

# Voter

## July/August 2023

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

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### LWVNW League Calendar

**August 8, 2023:** Primary Election Day (only 9 in Wayne County)

**August 17, 2023:** LWVMI Environmental Network is presenting a program "Microplastics in the Great Lakes" with Arthur Hirsch at 6:00 pm on August 17th. This is a zoom event only. Register through LWVMI Environment Network at <https://lwvmi.org/environment/>

**August 21, 2023:** Zoom Book Discussion at 7 p.m. *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Email James Moon-Dupree for link at [jmoon-dupree242071mi@comcast.net](mailto:jmoon-dupree242071mi@comcast.net)

**August 26, 2023:** Women's Equality Day Celebration, St. Mary's Cultural Center, 11:30 am

**September 12, 2023:** In-person General Membership meeting. Location to be announced in August. Topic, "Implementation of the New Voting Laws" at 7 pm

**September 18-19, 2023:** Voter Registration at Schoolcraft College. Call Ann Andrews for more information at 248-470-3727.

**September 19, 2023:** Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00.

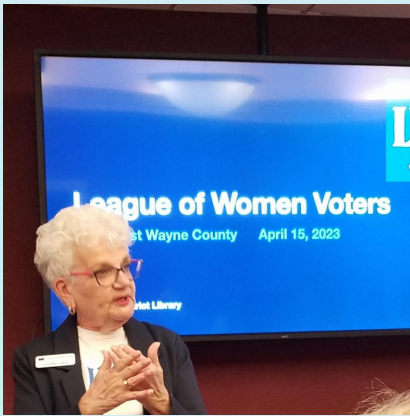
**October 14, 2023:** Fundraising Auction, Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia

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

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## President's Perspective:

By Carrie Moon-Dupree



Thank you to all of our members who have renewed their memberships in the League. Without you we could not do our mission. With over a hundred members in our League, our voice is amplified and heard. I am now going to challenge you to take the next step and do more to make our voice heard.

Our League has a social media presence on both Facebook and Instagram. While social media can have a negative effect on social discourse, it can also be used for presenting the verified facts and educating the public. Our communication point person Laura Jannika posts information frequently on both Facebook and Instagram that the public can use. We need more eyes looking at this “good” information. This is where you come in.

If you are not on Facebook or Instagram, join them. (On the bottom banner are the Facebook and Instagram links. Just click and you are at our page to join.) If you are on Facebook and Instagram, sign up to receive the Northwest Wayne County pages. You can sign up at:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=LWV%20Northwest%20Wayne%20County>

When you see a page from us, like it and share it with your contacts. Your friends are then able to share it with their friends. With a little effort and no cost to you, we can widen our circle of viewers.

The same approach could be used for the *Voter*. If you know of someone who would be interested in seeing what we do and perhaps joining us, feel free to pass along the *Voter*. There is nothing in there that we aren't proud for the public to see.

Thank you to our former social communication editor, Linda Franklyn who for years did this task and to our new communication editor, Laura Jannika who stepped up to take over.

Here's hoping that you are enjoying your summer. Know that the women and men of our League have continued to work through the summer to be ready for the fall elections and beyond. There is no down time in defending Democracy.

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

## Annual Membership Meeting Recap

By Carrie Moon-Dupree



As prescribed in our bylaws, the League held its annual meeting in person at Rocky's of Northville. Thirty days prior to the meeting each member was sent the annual booklet which showed all the business that would be brought forth at the meeting.

Members voted and approved the following items:

2023-2024 Annual budget

2023-2024 Slate of Candidates as presented by the nominating committee.

2023-2024 Program

Volunteers for the new nominating, budget and auction committees were requested and the following members volunteered:

Nominating: Linda Curry, Susan Rowe, Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Lisa Martin

Budget: Val Nelson, Pat Bindas, Roberta Young and Susan Rowe

The following slate of officers were voted in:

President Carrie Moon-Dupree -- 2 year term

VP Development Donna Gilkey-Lavin -- 2 year term

Treasurer -- Susan Rowe 2 year term

Voter Editor -- Marjorie Lynn 2 year term

Director -- Toni Jones 2 year term

Director -- Lena Packer 2 year term

The following individuals continue in their roles to finish out their terms:

VP of Voter Service Val Nelson 1 year

Director -- Randy Priest 1 year

Director -- Gwen Hooks 1 year

Director -- Laura Jannika 1 year

Secretary Sandy Main-Niemisto 1 year

Directions to the Board for the following year from members were given:

\* Expand social media presence

\* Have written protocols for committees

\* Update bylaws

\* Set up ability to use credit cards at the auction or to pay dues.

\* Increase in-person gatherings

\* Set up ability to pay fees other than dues electronically

After the business meeting adjourned, lunch was served and the socializing commenced. Once again Rocky's did a wonderful job.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Moon-Dupree at [moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net). Minutes of the meeting are available to review, but have not been officially approved yet.

### July 18 2023 Board Meeting

At the July Board meeting the following appointed directors were voted in for 2-year terms by the board members:

Charly Meyer  
Ann Andrews- Voter Registration

Re-appointed for 2-year terms:  
Many Lavin  
Maureen Hughes - Membership chair  
Jackie Peters

I look forward to working with the new board in the run-up to the November election this year. Thank you to all our board members for all the work they do.

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



Some audience members



Enjoying each other



Paying Attention

### 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? Are the government officials prepared and informed before voting on issues? 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.

Right now, we do not have any observers in the City of Plymouth, Northville,



Northville Township, Wayne, or Redford. 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

## Observation and the Observer Corps work!

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

## Board of Canvassers Observation

by Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough

From a message sent to League Presidents:

Though this election is small compared to those in 2022, it is still important for the League to continue our practice of monitoring the certification process. If you have not done this before, try it! It is a great way to learn about what happens after an election.

We hope that members from your Leagues will observe the BOC in Wayne County (there are only 9 jurisdictions that have elections in Wayne County on August 8th). The Sign Up Genius (SUG) link will be activated the first day or two in August - as soon as we have information about where and when the BOC will meet (we'll get this information for you this time around). We'll notify you when the link is ready.

Attached is more detailed information about the BOC process for the August election. Please circulate this email and attachment to prospective observers.

Thank you for your League's help in monitoring this important part of the election process. Let us know if your League can help with this. Here's a link to some information about the process.

[Board of Canvassers Info Memo](#)

## Voter Services

by Valerie Nelson

The Voter Service team has just completed a Zoom candidate forum for the Westland mayoral primary. You can view the recorded forum at <https://youtu.be/6r80oVW6d9E>

Thank you to Jackie Peters who produced this forum, Carrie Moon-Dupree who was our timer, and James Moon-Dupree and Paula Bowman who uploaded the video to our YouTube site. Also [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) is available with voter information about the upcoming primary election on **August 8th**.

This November local elections will be held in several of our communities including Belleville, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Westland. If you think voters in your community would be interested in holding a candidate forum for an upcoming election, please let me know. Elections where there are newcomers, or where there is an issue that is of particular concern are

examples of situations where the candidate's forum would be especially helpful to the voters.

**Would you be interested in helping voters make informed choices?** Our forum producers do the work behind the scenes to make it all happen, including contacting candidates and choosing a time and place, arranging for a moderator and timer as well as a venue and videographer if the forum is in person, and communicating with candidates by sending reminder emails, etc. If you would be interested in producing a candidate forum, or helping a producer with a candidate forum, please let me know.

An updated voting rights brochure is being printed, and I will be in need of volunteers to deliver them to local libraries. Please contact me if you are able to make a delivery at [vnelson@prodigy.net](mailto:vnelson@prodigy.net)

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion**

By Laura Jannika

On July 25th, thirty-three years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — one of the most important civil rights laws in our history. There is still much work needed to create more equitable opportunities in jobs, pay and transportation for those with disabilities.

A blind female engineer came to the Livonia City Council recently to speak about transportation in the city, and she said it cost her \$30 to attend the meeting. There are no Zoom accommodations for anyone in Livonia, for any public meeting. To go to her job she had to be ready at exactly 7am and leave at exactly 5pm because she had to request transportation well ahead of time.

We are looking for input from you to help define our purpose, strategy and direction going forward. If you have any feelings, please send me a note at [ljannika@gmail.com](mailto:ljannika@gmail.com) with DEI in the subject. Thank you.

## **DEI Committee Book Club**

By Marjorie Lynn



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

\* The dates and the books we chose for the rest of the year:

**August 21:** *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Moderator Marjorie Lynn

**October 23:** *The Bigot: Why Prejudice Persists* by Stephen Eric Bronner. Moderator Lena Packer

**December 18:** *Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict. Moderator Barbara Zysk-Berman

Postponed *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters* by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins

We invite you to join us. Please contact James Moon-Dupree at [jmoondupree242071mi@comcast.net](mailto:jmoondupree242071mi@comcast.net) for the Zoom link.



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

## **National Popular Vote Update**

From *LWVMI League Links*, July 2023

### **LWVMI Supports National Popular Vote Compact**

The LWV Transformation, including the new dues model and, hopefully, increased membership, will position LWV to carry out a multi-phase “moonshot” plan to abolish the Electoral College. We are in Phase 1 of 5, each of which is expected to take a decade. Phase 1 aims to adopt the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in enough states to make it work.

Seventeen states have already passed the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact: CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, HI, IL, MD, MA, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OR, RI, VT, WA. Their electoral college votes total 205 of the 270 needed for a majority to trigger activation of the compact. Eight states, including **Michigan**, are working on it: AR, AZ, ME, MI, NC, NV, OK, VA. Sixty-five more electoral college votes are needed—and we can supply 15.

The National Popular Vote bills, HB 4156 and HB 4440, are on second reading in the MI House of Representatives, and SB 126 and SB 295 are in the Senate Elections & Ethics Committee. LWVMI is advocating for their passage. Minnesota recently passed National Popular Vote legislation, giving 205 of the 270 electoral votes needed to implement the compact

**Please watch for LWVMI Action Alerts and TAKE ACTION to support passage of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact! Contact your legislators letting them know you support National Popular Vote and want to see it passed this year. Email, send a postcard, show up at a town hall, etc.**

## **How Can YOU be a Part of This Year's Auction?**

By Angela Ryan

The League's fundraising auction will be held this year on **October 14** at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, starting at **11:30 a.m.** Our new Vice-President of Development, Donna Gilkey-Lavin is taking over the reins of this long-standing fundraiser. Let's help her out.

You may have signed up to volunteer at the Annual Meeting on June 10, but we can always use more help. The committees include set up and clean up; check-in and checkout tables; publicity; refreshments; soliciting business donations; and auction coordination. Be thinking about which committee suits

you best.

There will be other ways in which you can participate in this event. You can **donate** any new or gently used items; **organize** a tour or a home gathering; and/or solicit a donation from a local business. If none of that works for you, you can make a monetary donation and be an **Auction Angel**. Of course we want as many members as possible to **attend** the auction and **bring guests**. If you would like to volunteer for one of the committees, please contact Donna Gilkey-Lavin at 734-546-6653 or [donna@lavinlift.com](mailto:donna@lavinlift.com).



## ADVOCACY INFORMATION

To identify state proposed legislation that is supported by the LWVMI, please go to the **Advocacy 2023** page on the **LWVMI website**. Check "**Take Action**" for current action alerts.

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

<b>President:</b> Carrie Moon-Dupree	<b>Directors:</b>	Lena Packer
<b>VP Voter Service:</b> Val Nelson	Gwen Hooks	Jackie Peters
<b>VP Development:</b> Donna Gilkey-Lavin	Maureen Hughes	Randy Priest
<b>Secretary:</b> Sandy Main-Niemisto	Laura Jannika	Charly Meyer
<b>Treasurer:</b> Susan Rowe	Toni Jones	
<b>Voter Editor:</b> Marjorie Lynn	Manny Lavin	

### Committee Chairs

<b>Advocacy:</b> Carrie Moon-Dupree	<b>Membership:</b> Maureen Hughes
<b>Auction:</b> Donna Gilkey-Lavin	<b>Nominating:</b> Linda Curry
<b>Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion:</b> Laura Jannika	<b>Observer Corps:</b> Lena Packer
<b>Financial Review:</b> Nancy White	<b>Scholarship:</b> Toni Jones, Co-chair
<b>Legislative Interviews:</b> Susan Rowe	<b>Voter Registration:</b> Ann Andrews
	<b>Voter Service:</b> 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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