

Voter

March/April 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

LWVNWVC League Calendar

Dates for Our League:

April 20, 2024: General Membership Meeting in-person at 12:30 pm at the Wayne Public Library 3737 S. Wayne Rd., Wayne, MI. Our guest speaker, Eric Geerlings, Renewal Energy Project Manager from Metro Energy Consulting Associates, will be speaking on Public Act 233 that was passed to facilitate Michigan's energy transition. LWVMI supported this act. Public Act 233 shifts permitting authority for large-scale wind and solar energy project from local governments to the state government. As you can imagine, there is a lot of controversy over this new law. Come hear what all the fuss is about. Free parking available in the parking garage located just south of the library.

Annual Meeting June 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m., Rocky's of Northville.

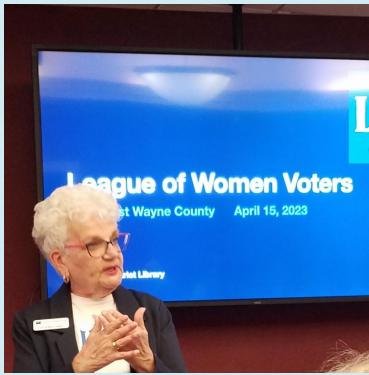
Mark your calendars for our annual business meeting followed by luncheon. This is a great time to meet and renew friendships--AND renew your membership-- while celebrating this past year's accomplishments. I am sure you won't want to miss it. More details later in a separate announcement.

June 27-30, 2024: LWVUS Biannual National Convention. Washington, DC

Sandy Main-Niemisto and Carrie Moon-Dupree will represent our League as voting delegates who will vote on national League issues. They will be attending Lobby Day, the Thursday before the convention starts, where they will be meeting with our senators and representatives. Once back from the convention, they will be reporting on their experiences and report out what took place. Anyone who wants to attend the convention, either in person or virtually, still has time to register on the LWVUS web site. Please let our League know if you have registered.

President's Perspective:

By Carrie Moon-Dupree



The hardest working people this year have to be those who work in our city and township clerks' offices. These women and men have been “dancing as fast as they can” to implement the changes to Michigan’s election laws resulting from the passage of Prop 2 of 2022. An additional challenge has been that this is a presidential year. Provisions had to be made for nine (9) days of early voting for both the primaries in February, August and the election in November. Because their state representative was

elected mayor, Westland had to hold a special election, which included an additional primary and election.

The League, along with other community organizations, has been involved in a Clerk Engagement program. We wanted to make sure the clerks have what they need to run elections. Several of us met with clerks in our areas to see where we could help and let them know that we were a resource that could be counted on. At our February membership meeting we heard from Livonia City Clerk, Lori Miller, about how they are preparing for the increase in work load.

Thank you to those who worked one or more of the elections. Some of you worked both early voting and the primary election. For those who have never done this work, there will be another primary in August and the general election in November that will offer you an opportunity to join in. If anyone has a doubt about the integrity of our election system, they need to work as a poll worker. You will see first hand the number of checks and balances in place to keep the election safe and secure. While it was a long day, it was a very fulfilling day. At my polling location in February’s primary election, we had a number of first time voters who were so thrilled to be casting their first vote. That was exciting to see.

Some of us also worked a shift or two at the Board of Canvassers in downtown Detroit. This is where the paper ballots are actually counted by hand and verified that they match with the tabulators. There are four Board of Canvassers members, two Democrats and two Republicans. Their job is to verify the numbers and certify. It was interesting to see a room filled with ballots by precincts with workers counting and verifying. Most of the time it was like “watching paint dry”, and that is a good thing. The primary election was fully certified in Wayne County on March 12, 2024.

Our Voter Service team is busy at work updating materials and keeping an eye on who is running for office in our geographical area. Not only does the League offer online and print election guides for voters this year, we will be doing candidate forums for as many races as we have capacity to do. Please consider stepping up and volunteering to help provide these voter education services through the League and/or volunteering to work the elections. Let’s not forget Megan Chenoweth who powers our Vote 411 digital presence; her work to keep Vote 411 updated is a huge benefit to our voters. **“This is not a drill;”** it is a big election year, and we need your help.

February Primary Super Voting Heroes: Toni Stokes-Jones, Valerie Nelson, Manny Lavin, Paula Bowman, Carrie Moon-Dupree, James Moon-Dupree, and Susan Rowe. If you worked the February Primary and I did not capture your name, please let me know so I can add you to our Super Hero list.

Carrie Moon-Dupree
President

moondupree@comcast.net or 734-454-4866

League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County Membership Report 2023-2024

by Maureen Hughes

Currently, our local League membership consists of 100 members. From fiscal year 2022-2023 our membership decreased by 16 members. However, we are still well above our membership count of 37 members in 2013:

Livonia 17; Wayne 3; Belleville 16; Westland 4; Plymouth 19; Van Buren Twp 4; Northville 13; Canton 19; Out of Area 5

We are privileged to have five lifetime members who have been with us for 50 years or more. Their knowledge and experience has been invaluable. We thank them for their service. Thank you Laura Callow, Rachel Rion, Nancy White, Diane Wittl, and Roberta Young.

LWV Town Hall - Michigan's New Voting Rights

by Carrie Moon-Dupree

LWVMI once again has provided us with the tools to do voter education in our communities. Armed with the presentation and handouts, Maureen Hughes and I headed to Madonna University in Livonia to do a presentation on our new voting rights. We also hosted a voter registration drive. League member Linette Popoff-Parks met us there, where she is an adjunct music professor. This is the League's first time doing a presentation at Madonna. After meeting the President, Vice-President and several professors, it won't be our last time. Both students and professors told me that were not aware of all of the new voting rights and were happy to learn about them. Thank you to the School of Social Work for inviting us to present.

Doing this presentation earned our League \$300 of grant money offered by the State League. We have until May 31st to do additional presentations, earning \$100 for each, to a maximum of \$600. If you know of a group or organization to whom we could give a presentation, please let me know. This is also an opportunity to get our organization's name out before the public, as well as educate voters.

Scholarship Committee

by

2024-2025 Friedrichs / Bowman Scholarship

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 LWWNWW County gives a free one-year membership to recipients of the Friedrichs / Bowman Scholarship with the desire that the recipient attends at least one LWWNWW Co. meeting.

The 2024-2025 Friedrichs/Bowman Scholarship is **now open** on the Schoolcraft College Scholarship Universe portal for students to apply. The application will remain open until Jun 23, 2024. The first round of award decisions will be in July or August 2024. Two students will be selected based on the scholarship criteria.

Scholarship Criteria:

Full-time or part-time enrollment required.

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

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

If you know an eligible Schoolcraft College student, please encourage her/him to apply by the deadline of June 23, 2024. To access the scholarship, they must log into their Schoolcraft College student portal, access Scholarship Universe, and search for the Friedrich/Bowman Scholarship.

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/?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>

Voter Services

by Valerie Nelson

Voting Rights Brochures Available

This year's voting rights brochure is being printed and will soon be delivered to all our area libraries. There are several changes from last year's brochure due to early voting and the implementation of Proposal Two. The voting rights brochure provides information about how, where and when to vote, how to register to vote, and where to get information or help with voting. If you think that voters in your community would benefit from brochures in Arabic or

Spanish, please let me know. Also, let me know if you are interested in making a delivery of brochures to a library near you.

Valerie Nelson vnelson@prodigy.net 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 April 15.

April 15: Our next book discussion is about the book *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. It's not "just an animal story, but a moving narrative about race and art." and "From a discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse [Brooks] braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history."

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](#)

Thanks, Laura Jannika

Be Kind

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



Observer Corps

By Lena Packer

The Observer Corps is a group of members who have volunteered to attend governmental meetings (virtually or in person), to take notes, and report on the issues being addressed at those meetings. Our members are observing decisions which affect our schools, the business community, the residents, and the environment. We discuss issues which have come up at these government sessions, and if there are any issues of concern, we present them to the Board to discuss whether the League needs to take any action.

This year our group initiated the High School Observer Corps Mentoring Project which provides high school students an opportunity to earn community service hours by attending government meetings with one of our members. It is a

wonderful opportunity for students to see government in action. We hope to continue this program in the 2024-2025 school year.

This past year we have been observing the following government entities: Westland City Council, Livonia City Council, Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Van Buren Environmental Commission, Van Buren Recreation Committee, Van Buren School Board, Plymouth Township Planning Commission, and the Livonia Planning Commission. Thank you to the following members who are observing our government in action: Paula Bowman, Jackie Peters, Maureen Hughes, Manny Lavin, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, and Laura Jannika.

To learn 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 <https://www.house.mi.gov> and <https://www.senate.michigan.gov>

Voter Registration Committee Update

by Ann Andrews

On March 15, I met with 20 students and the teacher advisor of the National Honor Society at Wayne Memorial High School to educate them on how to hold a voter registration drive; they would like to hold a drive in May. A voter registration drive was held at Madonna University (photo below) on March 21 in conjunction with an educational presentation. We didn't register anyone, but we made some great connections. There will be a voter registration drive at Belleville High School on May 2. I have also had interest in assistance with a voter registration drive from Stevenson High School in Livonia.

Photo: Maureen Hughes, Dr. Irene Glover: Director of Social Work Department, and Carrie Moon-Dupree at Madonna.



Congratulations to board member, Charly Meyer. Charly will be attending the University of Michigan Ann Arbor as an Electrical Engineer major. Go Blue!

Needed: A new Editor for *The Voter*

by Carrie Moon-Dupree

We are looking for a new editor for our newsletter, *The Voter*. This online bi-monthly newsletter is a vital source of information for our 100 members. Marjorie Lynn, our current Editor, has indicated that she is ready to retire as editor. We thank Marjorie for her dedicated service to producing wonderful and informative newsletters.

So, what does the job entail, you ask? The newsletter is produced on a digital platform called Constant Contact, for which Carrie will provide the link. Each issue is comprised of articles submitted by our members, along with pictures of events, etc. The president and other members contribute articles. We post important dates and updates that are relevant to the League. Other members and I review the contents and proofread before the issue is sent out. We mail a print copy to few members without email access.

In Constant Contact we have a data base that has the email addresses of all our members and others who have asked for a copy of the newsletter. With a few clicks of the mouse, the issue is scheduled to go out. We do also print and mail several copies for members who do not have computer access. If you can click and paste, you are half way there to being an editor. Having good English and writing skills are a plus.

If this is something that interests you or you would like to learn a new skill, please let me know so I can inform the Nominating Committee. Marjorie has indicated that she is willing to stay on to train the new person. We are in danger of not having a newsletter unless someone steps up. Thank you for giving this some serious consideration.

ADVOCACY INFORMATION

<https://lwvmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Opinion-Det-News-3-26-24.pdf>

Opinion *The Detroit News* March 26, 2024:

"Prop 2 Allowed for a More Accessible and Safe Primary Election" by Paula Bowman and Denise Hartsough

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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Voter Editor: Marjorie Lynn	Manny Lavin	

Committee Chairs

Advocacy: Carrie Moon-Dupree	Membership: Maureen Hughes
Auction: Donna Gilkey-Lavin	Nominating: Linda Curry
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Laura Jannika	Observer Corps: Lena Packer
Financial Review: Nancy White	Scholarship: Toni Jones, Co-chair
Legislative Interviews: Susan Rowe	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](#)

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