

# Voter

## November/December 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

### LWVNW League Calendar

**November:** Native American Heritage Month  
<https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>

**December 10, 2023:** **Holiday Party at the Baughman's, 2-4. See Flyer.**

**December 18, 2023:** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Book Club Zoom Discussion 7:00. Barbara Zysk-Berman will lead discussion of *Her Hidden Genius*. Contact Carrie to get the Zoom link: [moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net)

#### Board Meetings via Zoom 2024:

- January 16th @ 7pm
- March 19th @ 7pm
- May 21st @ 7pm

#### General Membership Meetings 2024:

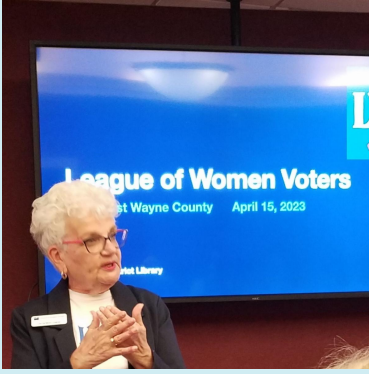
- February 13th via Zoom 7 pm; Topic 2024 Elections preparations
- April 20th, in person, 10:00 am place, TBD, Topic Climate Change/ Earth Day
- June 8th, Annual meeting / luncheon, TBD location

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

### President's Perspective:

By Carrie Moon-Dupree

Do you dread opening your emails, only to view 2,797 emails sitting there? Are you rueing the day you signed up for emails from a company in order to



get that 15% discount? Do you feel overwhelmed by the sheer number of emails you get from the League? If the answer to any of those questions is yes, join the club of the overwhelmed.

While I make light of the situation, there is a negative fall out happening because of it. When we are overwhelmed, we tend not to open the very things we need to read. So how can you sort out which emails you definitely need to pay attention to:

- **Open any emails I send.** I will only send you an email as League President if it is of value and importance. ( I know this sounds self serving:-)
- **Open emails that are “Action Alerts”** These are time sensitive and require a response from you on an important issue. They are a quick and an easy way to let your elected officials know where you stand on an issue that is important to the League.
- **Open *The Voter*.** *The Voter* contains all the relevant information on what’s happening in our League. It will have meeting dates, recaps on events and publicity for up coming events.
- **Open League Links.** *League Links* is the State League’s newsletter and is chock full of relevant information on advocacy, voter service, events and training. If you happen to miss reading *League Links*, you can find that information on the State League’s website. *League Links* summarizes everything in one convenient place.
- LWWUS will send out nationwide news releases, advocacy updates, donation requests, webinar registrations, messages from the President, Dr. Turner and messages from the CEO, Virginia Kase. All are worth taking a look at and reading as time permits. Again, much of this information is on the national League’s web site.

When I first joined the League I didn’t fully understand the different layers of the organization and was overwhelmed by the sheer number of emails, and mailings that I received. Remember we are a “Grassroots” organization.” The Northwest Wayne Co. League and its members are the grassroots. We need to make sure the roots are strong. We do that by being engaged and participating in defending democracy. You can’t do that unless you know what’s going on and how to help. Thanks for all you do.

Carrie Moon-Dupree  
President.

[moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net) 734-454-4866

**HOLIDAY PARTY!!**

By Lois Baughman

The League of Women Voters  
Northwest Wayne County Members  
and Significant Others  
are cordially invited to attend:

## **A Holiday Gathering**

Sunday, December 10, 2023

2-4 pm

Hosted at the home of  
Lois and David Baughman  
40939 Delta Drive  
Northville, Michigan

Only street parking is available so you may want to carpool

Please RSVP to Lois by Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

[Loisbaughman1960@gmail.com](mailto:Loisbaughman1960@gmail.com) or 313-303-5515

### **Please bring:**

An appetizer or dessert to share

Coffee, tea and water will be provided

You are welcome to bring a beverage of choice

### **\*\*\*NEW THIS YEAR\*\*\***

Voluntary participation in a gift exchange

Those interested – please bring a WRAPPED gift of \$20 value

## **CONGRATULATIONS** to our member **RANDY PRIEST**

Randy was elected to one of the five seats on the Belleville City Council in the November 7th election.

## **Town Hall Presentations on Proposal Two, 2022** By Carrie Moon-Dupree

Paula Bowman and I just completed six town hall meeting throughout our geographical area. We spoke to community members about our new voting rights that were won under Proposal 2 in the November 2022 election. We spoke at Belleville District Library, the Westland Library, Fox Run Senior Village, Walton Woods Canton and The Village of Redford Senior Living, part of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan. If you wish to see this important presentation, visit our website, where a recording is available. Go to

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

Through a grant from the LWVMI Education Fund, we earned \$600 for our treasury.

Our thanks go out to Toni Jones and James Moon-Dupree for assisting us in this important work. It is anticipated that early in 2024 we will once again be on

the road with an updated presentation. We are always looking for venues to present. If you are a member of an organization that would like to hear this, or any of our educational presentations, please let me know.

This will make you smile. At one of the Town Halls I asked the audience to remember "Their First Time." Giggles ensued and I then said that I meant their first time voting! From there I encouraged them to get just as excited as their first time, every election cycle. One member of the audience spoke up (our own Lifetime member, Laura Callow) and stated she first voted in 1948 in the Truman v Dewey election. Knowing Laura, I would hazard a guess that she has voted with excitement in every election since.

Carrie Moon-Dupree

## **Voter Services**

by Valerie Nelson

Our League conducted 3 virtual candidate forums for this year's general election: Livonia Treasurer, Northville City Council and Westland City Council. We also conducted an in-person forum for the Plymouth City Commission at Plymouth City Hall. The Plymouth City in-person forum was well attended and the audience provided many excellent questions for the candidates. Earlier this year we conducted a Westland Mayoral virtual candidate forum for the primary election.

Thanks to Jackie Peters for producing our virtual forums; Susan Rowe, Carrie Moon-Dupree, and Paula Bowman for moderating our forums; James Moon-Dupree for creating the YouTube video of the virtual forums; and Toni Jones, Charly Meyer, Carrie Moon-Dupree and Manny Lavin for helping with the in-person forum. As always, thanks to Megan Chenoweth for collecting and inputting all of the data required for [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) so that voters in our communities can find on-line non-partisan information about candidates running for local offices.

Next year will be a busy year for voter service. We will need volunteers for candidate forums to publicize, act as timers, develop questions or produce forums. We will also need volunteers to help with the Voter Guide. If you have an interest in providing voters in our area with helpful non-partisan information about their choices on the ballot, please let me know, we would love to have your help. Valerie Nelson at [vnelson@prodigy.net](mailto:vnelson@prodigy.net) or 734-512-03

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee**

By Laura Jannika

Our DEI group is working to raise awareness of marginalized peoples in the world. We often struggle to find the right words to say! We stand with the National LWV in saying "We are in solidarity with Israeli and Palestinian people. Human rights violations committed against women and children must not continue....We stand with all those working to restore peace, equality, and respect for every person's human rights."

We are also continuing to look at the accessibility in various city-owned buildings across our League. Lena will be sharing her findings on many of them

at our November 29th meeting. Let me know if you want to join in. We will have our next DEI Book Club December 18th, *Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict will be discussed. Just let me know ahead if you are interested in joining the Zoom call.

During this Thanksgiving holiday we honor the things that we are thankful for and the land that we live on, which was once stewarded by Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee and Wyandot nations. Happy Thanksgiving! Peace!

Be Kind

Send me a note at [ljannika@gmail.com](mailto:ljannika@gmail.com) with DEI in the subject. Thank you.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Book Group



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

**December 18:** *Her Hidden Genius* by Marie Benedict. Moderator Barbara Zysk-Berman. Barbara sent this note of preparation:

I've started re-reading *Her Hidden Genius* to prepare for our next book club which is December 18, sandwiched in between Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, our busy, busy holiday season. So if you have started reading the book earlier than you normally do, I would like to share a few things for you to think of before you are too far along in your reading. "Her Hidden Genius" is considered a "novel," not a non-fiction biography. That's an important distinction in determining the accuracy of the provided information.

How did you respond to Benedict's writing this biography--Rosalind Franklin **was** a noted British chemist in reality--as a novel? How do you feel about the liberties it gives the author in interpreting the inner thoughts of Rosalind Franklin? Be able to discuss the reasons for your preference. Because of the historical backdrop against WWII, antisemitic bigotry seemed to be less important to Rosalind's story, but its influence was always there. It was curious to see how antisemitism effected the Jewish community's cohesiveness.

How do you feel about the cohesiveness? Does that feed into our stereotypes of the Jewish people? Explain your thoughts. How would you judge women's progress since the 40s and 50s? How are gender stereotypes displayed today? Have we advanced in our stereotypes? What is the current role of the League of Women Voters in combatting gender stereotypes? Lastly, what questions crop up for you in your reading of this book? How does this book relate to your own life? Barbara Zysk-Berman

We invite you to join us. Please contact Carrie Moon-Dupree at



[moondupree@comcast.net](mailto:moondupree@comcast.net) for the Zoom link.

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

## **Observer Corps**

By Lena Packer

The Observer Corps has developed a community outreach project for high school students. Our High School Observer Corps Mentoring Project is designed to give students a first-hand experience with local government and how it works. Right now, we are reaching out to Livonia high schools. We hope to expand the program in the future.

Students will be able to observe either a Livonia City Council or Livonia Planning Commission meeting. An Observer Corps member will meet the participating student at the meeting and answer any questions the student may have during the meeting. This could be an extra credit activity for certain classes or for community service hours. So far, we have had positive responses from a couple of schools.

If you are interested in learning more about the Observer Corps, 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>

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## **Dues are Due!**

by Maureen Hughes

Many thanks to all members who paid dues for fiscal year 2023-2024. As a reminder, our fiscal year begins July 1st, not January 1st and ends June 30, 2024, not December 31st. Therefore, dues not paid by July 1st are considered delinquent and you will be dropped from our membership roll. Currently, we have 23 members who have not yet paid their dues for fiscal year 2023-2024. The good news is that it's not too late. The final membership count must be submitted to LWVUS by December 31st. If you've forgotten or need assistance, please give me a call at 734-620-5715. We need all hands on deck in 2024. The year 2024 will be a critical turning point for our democracy.

Dues can be paid by check or PayPal. Send your check to: Susan Rowe, Treasurer, 35415 Elm St., Wayne, Michigan 48184-1261 OR you can make your payment using PayPal by logging on to our website.

To make a payment via PAYPAL, follow the directions below.

Go to [LWVWWW.ORG](http://LWVWWW.ORG)

On the left of the page, click on join/renew

Click on the red JOIN button on the right

## Auction Update

by Donna Gilkey-Lavin



Opening the Auction, Roberta Young, Carrie Moon-Dupree, Donna Gilkey-Lavin



Manny serving as Danna White promoting a donation



Attendees ready to bid at the Auction at Greenmead Historical House

Our fall auction was held on October 14, 2023 at Greenmead in Livonia. Our very generous members and auction angels provided checks and a wide variety of items. Fifty-one baskets and items were auctioned off by the very capable and entertaining auctioneer, Charlie Mahoney. Their efforts resulted in \$3054 to our League account (after expenses). We also increased member and non-member guest attendance. This would not have happened if we hadn't had the number of volunteers who signed up and supported the auction.

The refreshment committee of Linda Priest, Linda Curry, Roberta Young, Karlene Steckowski, Ann Abdoo, Laura Jannika, Kathy Faitel and James Moon-Dupree provided a wonderful assortment of light refreshments and beverages. Laura Jannika also designed our 2023 Auction poster on display. Our check-in table was staffed by Charly and Carin Meyer. They were quite busy with the increased number of attendees. Our checkout table was capably staffed by Linda Curry and Roberta Young. Linda Curry also managed the publicity for the auction. Set up and clean up was efficiently and quickly done by Gwen Hooks, Randy Priest, Susan Rion, Marjorie Lynn, Mary Visos and Manuel Lavin.

Business donations were solicited by Carrie Moon-Dupree, Roberta Young, Maureen Hughes, Susan Rowe, and Lena Packer. **Companies that donated services and products were the following: Trader Joe's, Golden Gifts Jewelers, Rocky's of Northville, Helium Studio, Fashion Nails, Red Lobster, Sheesh Mediterranean Cuisine, George's Senate Coney Island, Phoenix Theaters, and The Hudson Café. Please consider patronizing these businesses as a thank you for supporting our league.**

This was my first auction as the newly elected VP of development. I want to give thanks to Angela Ryan McWhirter and Lena Packer who ran this major fundraiser in the past. Their expertise and support was vital to our

success. There are lessons I learned and things I wished I had done. The biggest regret was not having a list of all the wonderful donations and the members who donated. If we do this again, that will be rectified. If enough of you would like to continue this in 2024, please let me know so I can look for a location and bring to the board. My heartfelt apologies to anyone I did not mention that contributed their time, effort and capital to make this indeed our largest fundraiser in 2023!

## **Voter Registration Committee Update**

by Ann Andrews

I'm working to identify items that will encourage people to visit the LWV table at voter registration drives. Potential items include a voting themed selfie frame and give-away items, such as a mini Statue of Liberty or "I registered to vote" stickers. I am also compiling contacts from high schools within our League boundaries. I will reach out to ask about interest in holding a voter registration drive.

At the Schoolcraft College School Daze event on September 18-19, the League registered 10 new voters.

## **ADVOCACY INFORMATION**

### **LWVMI**

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.

<https://lwvmi.org/advocacy-2023/>

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**

**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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