

# Voter

## May/June 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

**June 10, 2023:** Annual meeting, in person. **Noon.** Location Rocky's of Northville.

**Now to June 30, 2023:** Please help make National Popular Vote happen in Michigan by emailing your legislators today.

**June 19, 2023:** Zoom Book Discussion at **7 p.m.** *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Email James Moon-Dupree for link at [jmoon-dupree242071mi@comcast.net](mailto:jmoon-dupree242071mi@comcast.net)

**June 19, 2023:** Juneteenth Holiday to celebrate Black Emancipation  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth>

**June 22, 2023:** Deadline for students to apply for the Friedrichs-Bowman Scholarship at Schoolcraft.

**July 18, 2023:** Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

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

**September 19, 2023:** National Voter Registration Day

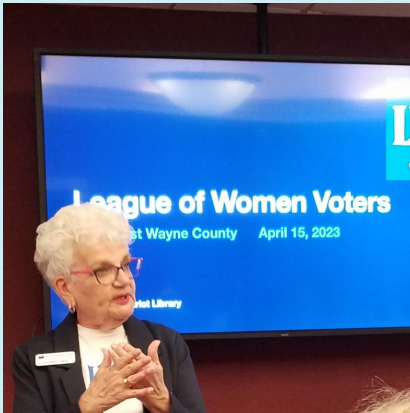
**October 14, 2023:** Fundraising Auction, Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia

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

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# President's Perspective: Convention Highlights

By Carrie Moon-Dupree



The biannual League of Women Voters Michigan State Convention convened on Friday, May 19th at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State Campus. While the Northwest Wayne County League had up to seven delegates, only two were able to attend this in-person event. James Moon-Dupree and I were voting delegates. On behalf of our League, James and I also donated a Pendleton wool blanket for the auction to raise funds for the state League's operations. I also supported the auction by being the high bidder on three items.

Each League gets to nominate **members who deserve mention in four categories to receive** Belle Ringer awards. Our winners were the following:

Lois Baughman	Advocacy
James Moon-Dupree	Voter Service
Laura Jannika	Membership
Angela Ryan McWhirter	Fundraising

Congratulations to all.

In three plenary sessions we voted on the new slate of candidates, the new budget, and new bylaw wording that holds board members accountable. The exact wording to be added to the state bylaws is this:

*In executing the duties of their office, board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, standards and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, they may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.*

Previously there was no way to remove a board member who was not upholding our principles if they did not resign. We were encouraged to amend our local League bylaws to include the same language.

A non-recommended proposal for a study on "Death with Dignity," renamed "Right to Die" was proposed. All the other votes were overwhelmingly approved, **but** this one went down to defeat by 9 votes. The general consensus from those who voted against it was that while it is an important topic, we just have too much on our plates with the upcoming presidential election to take this on now. For more information, go <https://www.lwv.org/transformation>. There is an FAQ that might provide the answers you seek.

Of interest to our members, and the Program Committee, a concurrence resolution to support librarians and fight banning of books was approved overwhelmingly **after** passionate discussion. We now have language in our

position that will allow us to fight book banning and intimidation of librarians in our communities.

Our opening speaker Virginia Kase Solomon from LWVUS spoke about the important work we have done and will need to continue to do. She also touched on the “Transformational Program” as we move forward towards modernization. Frankly, many of us were hoping for details and dates, but none were presented. The timeline on the national website is **also** vague.

The highlights of the convention for me were the various workshops. I attended the Gun Safety workshop. The guest speaker Laura Seewald, M.D., spoke about the public health crisis surrounding gun violence. I also attended a workshop on how to create a campus LWV unit. James attended LWV Engagement with communities of color and Censorship--including the avoidance of Black History. We will be bringing back these learnings to the membership.

Saturday evening we enjoyed a strolling dinner and the guest speaker Mark Brewer, an attorney of note who specializes in protecting voting rights. While we took time to celebrate the recent achievements in that area, he reminded us that the threat to voting rights is not going away. The League is a vital part of the fight and he thanked us for all we did, but it’s not over yet. Here was an opportunity to meet other members of local Leagues and network. **Each of the 166** delegates in attendance brought something to the table to be shared and used by other units. **This** sharing of successes and disappointments and offering encouragement to each other made the convention worthwhile. I appreciated the opportunity to attend this in-person event after having attended virtual events the last 3 years.

Our closing breakfast speaker was Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou, representing the 75<sup>th</sup> House District, who is serving her first term in Lansing. She spoke of all the pending bills and legislation that are in the queue on firearm safety, implementing Prop 2 and other voting rights laws. She serves on **four** committees. It was exciting to see the movement in the legislature on issues we support.

It is great to be reminded that we are not in this alone and while “saving democracy” is very serious business, the friendships and bonds made along the way lighten the load.

Thank you for all you do as members. Without the “grassroots” members, there would be no League.

Carrie Moon-Dupree  
President

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

photo: James Moon-Dupree receives his Belle Ringer Award

**In-Person General Membership Meeting:  
An Insightful Panel Discussion**



On April 15th the general membership gathered at the Plymouth District Library to hear from five of our own members, who are also elected officials. These members participated in a panel discussion on what it takes to run for office, both financially and personally. Why anyone would want to do it was also discussed.

The following League members were on the panel:

- Anne Marie Graham- Hudak  
Canton Township Supervisor
- Lisa Martin  
34th District Court Judge
- Reggie Miller  
State Rep. 31st District
- Carin Meyer  
Northville School Board
- Linda Priest  
Belleville District Library Board

The audience was enthralled to hear the trials and tribulations of the panel members as they navigated our political system. All agreed it has gotten more adversarial and the best way forward is to stay on message and not respond to the attacks. The issues of both the financial costs and personal costs were addressed. All spoke of the toll on their families. Each of the panelists believed that they could make a difference and persevered through it all to get elected. As Anne Marie Graham-Hudak noted, "I was underestimated" and that proved to be beneficial. We are grateful each of the panel members put themselves out there to run for office. Without good people running for office, our democracy is in peril.

Thank you to our panelists and those who made this meeting possible, Plymouth District library ( Thank you Heather Pacheco ), League members Jackie Peters for room arrangements Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Manny Lavin for refreshments, Maureen Hughes for sign in duties, Sandy Main-Niemisto for minutes and James Moon-Dupree for tech help.

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

## 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 Canton, 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 734-634-1728 or [lena.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lena.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>

### Note from Scholarship Committee

By Toni Stokes-Jones, Ph.D.

The LWVNWWC Scholarship Committee is happy to announce that we have awarded one scholarship to Amy Gome, a nursing student working toward her RN at Schoolcraft who plans to go on to a four year college. In a short video message, she thanked us for making this possible.

Please be advised..."As a reminder, to officially apply for the scholarship, the student must: 1) apply for admission, 2) be accepted by the college, and 3) set up their SC email account. Once these steps are completed, they can visit [schoolcraft.edu/scholarships](https://schoolcraft.edu/scholarships) and apply for scholarships. Students need to answer questions in order to match to the scholarship so they can apply." If a person *is not a student at Schoolcraft*, they can still view scholarship information by going to the following website: <https://schoolcraft.scholarshipuniverse.com/public/home?take=10&skip=0&sortBy=AlphaZA&scholarshipName=bowman&sortDirection=asc&scholarshipType=public>

Once on the site, click Filter (located on the right side of the screen). In the Scholarship field, type Bowman and click APPLY. Our scholarship information will be displayed

**The deadline to apply is June 22, 2023.**

[letjones@gmail.com](mailto:letjones@gmail.com)

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

By Laura Jannika

Our group has been keeping updated on DEI related state and local news, listening to experts, defining the components of DEI, doing personal research, engaging in conversations, collecting books and videos, and looking at the demographics to try and serve the community better.

We are also aware there is some sentiment in our country that is pushing back against DEI

### 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:

**April 17:** Meeting Cancelled.

**June 19:** Continue with *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Postponed *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of*

awareness.

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.

May has been AAPI (Asian-American, Pacific Islander Heritage month.

<https://www.pbs.org/articles/celebrate-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month/>

June is LGBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Pride Month.

<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about>

*Women Voters* by Carolyn

Jefferson-Jenkins

**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

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

Donna Gilkey-Lavin and Carrie Moon-Dupree did a National Popular vote presentation and recorded it. Find it on our web site.

From April 2023 League Links:

Between now and the summer recess, LWVMI is working to make sure the National Popular Vote bill passes in the House and Senate.

From January 2023 League Links

### LWVMI Supports National Popular Vote Compact

#### Election of the President

The League of Women Voters has supported direct election of the President of the United States since 1970.

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for the election of the President until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished”. *Impact on Issues, 2020-2022.*

#### National Popular Vote (NPV)

If Michigan joins the National Popular Vote Compact, Michigan’s presidential Electors would cast all their votes for the candidate who won the

most popular votes for President in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Compact will go into effect when the number of states in the Compact possesses 270 electoral votes, which is the number required to elect the President. The NPV bill has passed in 16 states. The Compact currently possesses 195 electoral votes; 75 more are needed for the Compact to go into effect. Michigan has 15 electoral votes.

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### **What can we do as members to help "Make It Happen"?**

- **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.**
- Educate others about the need for National Popular Vote to pass in Michigan.
- Once a bill is introduced, LWVMI will send an action alert and keep you updated on its progress.
- Hope is that a bill will be introduced and passed by June 30, 2023.

Five of our 46 Presidents have come into office without winning the most popular votes nationwide. Enacting National Popular Vote will apply the concept of "one person, one vote" to our presidential elections. More information is available at the **National Popular Vote** website.

Please help make National Popular Vote happen in Michigan by emailing your legislators today.

Christina Schlitt and Paula Bowman, Co-Presidents

## **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.**

At the Annual Meeting on June 10, you'll have the **opportunity to sign up** for one (or more) committees to help with the auction. They 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 can't attend the Annual Meeting but 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).

**Tour of Greenmead Historical Village  
May 6, 2023**

by Jean Norman



Jean Norman managed the auction tour of Historic Greenmead Village in Northville. The Village has been moved from the original location on the corner of Newburg and Ann Arbor Trail.



Nine of us showed up on a fresh May morning to be led by Sue Bailey through five historic buildings on the site, Then we visited the gift shop where we found fun vintage things to purchase.



Each site had a different docent to explain the specialness of the old schoolhouse, a still-operational church, the general store, a home, and the old urban transit trolley stop.

## 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

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Jackie Peters  
Randy Priest



## Committee Chairs

**Advocacy:** Carrie Moon-Dupree  
**Auction:** Angela Ryan  
**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:** Laura Jannika  
**Financial Review:** Nancy White  
**Legislative Interviews:** Susan Rowe

**Membership:** Maureen Hughes  
**Nominating:** Linda Curry  
**Observer Corps:** Lena Packer  
**Redistricting:** Angela Ryan  
**Scholarship:** Toni Jones, Co-chair  
**Voter Registration:** Mary Visos  
**Voter Service:** Val Nelson

**League of Women Voters of  
NW Wayne County  
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151  
734-421-4420**

Membership in the League is open to anyone age 16 & older. Dues: Student \$5, Individual \$60, Household \$90. Join through our website or call 734-421-4420.

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](#)



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

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