

# Voter

## July/August 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

### LWVNWWC League Calendar

Dates for Our League:

**August 6:** PRIMARY ELECTION

**General Membership Meetings:**

- **Sept 28 @ 10:00 am, in person; Ted Scott Campus (Belleville) Wayne County Community College. See details below.**
- **Nov. 16 @ 10:00 am, in person; Sandy Main-Niemisto will locate a space**
- **Jan 25th @ 10:00 am, in person; Carrie Moon-Dupree will locate a space for a meeting and small holiday celebration.**
- **April 26th @ 10:00 am, in person; Lois Baughman will locate a space**
- **June 14th @ noon, in person, Annual Meeting at Rocky's in Northville.**

**September 9:** DEI Book Club, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters* by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins.

**September 17, 7:00 pm:** Board Meeting. In-person, Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton..

**August 24:** Michigan Women's Equality Day Celebration. \$50 per person  
11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Saturday  
St. Mary's Cultural Center - Livonia  
18100 Merriman Rd.

**November 5:** 2024 Election Day.

**General Membership Meeting: September 28th @ 10:00 am.**

We are holding an in-person general membership meeting at Wayne County Community College, Ted Scott Campus at 9555 Haggerty Rd. Belleville. This meeting will be dedicated to getting to know each other and see where we can

be of use in the fall elections.

We will also be discussing the Do's and Don'ts of election disinformation. A separate invitation will be going out the beginning of September. Feel free to invite friends to this meeting. All are welcome.

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



At the end of June, Sandra Main-Niemisto and I attended the LWVUS Biennial Convention in Washington D.C. Elsewhere in *The Voter* we will give the facts on what happened at the convention, but for this article Sandy and I wanted to give our impressions of what the experience meant to us, as your delegates.

### Sandy Main-Niemisto:

The realization of belonging to a highly respected organization, something so much bigger, was emotional and overwhelming. Our day at the Capital reminded me of the dignity and extraordinary nature of a by-the-people-for-the-people system of governance. Hearing and seeing the passion of members of other leagues, being introduced to issues unique to other local and state Leagues, being introduced to awe inspiring picture of differences united by one purpose: preservation of democracy by informing and enabling all to exercise their voting rights. Watching leadership pass from one generation to the next was obvious and not without its challenges. (The younger delegates wanted validation while the older delegates wanted credit for how we got here.) Our taxi/Uber drivers reminded me of the beauty of diversity since most were not born in this country. Hearing their stories was thrilling. Everything was enhanced by my exceptional roommate, Carrie Moon-Dupree (See more of

Sandy's report below.)

### **Carrie Moon-Dupree**

There are times I get bogged down in all the minutiae that it takes to be President of our League. The gift of being a delegate to the Biennial convention allowed me to see the bigger issues and refocus on what really matters, defending democracy. To be with over 700 people in person ,and just as many on line, gave me the sense that in every state and territory there are people just like us doing what they can and even what they can't, to defend democracy. Once people realized I represented Michigan, not New York, other delegates were impressed with what we have accomplished here in Michigan. Many in other states have a much harder struggle. The Kentucky League has only 13 members for the whole state and yet they persist.

We had one of our own, Angela Ryan McWhirter, honored with a pin for her donations to the League over 30 years. She was also featured in a movie called, "Just the Beginning: A Century of Political Power and the League of Women Voters." **We do make a difference.**

Perhaps the defining experience for me was to see the enthusiasm of young members to whom everything is possible and the wisdom of long time members knowing that change comes slowly, but does come with constant effort. We need both those points of view in the League. As recent headlines have shown us, the job is never done, nor is the way forward going to be an easy one. The new leadership at LWWUS are ready to engage in the fight. The question we all have to ask ourselves, are we? I'm in, are you?

Carrie Moon-Dupree, President  
[moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net) or 734-454-4866

## **Michigan's Women's Equality Day Celebration**

**\$50 per person**

11:30 am - 2:00 pm, Saturday, August 24, 2024  
St. Mary's Cultural Center - Livonia  
18100 Merriman Rd.

Once again the AAUW will be holding their yearly Women's Equality Day luncheon which many League members attend. The well-attended event is also sponsored in partnership with the Coalition of Labor Women/ Metro Detroit, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International League for Peace and Freedom/ Metro Detroit, League of Women Voters Michigan, ACE Women's Network, NOW ,and Women's Zonta International.

This year there will be a tribute to Laura Callow, our own lifetime League member, for her many accomplishments. We certainly don't want to miss this. This is the first year that I am unable to attend, but wouldn't it be special to have a large League presence to honor Laura and meet other accomplished women.

Register through this link:

<https://aauwmi.org/wed2024/>

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## Membership by Maureen Hughes

It's not about the money; it's about the members and the mission. Without our members, the League of Women Voters would not exist. And without our members we can't accomplish our primary mission - defending and preserving eligible citizens' right to vote.

We have two new members, Leslie Carpenter and Julie Jamieson. WELCOME!

Our current membership is 110. Many thanks to the 52 members who have renewed their membership for fiscal year 2024-2025. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so today. individual dues are still \$60, with household dues at \$90. You may post date your check if you wish.

Send your check to:

Susan Rowe, Treasurer  
35415 Elm St.  
Wayne, Mi. 48184-1261

If you don't remember what a check is, we accept PayPal.

[Join Online](#)

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

Your membership is valuable. Thank you for your support. As always, if you need assistance in paying your dues, please contact me.

[Mhughes616@yahoo.com](mailto:Mhughes616@yahoo.com).  
734-620-5715

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### LWVUS PRESS RELEASE, JULY 12, 2024

COMMITMENT TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY: Without calling out Project 2025 directly, Diana Wynn, new LWVUS President, issued **this press release on July 12 about LWV's Commitment to Preserve Democracy**. LWVUS is reminding us that Project 2025 is not policy, just ideas at this point and it is not the League's place to educate or share information about it. When questioned, please direct people to the LWVUS press release. You might also consider putting this press release in your next *Voter*. Here it is:

WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters of the US president, Dianna Wynn, issued the following statement about the state of American democracy ahead of the 2024 general election:

“For more than a century, the League of Women Voters has stood as a trusted, nonpartisan source of election information for voters across this nation. Since our founding, our organization has been dedicated to preparing voters to cast their ballot in each election and to exercise their right to participate in democracy.

“We stand firmly against policies and actions that threaten the integrity and inclusiveness of the democratic process. White nationalism and efforts to move our government toward authoritarianism threaten the very foundation of our

democracy. The League will use our power and resources to combat any attempt to undercut the values of free and fair elections, and our democracy of, by, and for the people. Through protests and advocacy we will challenge any policies, laws, and regulations that propose restrictive measures that undermine our nation's progress toward ensuring every citizen's right to vote.

“Our country is at an existential crossroads, and voters must make a critical decision about the direction of our nation. The League remains committed to providing nonpartisan election information for voters at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) and empowering voters to send a clear message about the future we want. We urge American voters to turn up and turn out in November to ensure our democracy reflects the will of the people.”

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwvus-commitment-protecting-democracy-2024>

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## From the National Convention by Sandy Main-Nimesto

On Thursday, June 27, 230 League members went to Capitol Hill to advocate for the ***John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*** Across the House and Senate, League members attended over 120 meetings with elected members and their staff. In all, 20% of Congress heard directly from the League in one day!

LWVMichigan met first with a representative from Gary Peters' office after which we walked to the House and met with someone from Debbie Dingell's office (and then Representative Dingell herself). Carrie and I had arrived in D.C. on the same plane as Rep. Dingell. Others of our delegation also met with a representative of Rashida Tlaib's office.

On Friday, June 28, there was a snafu with the Nominating Committee for 2024-2026 making it necessary to accept nominations from the floor, have an hour-long Q and A with the four nominees, and vote. Elected were Maya Eichorn of Maine and Toni Zimmer of New Jersey. The committee is chaired by Pinny Sheoran.

**Motions Report included as attachment.**

[Motions Report 2024](#)

## 2024-2025 Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship Scholarship Committee

by  
Toni Stokes-Jones

The submission period for the Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship ended in June. Scholarships were awarded to Lainey Woodman, a culinary arts student and Trinitee Murray, a nursing student.

Each awardee agreed to have their email, phone number, and home address released to the LWV NWW Co. for our annual directory once selected as the recipient of this scholarship. Furthermore, they understand that they must attend at least one LWV NWW Co. meeting and acknowledge that they will receive invitations from the League

to meet this requirement.

The Schoolcraft Foundation set the award for \$1K each in the Fall and the Foundation will match that with a \$500 scholarship for each of them in Winter 2025. Thus, each awardee will receive a total award of \$1,500 along with a free one-year membership in the LWV NWW Co.

Here are snippets from their thank-you letters:

"My name is Lainey and I received the Foundation-Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship (LWVNWW Co.) scholarship.

I am so thankful for the Foundation-Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship (LWVNWW Co.) and for you! I know that it is because of the generous support of Foundation donors that scholarships are possible....

I am loving being at Schoolcraft. I am learning so many things and making new connections I never thought I'd have. I hope to be able to work in banquet style settings or maybe a fancy restaurant. I would also like to become a personal chef at some point." '

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"My name is Trinitee and I received the Foundation-Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship (LWVNWW Co.). I am so thankful for the Foundation-Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship (LWVNWW Co.) and for you! I know that it is because of the generous support of Foundation donors that scholarships are possible.

I've overcome a lot of obstacles such as child abuse, homelessness, and bullying. My drive to becoming a doctor led me to Schoolcraft College. My current study is in nursing, in which I hope to receive my bachelor's after transferring to a 4 year college, before entering medical school.

This scholarship will benefit me by helping me take the courses I need to become a doctor in the future."

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On another note, Gwen Hooks and I [Toni] attended the Schoolcraft College Foundation Donors Celebration on June 27, 2024. It was well attended, had good food and refreshments, and was very informative regarding the number of scholarship donors they have. There is a tiered system of donors based on the scholarship amount but no matter how big or small the scholarship, the students who spoke about their awards were very grateful.

The scholarship criteria are:

- Part-time enrollment (or higher)
- 2.0 Minimum GPA

NOTE: No other criteria is required than the standard Foundation essays on career goals and how the scholarship will help them.

In addition to the monetary award, the scholarship recipients will be given a free

1-year membership to the League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne Co. They are also expected to either attend a general membership meeting or meet with a League member in person or virtually.

### Applying for the Scholarship:

To apply for the Scholarship next year, go to the following website, search for the *Friedrichs/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/?wa=wsignin1.0&wtrealm=https%3a%2f%2fadfs.verifymyfafsa.com%2fadfs%2fservices%2ftrust&wctx=60577a93-1066-49aa-8de0-56d3bc9bc47b&client-request-id=939f3cd5-72c9-42f8-6640-0080000000c8>

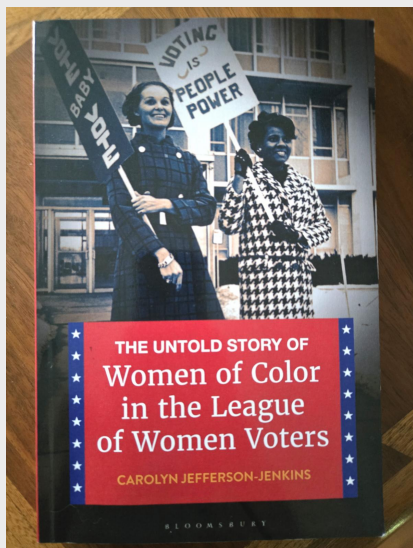
## Voter Services

by Toni S. Jones, VP of Voter Services

In June Voter Service hosted three virtual forums. The forums were for the Canton Twp. Supervisor, Plymouth Twp. Supervisor, and the Plymouth Twp. Trustee races.

With the results of the August 6, 2024 primary elections, we will identify virtual and in-person forums for races in the general election. We welcome more volunteers to help with the forums. We need producers, greeters, reviewers of questions, and publicity support. To volunteer, email Toni Jones at [letjones@gmail.com](mailto:letjones@gmail.com) or call (248) 982-4566.

In addition to the online voter guide, we will have a printed voter guide for this fall's general election. This year the layout and printing will be handled by a commercial newspaper printer and will look similar to the state's newspaper style voter guide. Instead of a stuffing party, we will have a "proofing party" where we will get together and review the layout and check for errors. Our "proofing party" will be in late September or early October. If you would like to join us, let Valerie Nelson know at [vnelson@prodigy.net](mailto:vnelson@prodigy.net) or 734-512-0344.



## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee

by Laura Jannika

DEI has been in the news lately, quite often as a target. It seems many are using Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as a wedge issue. To have leaders in Congress calling a woman or woman of color "DEI Hire" is unconscionable. This just invigorates our group's focus on the task at hand. Equity is what democracy is about.

Our book club is reading the book, *The Untold Story of the Women of Color in the League of*

*Women Voters* by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins. Here is a review of the book by Chris Carson: "As the only organization to come out of the fight for U.S. Suffrage, the LWV has a beautiful, inspiring, rich history that should be celebrated. For too long, that history has been incomplete---leaving out the stories of women of color who fought prejudice both outside and within the organization. Now, under the guidance of the author, who as the first African American president of the League of Women Voters has a front seat to our history, we have the whole story." We will get together on September 9th to discuss it. We hope you will join us for this important topic. Just let Lena Packer know if you want to be on the call.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MICHIGAN:

*Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.*

Also, the Michigan League did support and advocate for the expansion of the original Elliott Larsen Act (1976) which prohibits discrimination in Michigan to include protections for LGBTQ community.

Our DEI Book Club Date: We meet on Zoom every two months, the 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. **BUT**, in September, we will meet on **September 9th!**

We invite you to join us. Please contact Carrie Moon-Dupree at [moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net) for the Zoom link.

Be Kind

Send me a note at [ljannika@gmail.com](mailto:ljannika@gmail.com) with DEI in the subject. Thank you.

## **Observer Corps**

by Lena Packer

How are decisions made in your community? Do residents have a voice at these meetings? What factors are considered in the process? Members of the Observer Corps volunteer to attend meetings, in-person or virtually, to watch local government in action and learn more about the issues concerning residents.

Here's a report from one observer:

### **Canton Township by Carrie Moon-Dupree**

*The Canton Township Board meets twice a month at the Canton Township Hall. The meeting is held in person and live streamed. You can also view the recorded meetings the next day. For each meeting, the agenda and supporting*



materials are available to view for the meeting prior to the meeting. There are two opportunities at the meeting for public comments: in person or online.

*While I am a resident of Canton, when I'm at the meeting, I represent the League. I am there to observe and note anything of interest that needs follow up by the League. After each meeting I fill out the observer form and download it to our Google Doc site. For example, I learned at the July 9th board meeting that the Canton Township Clerk had a motion allowing for part-time election workers. This motion passed. I gave this information to League members who might now be able to be election workers.*

*My observations, so far, are that Canton follows the Open Meetings Act regulations and is accessible to all. There have not been any issues that needed to be elevated for follow-up by the League.*

We have observers for Livonia City Council, Livonia Planning Commission, Plymouth-Canton School Board, Westland City Council, Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Canton Board of Trustees, Van Buren Environmental Commission.

We are always looking for new observers. You do not have to live in the same community as the group you are observing. Right now, we need observers for Northville, Northville Township, Redford, Garden City, and Wayne. If you are interested in becoming an observer or would like more information about our group, please contact Lena Packer at [lena.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lena.packer@yahoo.com) or 734-634-1728.

You can watch Michigan House and Senate proceedings. Go to <https://www.house.mi.gov> and <https://www.senate.michigan.gov>

### **Observation and the Observer Corps work!**

## **2024 Annual Meeting Recap by Carrie Moon-Dupree**

The LWV Northwest Wayne County Annual Meeting was held June 8, 2024, at Rocky's of Northville. Thirty-five members and guests attended. First, we held the business meeting in which a number of motions were approved. The following motions passed:

- 2024 -2025 Fiscal Year Budget
- Two minor by-law changes, which were due to LWVUS dues structure changing and the wording of the new DEI policy.
- Approval of the 2024/2025 slate of candidates including Lisa Martin as a director and Toni Jones, VP of Voter Service.

Volunteers for 2025-2026 Nominating Committee: Linda Curry, Susan Rowe, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Lena Packer.

Volunteers for the 2025/2026 Budget Committee: Susan Rowe, Paula Bowman, Pat Bindas, James Moon-Dupree, Chuck (Rich) Cichewicz and Betty Brown-Chappel.

An Annual Meeting Booklet was previously sent to all members and was available in hard copy at each place setting. (If you want another copy, let Carrie Moon-Dupree know at [moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net) )  
Each person received a greeting card showing an important person or moment in LWV history.

Especially exciting this year was the honoring of three lifetime members as well as several brand new members, Laura Callow, Rachel Rion, and Roberta Young. As usual Rocky's did an excellent job.

Mark your calendars for next year's Annual Meeting on June 14, 2025, at Rocky's. We have already booked the front garden room for the meeting.

### **2024-2025 Elected Officers:**

Vice-President of Voter Service: Toni Jones

Secretary: Sandy Main-Niemisto

Director: Valerie Nelson

Director: Laura Jannika

Director: Lisa Martin

Continuing in the second year of their current term:

President: Carrie Moon-Dupree

Vice-President Development: Donna Gilkey-Lavin

Treasurer: Susan Rowe

Director: Marjorie Lynn

Director: Lena Packer

Continuing the 2nd year of their appointed terms:

Membership Chair: Maureen Hughes

Voter Registration: Ann Andrews

Director Manny Lavin

Director Jackie Peters

Suggestions to the Board were as follows:

- Invite named speakers to the membership meetings to draw in members.
- Fundraising suggestions
- Presentations on election laws
- Campaign reports after elections, suggested speakers Rich Robinson, Nick Pigeon, Craig Mauer
- Need to train and mentor new members for upcoming leadership openings.

## **Voter Registration Committee Update**

by Ann Andrews

We have been busy scheduling voter registration drives for the month of September. We have the following dates on the calendar:

- 9/15: Plymouth District Library (1-4 pm)
- 9/16: Schoolcraft College School Daze (10 am - 2 pm)
- 9/17: Schoolcraft College School Daze (10 am - 2 pm)

- 9/26: Northville Farmers Market (8 am - 2 pm)
- 9/30: Belleville Farmers Market (4 pm - 7:30 pm)

Three of our new members will be working the drives along with longstanding members.

### Transitions:

At the July 16, 2024 board meeting, Lois Baughman was appointed to fill the remaining one year term of Charly Meyer. As of the September issue of *The Voter*, Lois will be taking over as Editor of *The Voter* from Marjorie Lynn. We thank Marjorie for her years of dedication as Editor of *The Voter*.

Carrie Moon-Dupree

## 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](http://www.legislature.mi.gov)

LegiScan - <https://legiscan.com>

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

**President:** Carrie Moon-Dupree

**VP Voter Service:** Toni Jones

**VP Development:** Donna Gilkey-Lavin

**Secretary:** Sandy Main-Niemisto

**Treasurer:** Susan Rowe

**Voter Editor:** Marjorie Lynn

**Directors:**

Gwen Hooks

Maureen Hughes

Laura Jannika

Lisa Martin

Manny Lavin

Lena Packer

Jackie Peters

Randy Priest

Ann Andrews

Valerie Nelson

### Committee Chairs

**Advocacy:** Carrie Moon-Dupree

**Membership:** Maureen Hughes

**Auction:** Donna Gilkey-Lavin  
**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** Laura Jannika  
**Financial Review:** Nancy White  
**Legislative Interviews:** Susan Rowe

**Nominating:** Linda Curry  
**Observer Corps:** Lena Packer  
**Scholarship:** Toni Jones, Co-chair  
**Voter Registration:** Ann Andrews  
**Voter Service:** Val Nelson

**League of Women Voters of  
NW Wayne County  
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.

[Visit our website](#)

[Email us](#)

[Membership Information](#)

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

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



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