

Voter

September & October, 2022

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

League Calendar

General Membership Meeting October 8, 2022 10:00 am via Zoom

Topic: *Ballot Proposals & Election Process: What You Need to Know*
Presented by the League of Women Voters' of Michigan

This is open to the public, so please invite a guest or two. Let Carrie Moon-Dupree know you are attending and she will send you a link; you can then invite a guest. The more the merrier. Carrie will need your guest's name to let them in from the waiting room. Carrie Moon-Dupree's email for a link to the meeting: moondupree@comcast.net.

2022 LWVNWW Auction
Saturday, November 12 @ 11:30 a.m.
Alexander Blue House @ Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia
See Angela Ryan's article below

LWVNWW Co. Holiday Party December 11

We are planning an in-person holiday party. If you would like to be on the planning committee, contact Lois Baughman at loisbaughman1960@gmail.com

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

Many of us studied Kubler Ross's "Five Stages of Grief" in school: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and



acceptance. While this model was developed concerning actual death of living beings, I feel that we as a nation are going through these as we watch our democracy appear to die. If we don't continue to work hard to stop this erosion of our freedoms and voting rights now, it may be too late.

League members are well aware of what's at stake as we try to keep up against the onslaught of attacks on our election systems, election workers, petition drives and arguments over any and every thing. The campaign of the anti-democracy forces trying to rewrite and re-do our once-effective election system is all about causing intimidation and chaos. It is exhausting! We cannot let "bullies" intimidate us into giving up hard fought rights. We cannot get to the stage of acceptance of this undemocratic vision for the new normal. We must stand up for all eligible voters and protect their rights. What stage of grief are you in? I hope you are in the anger stage and are willing to do something about it. What can you do?

- Be a poll worker. We have lost many experienced poll workers due to age, intimidation and technology. We need non-partisan poll workers.
- Be informed on the issues at hand. Talk with your family and friends about what is at stake.
- Push back on dis-information with the correct information.
- Make sure family, friends and neighbors are registered to vote and that they do so.
- Support your local clerk. Their jobs have gotten so much harder.
- Get involved in the many opportunities that the League offers to support voting rights.

It's overwhelming, I know. I feel it every day as it appears we're playing "Whack a Mole" trying to put out every new fire and tackle new ones as they pop up. As I sit here writing this article, two of the ballot proposals that the League supports, Reproductive Freedom for All and Promote the Vote 2022, are headed to the Michigan Supreme court to certify the signatures to get them on November's ballot. While both ballot amendments have more than enough signatures and were recommended to be on the ballot, the Michigan Board of State Canvassers deadlocked over lack of usual spacing between words which kept them off the ballot. By the time this *Voter* comes out, the court will have made its decision. I am hoping they approved these to be on the November ballot.

As you can see, I am angry and intend to stay that way until the attack on our rights is pushed back. Please harness your anger and push back. Our country and democracy belong to us. Thank you for our observers and poll workers in the primary election and now on to November. Our democracy is counting on us!

Carrie Moon-Dupree, President

Countdown to This Year's Fund-raising

By Angela Ryan

The NW Wayne County League's fundraising auction is *coming soon*. It is scheduled for **November 12, 2022**, at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, starting at 11:30 a.m. Items will be available to be viewed starting at 11 a.m. Greenmead is on Newburgh Road, just south of 8 Mile Road.

Many businesses have been visited by League members seeking donations, and most of the committee slots are filled. Thanks to all the members who have already volunteered to help with the auction.

There are still **many ways to participate**. We need *donations* such as new or gently used items, holiday gifts, baked goods, or handmade items. Homemade items are particularly popular. You can *host* a luncheon or a game party or coordinate something like a museum tour. We are hoping to offer a tour of Greenmead. If you are considering offering such an event, let me know if you need any suggestions on how to put it together. Auction Angels are those who make *monetary donations* to the auction. They are valuable supporters.

Of course we need you to *come to the auction!* Consider bringing one or more guests. If you do, there will be a *thank-you gift* for you. There will also be *door prize drawings* for the guests. **Admission is free**, and there will be **refreshments**.

This fundraising event will be the only one for the League this year. ***Please consider how you can support this event.***

If you have any questions or you'd like to volunteer to assist, contact me at 734-591-0995 or cruiserryan@ameritech.net. I look forward to seeing you at the auction!

Board of Canvassers Project Report

By Paula Bowman

The NW Wayne County League was well represented at the Board of Canvassers (BOC) observation project after the primary election in August. These members took "shifts" watching the Wayne County BOC do their tedious work after the election: Maureen Hughes, Sandy Main-Niemisto, Ann Andrews, Madeleine Andrews, Paula Bowman, Susan Rowe and Dave Goeddeke. The canvass process lasted the full 14 days, so all of the 4 Leagues in Wayne County (Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Dearborn-Dearborn Heights and NW Wayne) pitched in to help for 2, 4 or even longer shifts. A special thanks to Dave Goeddeke who took numerous early morning shifts. After each shift an easy report was submitted. At the end of each day, reports from counties all over Michigan were viewed by our Election Protection leaders and eventually by Michigan's Department of State. This kind of reporting was just started by the LWVMI in 2020, so it has been welcome information to those wanting to make sure that the BOC went smoothly in all the counties we observed. Thank you to all the members who pitched in to make this project a success.

We will be asking your help again in November, which is a much more complicated and important election. Observing the BOC requires no experience and is a good lesson in what happens to the ballots after election

day. Watch for the volunteer request in October.

Available – VOTE411 Yare Signs

by Paula Bowman

NW Wayne County purchased a bunch of VOTE411 yard signs in 2020 and we still have about a dozen left which are stored in my basement. They hold up well and can be used for all elections (no election date on them). If you would like one (no cost to you), please contact Paula at 734-277-or paulabowman9000@gmail.com.



Michigan Women's Equality Day Celebration: A Report

by Marjorie Lynn

"Gender equality is our goal" stated keynote speaker Former State Representative Christine Greig at the wonderful Women's Equality Day celebration at St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center in Livonia on Saturday, August 27. "We'd like to see gender identity not be relevant so that rights, responsibilities, respect are not determined by any gender."

Ms. Greig distinguished equality from equity by saying that "Equity is the **how** we actually achieve this; some need more help than others." She noted that accepting the use of gender neutral pronouns is "more reflective of gender equality than the traditional categories." When we all achieve both equality and equity, the conversation changes to include more concern about issues such as gun violence and child care.

Several members of our NWWLWV attended and two were key participants. Carrie Moon-Dupree, Debra Flavell, Jodi Flavell, Earlene Fisher, Marjorie Lynn, Roberta Young, and her daughter were spotted. Our own Paula Bowman, now Co-President of the State League, spoke as a representative of the LWVMI, an affiliate sponsor of the event. And we all relished seeing our esteemed Laura Callow present an update on the progress of the ERA.

Laura Callow has been fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment since the Second Wave of Feminism in the 1960s, and her speech reflected the depth and breadth of her knowledge of this complex, bitterly fought amendment. Currently, the ERA has been ratified, but is not yet a part of the Constitution because an official in the former administration held it up over the failure to meet the time limit. "The case is now on appeal before the D.C. Circuit Court." Laura is hopeful that the overturning of Roe v. Wade will be a catalyst for

enough people to raise their voices and increase their efforts to push the ERA over the finish line.

Ms. Callow concluded her speech with these inspiring words:

"To do so we women must get out and vote and.... vote consistently for candidates that hold the high principle of equality of rights for women.... The right to vote is a powerful tool our foremothers gained for us. We must use it."



Laura Callow explains the ERA >>



<< Paula Bowman introduces the LWVMI to the group

Diversity Equity Inclusion Hidden Biases

By Lena Packer

We all know we have a "blind spot" in our visual perception. What you may not know is that people also have a hidden-bias blind spot which they may not be aware exists. Hidden biases are bits of knowledge about social groups which are stored in our brains as a result of our social encounters. Most people are unaware of these "blind spots." Think of a visual perception test in which someone inaccurately perceives an image as it really is. We have visual, memory, and social "mindbugs" where we unintentionally make errors in our perceptions.

One example of a blind spot is our perception of the elderly. About "80 percent of Americans have a stronger *young=good* association than *old=good* association." This seems to exist in every country. Stereotypes are part of our hidden biases. Without consciously thinking about it, we use a stereotype of a group as a starting point for our perception of a person. Sometimes stereotypes such as *old=forgetful* or *leader=male* can be harmful and prevent the best decisions from being made.

These are a few interesting ideas to ponder. If you would like to learn more about hidden biases, read-*Blindspot-Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald.

If you are interested in joining the DEI Committee, please contact Lena Packer at 734-634-1728 or lena.packer@yahoo.com.

Membership Update

By Maureen Hughes

"I paid my dues, didn't I? "

Many thanks to the 83 members, so far, who have sent in their 2022-2023 dues. Your prompt payment is a great help. Prompt payments save time, money (postage for late notices) and the need to make reminder phone calls. If you are one of the 25 members who have yet to make your dues payment, we look forward to seeing your check or Paypal payment for \$60 primary, \$30 second in household or \$5 per student.

As always, if you are in need of financial assistance, please contact me at 734-620-5715. We value your membership and look forward to speaking with you.

mhughes616@yahoo.com

2022 Scholarship Committee

Finishes its Work

By Angela Ryan

The final report of this year's Scholarship Committee was presented to the League's Board of Directors at the September 20 Board meeting. The report included a summary of this year's process; noted changes made to the application form for next year; and included recommendations for improving the process.

Thanks go to committee members Pat Bindas, Joan Gebhardt, Toni Stokes Jones, Marjorie Lynn, and Angela Ryan. They all worked tirelessly on this project. Pat and Toni have agreed to serve on the 2023 committee, and Gwen Hooks has volunteered to serve with them. If anyone else is interested in working on this committee, please let me know at 734-591-0995 or cruiserryan@ameritech.net.

Voter Services Update

By Valerie Nelson

We have conducted one candidate forum and are in the process of recording "meet the candidates" videos for Wayne Westland school board. The State Senate District 5 recording (with Dayna Polehanki and Emily Bauman) is available on YouTube and there will be a link to it in vote411.org. Thank you to Ann Abdoo for producing and Susan Rowe for moderating this event.

For Wayne Westland School board we are doing a "meet the candidates" series of recordings. "Meet the Candidates" is a series of individual recordings of candidates answering a set of questions. We are trying this format for the first time for this year's general election. The advantage is that all candidates that want to participate are included because the individual recordings take place at a time that accommodates the candidate. Since all candidates are asked the same questions that are determined before recording any of the candidates, the recordings can be done by several different League members. Thanks to Jackie Peters who helped work out many of the logistics, and Linette Popoff Parks and Laura Mack who interviewed candidates. If you are interested in interviewing candidates in the future, please let me know.

Vote411.org is live now and populated with all of the voter information for the general election. Thank you Megan Chenoweth! The print voter guides are formatted and are being printed. Toni Jones, James Moon-Dupree and Gwen Hooks did the formatting and sorted through the extra challenge of having all of the districts change since the last election. Thanks for your hard work! The voter guides will soon be distributed to our local libraries.

Please contact me if you are willing to help at 734-513-0344 or vnelson@prodigy.net.

Observer Corps Update

By Lena Packer

The members of the Observer Corps attend meetings of local government entities and report on the issues discussed. We also observe the interaction between the local officials and the public. The following observation is from Laura Jannika:

I started observing the Livonia City Council in February, 2022. The audience is usually small, and I had no idea what to expect in the beginning. There have been some interesting meetings over the last few months. At one meeting, the subject of the Gay Pride flag came up. Some citizens were complaining about the flag being flown behind the city hall for one day at the end of June. They found it offensive.

Two weeks later, one council member suggested no other flags be flown in Livonia besides the city, state and U.S. flag. During the same meeting, another council member brought up the idea of having a study group to talk about equity and diversity in our city. Very quickly, the idea of a study group was unanimously voted down by the other members of the Council. One council member did not want crowds of people coming in to express their opinions. For the following two meetings there were more people attending the meetings on both sides of the issue, and there was lively discussion, which remained respectful.

If you are interested in joining the Observer Corps, please contact Lena Packer at 734-634-1728 or lena.packer@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report

by Susan M. Rowe

Donations are always accepted to be used for general funds (LWV NWW) or you may donate a tax deductible amount to the LWV Education Fund. Mail to LWV NWW Treasurer Susan Rowe, 35415 Elm Street, Wayne, MI 48184

Voter Registration

Mary Visos reported that Schoolcraft College only held their annual School Daze Festival one day this year. Our League had a table to help students

register to vote. She only registered six this year. This committee needs a Co-chair. If interested, let Carrie Moon-Dupree know at moondupree@comcast.net or 734-454-4868.

Welcome!

Welcome to our newest League member:

Maureen Schmidt

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County Board of Directors

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VP Development: Angela Ryan
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Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:
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Financial Review: Nancy White
Legislative Interviews: Susan Rowe

Membership: Maureen Hughes
Nominating: Linda Curry
Observer Corps: Lena Packer
Redistricting: Angela Ryan
Scholarship: Angela Ryan
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](#)

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[League of Women Voters of Michigan website](#)



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

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