



League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County  
*Established in Livonia in 1960*

# VOTER

[www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org](http://www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org)

Serving: Belleville, Canton, Garden City, Livonia,  
Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne and Westland

January 2018

## *Winter Calendar*

Sat. January 20  
10:30 am – 1 pm

**Membership Meeting** at Scrambler Marie's Restaurant,  
43225 Ford Rd., Canton (at N. Morton Taylor Blvd.)

Wed. January 24 &  
Thurs. January 25  
10 am – 2 pm

**Voter Registration** at Schoolcraft College's Winter Daze  
(see article on page 4 )

Sat. February 17  
10 am – 12:30 pm

**Movie Viewing**, "Equal Means Equal" at Waltonwood  
Assisted Living, 42600 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton 48187  
(See article on page 5 )

## *Future Events*

### **Auction**

Saturday, October 27, 2018  
at  
Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia

### **State Convention**

May 17 – 19, 2019  
at  
Embassy Suites, Livonia  
(see article on page 5)

*Welcome...to our new members: Earlene Fisher, Canton, Leah Gress, Northville and Lisa Asquini, Livonia.*

LWV NWW Board of Directors  
2017--18:

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cruiserryan@ameritech.net

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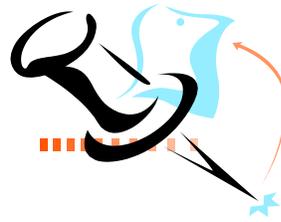
EM: lwvmail@yahoo.com

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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 influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.



## *President's Message*

Happy New Year, Members. It's certainly been a frigid start to the year. We have nowhere to go but up, at least in temperature.

We had a wonderful time at the League Holiday Party last month. Thanks so much to League member Sue Wabeke for opening her home for this gathering. It was great to have a chance to spend some relaxing time with League members. Everyone brought tasty treats and the time went by way too quickly. If you weren't able to join us this year, I hope you can make it to next year's get together.

2018 is going to be a busy year for the League. Not only do we have mid-term elections to address, but we will be very involved working for redistricting/gerrymandering changes. If you've seen recent emails that I've sent, you know that the State League is backing the Voter Not Politicians ballot proposal, and they are part of a lawsuit challenging the current redistricting process in Michigan. Members at the State level are updating the materials we used for redistricting presentations in 2015 so we can continue that educational effort this year.

Check the calendar on the first page of this Voter to get information about meetings that we have scheduled for January and February. We don't meet every month, but there's always a Program Planning meeting in January. This year, we're celebrating the League's 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in February. It's the beginning of a countdown to a big celebration for the League's (and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment's) 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020.

There's a National Convention every two years. This year's event will be in Chicago at the end of June. We haven't gotten any details yet, but we should be able to send more than one delegate to this convention. It's always a great time to find out what's going on with the League throughout the country.

We've got voter registration events coming up in the next few weeks. I've already got three speaking engagements scheduled at Schoolcraft and one with the Plymouth Kiwanis Club. If you know of any groups who are interested in learning more about the League, please let me know. We'll see what we can schedule.

Thanks to all of you who renewed your League membership. We've got a lot of exciting work ahead of us this year. The more members who can be involved in that work, the more successful we can be. Through the Voter, emails, and the website, we'll keep you informed of upcoming events and ongoing accomplishments.

*Angela Ryan*

# *Redistricting News*

## **Ballot Proposal**

On December 18, 2017, Voters Not Politicians (VNP) submitted its petitions for an independent redistricting commission ballot proposal to the Secretary of State's office. They gathered a little over 450,000 signatures; there must be at least 315,654 valid signatures from Michigan registered voters in order for the proposal to be on the 2018 ballot.

On December 17, 2017, the State League Board voted to support the VNP ballot proposal. The language of the VNP ballot proposal conforms with the State redistricting position that was developed after local leagues participated in a state redistricting study done in 2011-12. Campaign finance law restricts spending in support of the proposal to less than \$500 in direct or indirect expenditures; so for now, local league members may continue to work on the VNP ballot proposal campaign **only as individuals**.

The State League will update its educational materials, including the power point presentation on redistricting. In addition the State League will develop materials on how to speak in support of the proposal once the Board of State Canvassers approves the 100-word ballot proposal language. The process of certifying the petitions and negotiating the language could take several months.

The State League will continue its work to develop a redistricting reform coalition with other organizations that represent the diversity in our state. The Board believes such a coalition is necessary for a successful ballot campaign.

## **Lawsuit Filed**

On December 22, 2017, The League of Women Voters of Michigan and eleven individual voters filed a lawsuit in federal court in Detroit against the State of Michigan to end unfair, partisan gerrymandering of Michigan's Congressional, State Senate and House districts. The lawsuit clearly lays out the problem with partisan gerrymandering in Michigan:

Michigan's current electoral maps were drawn in a secretive partisan process with little discussion or debate before being quickly passed by the legislature.

Despite Democrats regularly winning a majority of the votes in the State House, State Senate, and Congressional elections, they hold a minority, sometimes a super-minority of the seats, which is a direct result of partisan gerrymandering.

With sophisticated computer software districts are drawn to dilute voting power, denying fair representation in all districts.

On December 27, 2017, U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood signed an order allowing a three-judge panel to hear the case.

## *Belleville Unit*

Angela Ryan

This month, we are celebrating the two-year anniversary of the beginning of the Belleville Geographical Unit. How did that come about, and where does it go from here? Barbara Miller reached out to the League in late 2015 and asked about starting a Belleville/Van Buren Township/Sumpter Township (Belleville) League. The Northwest Wayne County (NWW) League was asked to be the mentor, and we readily agreed. On a cold winter night in January 2016, Paula Bowman and I, along with Christina Schlitt from the State Board, met with 40 people to hear about the League. By the end of the night, more than 20 people had joined.

For now, anyone from Belleville who joins is a member of the NWW League. There is no specific time period for an area to be a Geographical Unit, but there are some required steps before they move to the next level, Members at Large of the State League. One of those steps is to have a budget and money to fund it. Belleville held a garage sale in September and received some money from last fall's auction.

There are currently three Belleville members on the NWW Board and two members on the Membership and Leadership Development Committee. Mentoring another group was new to NWW members, so we're learning as we go. It's been an exciting, interesting experience. We look forward to what lies ahead in this relationship.

## *Voter Registration*

Lena Packer

The League has been asked to host a voter registration drive at Schoolcraft's Winter Daze event on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm. It will be held at Lower Waterman in the VisTa Tech Center. We are asking for volunteers to work at this event during either of these time slots: 10-12 or 12 -2.

Please let Lena Packer know if you can work on one of these days and which time slot is best for you: [lana.packer@yahoo.com](mailto:lana.packer@yahoo.com); 248-536-2583.

## *Volunteers Needed in March*

For the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, our League has been hired by Westwick Square to oversee their Board of Directors' election. Westwick Square is a cooperative housing development near Annapolis Hospital in Wayne. This service opportunity is also a fundraiser for the League. Prior to the election on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the League must be available for Westwick residents who cannot attend the election and want to pick up a proxy ballot. We are looking for volunteers for the following days/times (2 persons per shift) to staff the ballot table at Westwick Square's clubhouse:

Saturday, March 3 – 12 noon – 3 pm

Tuesday, March 6 – 4 pm – 7 7pm

Thursday, March 8 – 4 pm – 6 pm and 6 pm – 8 pm (actual election – could use 3 members)

No experience is necessary. This is a low-energy task, but the League will be grateful for the help you will provide. If you can help, please contact Paula Bowman at [paulabowman9000@gmail.com](mailto:paulabowman9000@gmail.com); 734-277-2243. Thanks.

## *“Equal Means Equal”*

Next month we are celebrating the League’s 98<sup>th</sup> birthday by viewing the movie, “Equal Means Equal.” Laura Callow will be hosting this event on Saturday, February 17, 2018, at the theater at Waltonwood, 42600 Cherry Hill Rd., (at Lilley Rd.) in Canton. Refreshments will be served starting at 9:30 a.m., and the movie will begin at 10.

“Equal Means Equal” is a documentary showing how women are treated in the United States today. The director presents a compelling and persuasive argument for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

**Directions to theater:** Enter Waltonwood by the south entrance. Main entrance faces a circular drive with a gazebo in the center. Once inside, register at the kiosk. Turn left, walk past the dining room and take the elevator to the third floor. Turn right and the theater entrance is the first door on the right. Allow 10-15 minutes to park, complete the registration process, and get to the theater. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Laura by February 16 at 734-425-3572 or [lacarc@gmail.com](mailto:lacarc@gmail.com).

### *We’re Hosting!*

Paula Bowman

In early January, the LWVMI Board of Directors voted to have the 2019 LWVMI Convention at the Embassy Suites in Livonia. This is exciting for our League since this is the first time it's been held in our service area, and the first time in a long time that it has been held in southeast Michigan. The convention dates are May 17-19, so mark your calendar. This will be an important convention because LWVMI will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

The responsibilities of the local League hosts include acting as ushers, liaisons with local officials, arranging a 'dine-around', and participating in the convention planning. The local League also collects any free 'give aways' that convention goers receive, and provide some kind of a fun diversion during the convention. We could use some creative suggestions to incorporate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme.

I will be continuing my role as the LWVMI Convention Chair in 2019. If you would like to be a NW Wayne County representative on the convention planning team (this is fun!), please let me know. There's no work to do until early 2019. Even if you can't be on the planning team, we'll be looking for other volunteers during convention weekend.

### *Business Cards*

At the suggestion of League Board member Virginia Belinski, Paula Bowman designed and printed “business” cards with League contact information. They are intended to be given to anyone who expresses interest in the League, much like we use the “Vote” bookmarks, but smaller and more concise. They were handed out at the last members meeting. If you would like a supply of the cards contact Paula Bowman at [paulabowman9000@gmail.com](mailto:paulabowman9000@gmail.com); 734-455-4726. Thank you Virginia and Paula for the idea and its imple-

Livonia, MI 48151  
PO Box 51502  
League of Women Voters



Become a Partner for Change with  
the League of Women Voters.

Yes, I wish to join the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 16.  
My check of \$60 is enclosed.  
Make check payable to LWV of Northwest Wayne County  
PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI 48151