

The Voter

July / August 2025

EVENTS

July 4, 2025
Distributing LWV
Brochures at the
Northville 4th of July
Parade
10 am
Contact Ann Andrews
to participate

July 8, 2025
Westland City Council
Candidate Forum
7 pm
Zoom
Posted by July 10 on
YouTube and website

July 10, 2025
Livonia City Council
Candidate Forum
7 pm
Zoom
Posted by July 12 on
YouTube and website

July 15, 2025
Board Meeting
7 pm
Carrie Moon-Dupree's
Home

July 17, 2025
Advocacy Committee
Meeting
7 pm
Zoom

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President's Perspective

"The League of Women Voters is **nonpartisan**,
not neutral. Remaining nonpartisan does not
mean staying silent."
-LWVUS

I have never been accused of being too silent.
Quite the opposite as a born extrovert, I have
been asked to quiet down on many occasions.
My passions run strong and deep. The League
and Women's rights are my passions. Therefore,
neither I nor the League will remain silent as we
watch democracy being dismantled.

Christina Stark and I have been taking a series of
weekly online trainings called Unite and Rise Up.
The League is one of many partners in
sponsoring this training. Some of the topics were
digital hygiene for activists, de-escalation of
situations, media story telling and mutual aid.

The next step is to organize the Northwest
Wayne Co. to be more visible and advocate for

July 19, 2025

New Member

Orientations

10 am

Grand Traverse Pie
Company - Plymouth
RSVP to Christina
Stark

July 28, 2025

Plymouth City

**Commission Candidate
Forum**

7 pm

Plymouth City Hall

Recording posted by
August 1 on YouTube
and website

August 5, 2025

Primary Election

Check with your local
Clerk about early voting
and absentee ballot
options

August 23, 2025

Women's Equity Day

Celebration Luncheon

11 am - 2 pm

St. Mary's Culture and
Banquet Center

Click here to register

Visit the League's

calendar page for the
latest information about
upcoming events

issues that matter to us. We need to be visible
and show that we will not stand for what's
happening.

We are forming an Advocacy Committee which
will meet, train, educate, and show up in the
community. Our first meeting is July 17 at 7 pm
via Zoom. You as an individual may participate in
any event/march that you wish. When we march
as a League, we may only do so at events that
are nonpartisan, non-violent, and advocating on
issues we support. In other words, when we wear
identifiable League tee shirts etc. they must be at
an approved event. The recent Hands Off rallies
were a League approved event. We will have
many opportunities to have our voices heard.

If you would like to be part of the Advocacy
Committee, please email me at
moondupree@comcast.net. We want the
community to know that the League is out there
defending democracy.

You do not need to be an extrovert to want to
save democracy. You don't have to want to walk
in a protest to educate the community on what is
happening. You just have to be willing to do the
work.

Lately, I have been wearing my LWV logo button.
When people inquire what the logo stands for, I
tell them and I have always gotten a positive
response. They thank me for the work the
League is doing. I also have a bookmark to give
them in case they want more information. The
community needs to know we are actively
responding to the present situation. We need to
be more visible.

Carrie Moon-Dupree

Annual Meeting Recap

by Anne Reilly



On Saturday, June 14, 36 members of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County gathered at [Granite City](#) in Northville for the League's 65th Annual Meeting.

The event opened with a welcome from President Carrie Moon-Dupree and the recognition of the League's 5 lifetime members - those that have been in the League for over 50 years. **Lifetime members** are Laura Callow, Rachel Rion, Nancy White, Diane Witt, and Roberta Young. President Moon-Dupree and outgoing Michigan Co-President Paula Bowman then recognized the **Belle Ringer awardees** who have done extraordinary work for the League over the past year. Belle Ringers are Lois Baughman, Linda Curry, Laura Jannika, and Toni Jones.

The business portion of the meeting included the Treasure's report, adoption of the agenda and meeting rules, and the approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. The proposed 2025/2026 program and budget were also approved.

A motion passed to elect a **new slate of Officers**:

- President: Carrie Moon-Dupree
- Vice President at Large: Sandy Main-Niemisto
- Secretary: Linda Priest
- Treasurer: Paula Bowman
- Director/*The Voter* Editor: Anne Reilly
- Director: Christina Stark

Retiring Directors were honored for their years of service and presented with a Statue of Liberty statuette. **Retiring Directors** are Lois Baughman, Maureen Hughes, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Manny Lavin, Lena Packer, Jackie Peters, and Susan Rowe.

A request was made for volunteers to serve on **Budget and Nominating Committees**. Thank you to the several members who stepped up.

- Budget Committee: Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Randy Priest, Jaine Raquet
- Nominating Committee: Sandy Main-Niemisto, Jai Essenmacher, Linda Priest
- Financial Audit Yearly Review: Dave Baughman

The official meeting agenda ended with closing remarks from Carrie Moon-Dupree, and **Directions to the Board**. Topics raised for the Board to address in the coming year included responding to the disposal of radioactive waste at a

landfill in Van Buren Township, electronic methods to collect payments, advocacy training, and finding ways to use social media to engage younger people.

The business meeting adjourned just after 1pm, and was followed by lunch and a time of fellowship.

A special thank you to Lois Baughman for arranging a lovely event, and to Granite City for the private room, delicious food, and excellent service.

2025 LWVMI Convention Summary

by Carrie Moon-Dupree

The League of Women Voters of Michigan held their 39th Biennial convention in Grand Rapids from May 16-18, 2025. Every League in the state was represented with 170 total members in attendance. Northwest Wayne Co.'s voting delegates were: Laura Jannika, Toni Jones, Christina Stark and Carrie Moon-Dupree. We shared the class load and attended all the various classes which enabled us to bring back pertinent information to our League.



At the plenary sessions, the following votes were taken and approved:

- Bylaws Amendments - language change to reflect new dues structure
- 2025-2026 Budget - as presented
- 2025-2026 Slate of Candidates- as presented for officers, directors and nominating committee
- Adoption of State Program
- Concurrence with Utah Position on Aid in Dying
- Work on update of LWVMI Election Law position focusing on primary elections
- No non-recommended positions were approved for a vote

Throughout the convention, pictures of the statewide lifetime members and Belle Ringer awardee were shown. LWVNW lifetime members and Belle Ringers are noted in the annual meeting recap.

If you have not attended a convention, it is well worth your time. Not only will you be energized and surrounded by like minded individuals, you will learn useful information, network, make new friends, and see how all the Leagues are interconnected. While the State convention is smaller than the national convention, it still has lots to offer. Please consider attending the next convention in 2027.

All the material and presentations from the convention can be found at the

[LWVMI website](#) under member services. You will need a password. Please email moondupree@comcast.net for the password.

Membership

We are pleased to welcome our newest members since the last issue of *The Voter*.

Andrea Howard, Diane Sands, Sue Taylor, and Marie Tolen

We look forward to meeting you in person at an upcoming meeting!



Observer Corps by Lena Packer

Members of the Observer Corps attend local government meetings to see if these meetings are open and conducted in an orderly manner. We also note what issues concern the community and its residents. Meetings can be observed virtually or in person.

We are asking any interested League members to volunteer to be “guest observers.” Guest observers are asked to attend one government meeting and share their observations with our group. It is a great way to learn about the issues concerning our communities.

Specifically, we are looking for volunteers to observe local school board meetings held in August or September. The following school boards need observers: Garden City, Redford, Livonia, Northville-Northville Township, Wayne-Westland, and Van Buren.

If you are interested in being a guest observer or would like to learn more about what our group does, please contact Lena at lena.packer@yahoo.com.

Voter Registration by Ann Andrews

In partnership with the National Honor Society of [Wayne Memorial High School](#), LWVNW held a voter registration drive on May 13. This is the second year we have partnered with Wayne Memorial on this event. We registered 40 students to vote!

Voter Services by Toni S. Jones, PhD

In the month of July the League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County

will host three candidate forums for the August 2025 primary. We will have a virtual forum for Westland City Council candidates on July 9, a virtual forum for Livonia City Council candidates on July 10, and an in person forum for the City of Plymouth Commissioners candidates on July 28.

The virtual forums will be recorded and the videos will be available for viewing on the LWWNW website a few days after July 10.

We are looking for volunteers for the Plymouth Commissioners' forum. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Toni Jones by July 14 for details: 248-982-4566 or letjones@gmail.com.

Wayne County Transit Survey

Canton Township planners have released a survey about public transit for all western Wayne County residents. This is an important opportunity to demonstrate public interest in transit, and suggest possible services.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



In Memorium

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Claude Curry on May 1. He was a League Member and the husband of Linda Curry, League Member and most recent head of our Nominating Committee. Claude will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and we send our deepest sympathies to Linda and her family.

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

Board of Directors

President: Carrie Moon-Dupree
VP at Large: Sandy Main-Niemisto
VP Voter Service: Toni Jones
Secretary: Linda Priest
Treasurer: Paula Bowman

Directors:
Ann Andrews Valerie Nelson
Laura Jannika Anne Reilly
Lisa Martin Christina Stark

Committee Chairs

Advocacy: Carrie Moon-Dupree
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Laura Jannika

Nominating: TBD
Observer Corps: Lena Packer
Scholarship: Toni Jones

Financial Review: Dave Baughman
Membership: Maureen Hughes

Voter Registration: Ann Andrews
Voter Service: Toni Jones

The Voter Editor

Anne Reilly

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

Membership in the League is open to
anyone age 16 and older.

Join through our [website](#) or by calling
734-748-5564

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.

[Visit our Website](#)

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