

# Voter

## May/June 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:

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

If you missed the meeting, minutes will be available by the end of June along with an updated roster. See photos at end of newsletter.

**June 15, 11 - 3 p.m.** Livonia Pride Event. Civic Center Park (by City Hall). The DEI Committee will have a table.

**June 24:** DEI Book Club, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. *Sula* by Toni Morrison.

**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 attend Lobby Day, the Thursday before the convention starts, where they will meet with our senators and representatives. Once back from the convention, they will share 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.

**July 1:** Dues Renewal: Individual dues are still \$60, with household dues at \$90. Student dues are \$5.

**July TBD:** New member orientation: new members will be contacted for availability.

**July 16:** Board Meeting. Info coming later.

**August 6:** Primary Election

**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.

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



Once again I am off this summer to New York City with a grandchild in tow. When one of my grandchildren turns 10, Nana takes them to NYC to see where I grew up, see the sights and meet the extended family. This summer it is Jack's turn and the number one thing on his list is the Statue of Liberty. I am not sure why this is number one on his list, but it is a good choice. Not only will we visit an

important historical site, but it will give me ample opportunity to have the conversation about democracy.

We will probably go to Ellis Island too, where he can see where my grandparents entered the United States and have the discussion on immigrants. Due to the pandemic delaying the trip, Jack is 13 and can have an intelligent discussion on these topics. As a grandmother, I feel this is one of the most important things we can do to assure that democracy is alive and well. We can speak with our children and grandchildren. While we as members of the League do excellent work out in the communities, we have work to do within our own families. Believe it or not, I still send texts to the older grandkids (23, 27) making sure they are registered to vote and will vote. It is so important to get the younger generations not only registered, but actually voting. It was very energizing recently when I worked the voter registration drive at Wayne Memorial High School. We registered 25 new voters, told them about Vote411 as a resource for information, and celebrated their enthusiasm for participating in their right to choose their elected officials.

The Statue of Liberty is a potent symbol of democracy world round. The League often uses it as a symbol of our work in defending democracy. Retiring board members receive a Statue of Liberty to thank them for their service. Mini Statues of Liberty were the "Hot" give away at the voter drive. This summer Nana may no longer be able to climb to the top of the Statue of Liberty, but she can still work to instill in her grandchild the values that the Statue and the League represent.

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/>

### League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County Treasurer's Report 2023-2024 by Susan Rowe

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at our Annual Meeting. As the Treasurer of the NWW LWV, let me remind you that this is a great opportunity to renew your dues for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Just a refresher - individual dues are still \$60, with household dues at \$90. You may post date your check if you wish. Student dues are \$5.

This is the last year that dues are scheduled to be paid to your local League. More information on this new step to bringing the League into the future will be coming after the National Convention in DC the end of June.

### Membership by Maureen Hughes

Currently, our League membership count stands at 106 members. This past year, membership has been up, down, and up again. Why? No idea. However, there is one member who moved her membership to another League for a very good reason. She moved and is running for Congress in her new congressional district. We wish her the best of luck.

Membership dues remain the same: \$60 for primary members, \$30 for second in household and \$5 for students.

Our fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th . Currently, we are in the last month of

our fiscal year 2023-2024. July 1, 2024 begins a new fiscal year and another membership payment is due. If dues are not paid for fiscal year 2024-2025 by July 1, 2024, they are considered technically delinquent.

So, now is the time to submit your membership dues for the coming year. Paying dues on time saves members the aggravation of getting reminder emails, letters and phone calls. It also saves the League the expense of mailings.

If there are circumstances that prevent paying dues on time, please contact me at 734-620-5715. We can accommodate your needs. We don't want to lose a single member. Dues can be paid by check and sent to our treasurer at:

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

Another way to pay is through Paypal.

OR

### **Join Online**

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

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

## **Scholarship Committee**

by

Toni Stokes-Jones

### **2024-2025 Friedrichs / Bowman Scholarship**

The 2024-2025 Friedrich/Bowman Scholarship is open until Sunday, June 23, 2024, on the Schoolcraft College Scholarship Universe portal for students to apply. Please pass the word on to any Schoolcraft College student that you know.

The first round of award decisions will be in July or August 2024. Two students will be selected based on the scholarship criteria.

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, 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

Our voter service team is preparing four Zoom candidate forums for the August primary election: Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Plymouth Township Supervisor, Redford Clerk, and Canton Township Board of Trustees. Thanks to our producers, Toni Jones and Jackie Peters; our moderators, Carrie Moon-Dupree and Paula Bowman; and our newest members Rina Cooper and Christina Stark who handled publicity for these forums. Look for links to the forum recordings on our website at the end of June.

In addition to the on-line 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 me know at [vnelson@prodigy.net](mailto:vnelson@prodigy.net) or 734-512-0344.



## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee

by Laura Jannika

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 State of 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.

**June 17:** Our next book discussion is about the book *Sula* by Toni Morrison.

"The novel follows the lifelong bond between Sula Peace and Nel Wright, exploring their contrasting life choices and the impact of societal expectations. As Sula challenges norms, the narrative delves into themes of self-discovery, female friendship, and the consequences of societal judgment." (Goodreads)

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. 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 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.

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 [lana.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lana.packer@yahoo.com) or 734-634-1728.

To learn more about the Observer Corps, please contact Lena Packer at [lana.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lana.packer@yahoo.com)

### 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 May 6, we helped the National Honor Society students from Wayne Memorial High School with a voter registration drive. Twenty-five students registered to vote assisted by Carrie Moon-Dupree and two of our newest members, Christina Stark and Rina Cooper. Additionally, we have received requests to do voter registration drives in September at the Plymouth District Library and Schoolcraft College.

Photo: Carrie Moon-Dupree, Christina Stark, Rina Cooper



## 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 107 members. Marjorie Lynn, our current Editor, has indicated that she is ready to retire as editor soon. 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.

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. 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.



Linda Priest, Ann Abdoo, Laura Callow enjoy conversation at the Annual Meeting at Rocky's, June 8



Carrie presides over our annual meeting. She brought part of her collection of antique women's hats.



Former president and current co-president of the LWVMI Paula Bowman shares conversation with our two Lifetime Members Roberta Young and Laura Callow, and Linda and Randy Priest.

## 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>



**President:** Carrie Moon-Dupree  
**VP Voter Service:** Val Nelson  
**VP Development:** Donna Gilkey-Lavin  
**Secretary:** Sandy Main-Niemisto  
**Treasurer:** Susan Rowe  
**Voter Editor:** Marjorie Lynn

**Directors:**  
Gwen Hooks  
Maureen Hughes  
Laura Jannika  
Toni Jones  
Manny Lavin

Lena Packer  
Jackie Peters  
Randy Priest  
Charly Meyer  
Ann Andrews

## Committee Chairs

**Advocacy:** Carrie Moon-Dupree  
**Auction:** Donna Gilkey-Lavin  
**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** Laura Jannika  
**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

**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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