

The Voter

November / December 2024

EVENTS

Past Events

October 21, 2024
Canton's Early Voting
5 pm
Kickoff Party
Summit in the Park
Recreation Center

October 26, 2024
New Member
Orientation
10 am
Grand Traverse Pie
Company

Upcoming Events

November 5, 2024
ELECTION DAY



November 9, 2024
New Member
Orientation
10 am
Grand Traverse Pie
Company
41640 Ann Arbor Road,

In This Issue...

President's Perspective
September's Membership Meeting Recap
Observer Corps
Voter Registration
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Voter Services
A Special Thank You
In Memoriam
From Your Co-Editors

President's Perspective

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! I cannot say thank you enough for everything you did this election season. We had more primaries, candidate forums, voter registration drives, and town halls than we have ever had before. The month of September was extremely busy with an in-person board meeting and in-person membership meetings. We held 3 orientations for new members and scheduled two more in October and November. Additionally, we observed the vote count at the Board of Canvassers for Wayne County. Throw in the work that was done on the [Voter Guide](#) and Vote411, and you can see that our League members were fully engaged in "Defending Democracy." You made a difference.

Now we get to sit back and rest on our laurels, right? That is what an acquaintance said to me when I was unavailable to attend an event because it conflicted with the next scheduled membership meeting. "The election is over and

[Plymouth](#)

November 12, 2024

Board Meeting

7 pm

[Geneva Presbyterian Church](#)

[5835 Sheldon Road, Canton](#)

November 16, 2024

General Membership Meeting

10:30 am

[Redford Township District Library](#)

[25320 Six Mile Road, Redford](#)

November 19, 2024

DEI Book Club

7 pm

Zoom

See DEI article for more information

January 25, 2025

Membership Meeting and Holiday Party

Noon - 3 pm

[Straight Farmhouse](#)

[Grande Parlour](#)

[6221 Merriman Road, Garden City](#)

Visit the League's [calendar page](#) for the latest information about upcoming events

aren't you done?" she exclaimed. Unfortunately, no. As I write this, I do not know the outcome of the election or if it will be peaceful, but I do know the League's work is never done. Whether we are observing, fighting against book banning, or watching out for environmental concerns in our communities, our work is never really done. The Leagues' efforts have spanned over 104 years and there was never a time when we sat back and said, "Our work here is done."

As Celina Stewart, CEO of LWVUS, recounted when she visited Michigan on October 1st, "We are all volunteers in this grassroots organization." She explained that even though she is paid for 40 hours work as CEO, she regularly puts in 50 - 60 hours. She, too, knows what it feels like to be so passionate about what you do that you go the extra mile to make it happen. So thank you once again for going the extra mile, putting in the extra hours, and joining the Leagues across the nation to uphold the integrity of our elections.

Carrie Moon-Dupree



"Defending Democracy" Town Hall Meeting in Canton. Pictured left to right: Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, Michigan Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie, LWV Northwest Wayne County President Carrie Moon-Dupree, and Canton Township Clerk Michael Siegrist



Michigan Delegation to meet the new LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart

September's Membership Meeting Recap

by Carrie Moon-Dupree

It was a rainy Saturday morning when 27 members and three guests met for a membership meeting at The Wayne County Community College Ted Scott Campus in Belleville. Board Member Lisa Martin made the arrangements and provided refreshments. Kevin Martin, League member and Lisa's husband, gave a historical perspective of Van Buren Township where the campus is located.

The meeting opened with everyone playing LWV "bingo." Each person was given a sheet with 25 squares filled with names of LWV committees and voting related items. The objective was to fill in squares that applied to you. For example, if you were in the Observer Corps, you would cross off that square. While this game was fun, it also gave us the opportunity to hear about the many aspects of what the League does. As a result, new members and guests were able to see a broader perspective of our busy League.

Congratulations to our winners!

1st Place: Marjorie Lynn

Prize: A trip to Henry Ford Museum for the Women's Rights and Civil Rights exhibits and lunch

2nd Place: Linda Curry

Prize: A trip to Michigan Flight Museum (formerly Yankee Air Museum) for the Rosie the Riveter exhibit and lunch

3rd Place: Lori Gilbo

Prize: A trip to either museum

Committee chairs gave updates on their areas of work and welcomed anyone who would like to volunteer to be on that committee.

Paula Bowman, LWVMI Co-President, gave an update regarding state level business, including the visit from LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart, to our area. All

League members were invited to attend.

We also had a presentation on Mis- and Dis-information that included a handout. We will be bringing this presentation to the community to educate our fellow citizens on the many ways we are being deceived, as well as how to recognize that deception.

Nine people signed up for new name tags that will identify them as League members when working out in the community. The cost was \$15 each.

The meeting ended with time for personal interaction and refreshments. All agreed it is worthwhile to meet in person. Our next in-person meeting will be on November 16 at the Redford Library. More details will be sent in November.

Observer Corps by Donna Gilkey-Lavin

Belleville and Van Buren Township Environmental Issues

Belleville and Van Buren Township are suing to fight against the delivery of radioactive waste from Niagara Falls to the Wayne Disposal operation on North I-94 Service Drive in Van Buren Township. Currently, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kevin Cox enjoined the radioactive waste from being delivered to the site. He then amended that to say only the waste from the Niagara Falls site is enjoined and the similar wastes from other sites could continue. The landfill's permit expired two years ago yet it was allowed to continue. A public hearing is part of the permit application, and that has yet to be held. Ultimately, the Environmental Commission folks feel the state will step in to settle the matter. More to come as a hearing is also to be scheduled.

If you are interested in joining the Observer Corps, please contact Lena Packer at lena.packer@yahoo.com.

Voter Registration by Ann Andrews

The LWV of Northwest Wayne County held four voter registration drives during the month of September. Several League members participated in these drives which were held at the Plymouth District Library, Schoolcraft College (School Daze Wellness Resource Fair), Northville Farmers' Market, and Belleville Farmers' Market.

We registered 27 new voters, all at the Schoolcraft College event. The Farmers' Markets were new venues for us. While we didn't register any new voters at these events, it did provide an opportunity to distribute information about the [Vote 411 site](#) and the LWV. Several people came up and thanked us for what services the League provides, including holding voter forums.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by Laura Jannika

The DEI Committee is working to increase the awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion needs within our League. We are aware of the backlash currently going on in our country around this concept, and the idea that some consider it a form of affirmative action. We are looking further into obtaining resources and information from the LWVMI and the LWVUS so we can more clearly define the DEI message for our local League.

It was discussed at our last meeting that many candidates running for office have stated they are not happy with DEI implementation. The resources we are able to obtain from LWVMI and LWVUS will help us disseminate information to those elected, and monitor how elected officials implement these policies. We are looking into connecting with neighboring Leagues to share ideas and find solutions for this communication issue.

At our meeting on Indigenous People Day, we delved deeper into how voter registration laws can prevent some people from registering, such as Native Americans and unhoused people, because of address requirements. The topic of Indigenous colleges being underfunded across our nation was also discussed. We will share about the [Native Land website](#) at our next in-person meeting.

As a group, we plan to ensure that our in-person meetings are accessible to all of our members by providing necessary assistance. We believe that no one should be hindered at an LWV meeting because of mobility or other concerns. We will arrive early to each meeting in order to provide assistance to anyone in need. Feel free to call ahead to ask about accommodations for you. We were made aware that automatic accessible doors do not always stay open long enough for a wheelchair to enter, so keeping our eyes and ears attentive to needs is very helpful.

You are invited to our next book club on November 19 at 7pm via Zoom. The book is *Talking Back: thinking feminist, thinking black* by bell hooks. Email Laura Jannika at ljannika@gmail.com for the Zoom link to join.

Voter Services

by Toni Jones

The month of September was busy for the Voter Services Committee. We hosted several candidate forums. The recordings of the forums are available to view on [our website](#). Thanks to everyone who made phone calls, helped with and at the forums, and posted information on our [League Facebook page](#) and website.

We have completed the printed [Voter Guide](#) and delivered it to all of our area libraries. Thanks to those of you who helped to proof the guide and deliver it to local libraries. Also, thanks to Megan Chenoweth for handling vote411.org and providing the exported data for the printed voter guide.

If you have questions about how the election process in Michigan works, go to the [Michigan Department of State Election Fact Center](#) and [How Elections Work in Michigan](#) webpages.

Did you know?

You can track your absentee ballot, see your polling place/location and hours, see early voting location and hours, confirm your voter registration status, view a sample of your ballot, and more. Just go to the [MI Department of State website](#) and follow the prompts.

Voters can ask someone else to return their absentee ballot. The following individuals are legally permitted to return a voter's absentee ballot:

- The voter
- A member of the voter's immediate family who has been asked to return the ballot
- A person residing in the voter's household who has been asked to return the ballot
- A mail carrier during the course of their official duty
- An authorized election official in the voter's jurisdiction

It is a felony in Michigan for a person other than those listed above to possess or deliver a ballot regardless of whether it has been voted (meaning the ballot was filled out). [Click here](#) for more information.

PSST...You'll find a lot more information on the websites linked above.

A Special Thank You by Jackie Peters

I would like to send a big shout-out to Val Nelson for the great job she did in producing our very first professionally printed [Local Voter Guide](#)! It turned out beautifully and is something we can all be proud of as it is presented to the public.

It took a lot of work by many members of our League. I know it will be a huge asset to the communities we all represent in this very important election.

A big thank you also to Val for bringing lunch for the workers at our proof reading party held at Jackie's house. We all appreciate your dedicated service.

League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County

LOCAL VOTER GUIDE

For residents of:
Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville City and Township, Plymouth City and Township, Redford Township, Summit Township, Belleville, Van Buren Township, Wayne and Westland, Michigan

GENERAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Northwest Wayne County

POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Publication of these responses from candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters. Candidates' words are printed as submitted (including any misspellings). Statements expressed by the candidates are not endorsed nor opposed by the LWV. Also, the LWV does not certify any candidate responses to questions as accurate.

Election day is November 5. If you are not registered to vote, you can do so up through Election Day.
Within 14 days of the election, registration must be done at the office of your township clerk.

The polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, November 5th, but all registered voters can vote early by absentee ballot or at an early voting site. If you need an absentee ballot application, you can get one at the City or Township Clerk's office.

VOTERS IN MICHIGAN CAN ALSO VOTE DURING EARLY VOTING.
At early voting locations, voters will have the opportunity to vote and insert their own ballot into the tabulator. Early voting takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election. Voters can look up their assigned early voting site(s) up to 60 days prior to Election Day at Michigan.gov/Vote.

The on-line version of this Voter Guide can be accessed at [VOTE411.org](#).

INDEX

About This Voter Guide	2
About the League of Women Voters	2
Partisan Candidates:	
State House of Representatives	3-6
Wayne County Officials	3-6
Township Officials	5-7
Non-partisan Candidates:	
Circuit Court	18
Probate Court	18
District Court	20-21
City Officials	21-22
Community College Boards	23
School Boards	23-27
Library Boards	28-29
Proposals:	
All proposals	30

- Unopposed candidates are not listed -

In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Mona Alonzo (February 10, 2024) and Rosemary Doyle (September 7, 2024), both beloved members of our League. They will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

From Your Co-Editors

We are pleased to share that Anne Reilly has joined Lois Baughman as Co-Editor of *The Voter*. We look forward to working together to share the latest League news with you! A special thank you goes out to Carrie Moon-Dupree and Julie Jamieson for their proof reading efforts.

Lois & Anne

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

Board of Directors

President: Carrie Moon-Dupree	Directors:	Manny Lavin
VP Voter Service: Toni Jones	Ann Andrews	Lisa Martin
VP Development: Donna Gilkey-Lavin	Lois Baughman	Valerie Nelson
Secretary: Sandy Main-Niemisto	Maureen Hughes	Lena Packer
Treasurer: Susan Rowe	Laura Jannika	Jackie Peters

Committee Chairs

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

The Voter Co-Editors

Lois Baughman & Anne Reilly

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

Membership in the League is open to anyone age 16 and older.

Dues: Student \$5, Individual \$60, Household \$90

Join through our website or by calling
734-748-5564

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 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!