those of us in leadership didn't just get there by chance. We got there by volunteering in various capacities and having someone mentor us along the way. Much like football recruiting, we look for individuals who either have the necessary skills or whom we could mentor. For me, it has been very fulfilling to learn new skills, while keeping up to date on the skills I already possessed. I volunteered or responded to being asked, to fill a series of important roles, in my journey to becoming President.

Many Leagues, including ours, are struggling to engage their members. There are several reasons for this:

1. We are in transition as some of our longtime members have aged and no longer participate as much as they used to.
2. Our two hardest workers are no longer available to us as one moved out of state and the other is co-president of the State League.
3. The political climate has become more intense and intimidating.

4. It has been difficult to engage new and younger members.

5. In the post-pandemic landscape, people's calendars are filled with multiple opportunities.

As the Nominating Committee does their work, I am asking you to consider stepping up your involvement. Our League, Northwest Wayne County, is over 60 years old. There have been hundreds of women and men over the years who have worked to educate voters, ensure safe elections and promote voting rights. In 2024 the need is just as great to continue this important work. "Yes, I will serve," is a lovely thing for the Nominating Committee to hear. Thank you in advance for saying "Yes."

Carrie Moon-Dupree
President.

moondupree@comcast.net 734-454-4866

Scholarship Committee

by

Toni Stokes-Jones

Friedrichs / Bowman Scholarship

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County (LWVNWW Co) is a non-partisan, political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. To provide financial support for students who are pursuing their educational goals at Schoolcraft College, our League established this scholarship. In addition to a monetary award, the LWVNWW Co. is giving a free one-year membership to recipients of the Friedrichs / Bowman Scholarship with the desire that the recipient attends at least one LWVNWW Co. meeting.

Scholarship Criteria:

Full time or part-time enrollment required.

Students must have a cumulative college GPA of 2.0 or higher to be considered.

Applying for the Scholarship:

To apply for the Scholarship, go to the following website, search for the *Friedrich/Bowman Scholarship* for more details. Or, better yet copy and paste the words/link below:

Apply to Scholarship Universe

[https://sso.schoolcraft.edu/adfs/ls/?](https://sso.schoolcraft.edu/adfs/ls/?wa=wsignin1.0&wtrealm=https%3a%2f%2fadfs.verifymyfafs.com%2fadfs%2fservices%2ftrust&wctx=60577a93-1066-49aa-8de0-56d3bc9bc47b&client-request-id=939f3cd5-72c9-42f8-6640-0080000000c8)

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Voter Services

by Valerie Nelson



This will be a very busy year for voter service. We have several elections in our area. First, there will be a primary election on January 30 for the vacated seat in the State House 25th District (25th Michigan House district includes Wayne, Westland and parts of

Canton). We conducted a candidate forum for this election that you can view on our website. The special general election for this seat will be April 16 of this year. Before that will be the presidential primary on February 27. This will be the first election in Michigan where nine days of early voting will be available in all districts. August 6 will be the primary election and November 5 will be the general election.

You may have heard that the court ruled 13 voting districts in the Detroit district are unconstitutional and will need to be redrawn. One of these districts is in our area: State Senate District 6 which includes Livonia and Redford. We will need to take extra care to make sure that the voter information that we provide is assigned to the correct district.

All of our townships: Canton, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren will be electing trustees and there will be elections for district judges, school districts and the mayor of Wayne.

Now more than ever, we could use your help providing voters in our area with information to help them make informed decisions. We will conduct candidate forums for the primary and general elections and do a print voter guide for the general election, as well as provide on-line voter information through vote411.org. If you can offer some of your time to help with any of these efforts, please contact me at vnelson@prodigy.net or 734-512-0344.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee

By Laura Jannika

Our DEI Book Club Date: We meet on Zoom every two months, the 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Our next meeting is February 19. See details below.

February is Black History Month. If you want to learn how the March on Washington was conceived and implemented, I would suggest the movie **Rustin**, on Netflix, produced by Barack and Michelle Obama. It tells the story of how Bayard Rustin came up with the idea of the March on Washington in 1963. His Quaker beliefs were a catalyst for Martin Luther King's nonviolent movement, which led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Because he was Black and also gay, he is all but erased from the Civil Rights Movement history. Let's all shine a light on Black history in February! If you don't get a chance to read or watch a movie, have a potato chip! They were invented by an African and Native-American man named George Crum in 1853!!!

Thanks, Laura Jannika

Be Kind

Send me a note at ljannika@gmail.com with DEI in the subject. Thank you.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Book Group



* We will meet on Zoom every two months, the 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

February 19: Our next book discussion is on Monday, February 19 about the memoir *Sipping Dom Perignon Through a Straw: Reimagining Success as a Disabled Achiever* by Eddie Ndopu. It is an wonderful story of perseverance and purpose, and we get a glimpse of what obstacles there are to being in a wheelchair with full time care. It will surely inspire you!

We invite you to join us. Please contact Carrie Moon-Dupree at moondupree@comcast.net for the Zoom link.

Here is a [link to the Committee's Book List](#)

Observer Corps

By Lena Packer

The Observer Corps High School Mentoring Project

This project is designed to give students a first-hand experience with local government and how it works. Right now, we are reaching out to Livonia high schools. We have received positive responses from 2 schools so far. There are 2 student observations of the Livonia City Council scheduled for February, and we hope to schedule more during this semester.

Students will be able to observe either a Livonia City Council or Livonia Planning Commission meeting. An Observer Corps member will meet the participating student at the meeting and answer any questions the student may have during the session. We are promoting this activity as a way for students to earn community service hours.

If you are interested in learning more about the Observer Corps, please contact Lena Packer at lena.packer@yahoo.com or 734-634-1728.

Observation and the Observer Corps work!

You can watch Michigan House and Senate proceedings. Go to

Voter Registration Committee Update

by Ann Andrews

Thank you to Manny Lavin, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Maureen Hughes (photo below), Toni Jones & Lena Packer for volunteering at the Schoolcraft College School Daze Winter Bash on Jan. 24-25. They registered 12 students to vote and shared information about the LWV Scholarship, Vote 411, and the Promote the Vote/Proposal 2 that passed in 2022. And thank you to James Moon-Dupree for making small 3D Statues of Liberty to hand out to the students.

Additionally, I have reached out to multiple high schools in our area offering to hold voter registration drives and/or present about the LWV and Proposal 2.



Christmas Party at Lois and Dave Baughman's Home





ADVOCACY INFORMATION

LWVMI

To identify state proposed legislation that is supported by the LWVMI, please go to the **Advocacy 2024** page on the **LWVMI website**. Check "**Take Action**" for current action alerts.

<https://lwvmi.org/advocacy-2024/>

Two resources are recommended for looking up Michigan legislation:

Michigan Legislature - www.legislature.mi.gov

LegiScan - <https://legiscan.com>

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County Board of Directors

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Auction: Donna Gilkey-Lavin

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Financial Review: Nancy White

Legislative Interviews: Susan Rowe

Membership: Maureen Hughes

Nominating: Linda Curry

Observer Corps: Lena Packer

Scholarship: Toni Jones, Co-chair

Voter Registration: Ann Andrews

Voter Service: Val Nelson

PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151

Membership in the League is open to anyone age 16 & older. Dues: Student \$5, Individual \$60, Household \$90. Join through our website or call 734-595-8564.

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](#)



League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County | PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151
marlynn@umich.edu

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