



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

VOTER

www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

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

NOVEMBER, 2017



Winter Calendar

Wed. November 29
1 pm – 2:30 pm;
Thurs, November 30
4 pm—5:30 pm

Voter Registration at Schoolcraft College

Sun. December 10
3 pm – 5 pm

Holiday Party at the home of Susan Wabeke.
(See article on page 5)

Sat. January 20
10:30 am – 1 pm

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

Sat. February 17
10 am – 12:30 pm

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

AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018

At

GREENMEAD HISTORICAL PARK, LIVONIA

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2017--18:

PRESIDENT
Angela Ryan
cruiserryan@ameritech.net

VP: VOTER SERVICE
Paula Bowman

SECRETARY
Kathy Mchahwar

TREASURER
Linda Curry

VOTER EDITOR
Ann Abdo

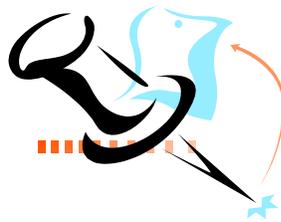
DIRECTORS
Diane Wittl Laurie Kelly
Lynda Franklin Barbara Miller
Virginia Belinski Lena Packer
Donna Gilkey-Lavin

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Kathy Mchahwar

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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

Members –

As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you all have much for which you can be thankful. From a League perspective, I'm thankful for the growth we've seen in our League and throughout the state. We have much work to do in educating the public and encouraging them to vote, and it takes many of us to do it.

The League Board members have done another amazing job this year. Each member has taken on multiple responsibilities, and much of it is behind the scenes. We can all be grateful for what they do.

The auction was a success once again. Despite a cold, rainy day, the attendees were enthusiastic, and almost everyone took home a gift card, homemade treats or some other treasure for themselves or to share.

Those who helped at this year's State Convention or served on a committee in our League deserve acknowledgement. All the work that we do is better accomplished as more of us participate.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to speak to students at Schoolcraft College. I'm finding that each year, they are better informed and engaged. I've even had a few who've heard of the League or our online voter guide, Vote411. I also had a chance recently to speak to the Belleville Rotary Club. That was a rewarding experience.

Many thanks to those who have participated in voter registration events at Schoolcraft. Often, our members get as much out of the experience as those we register to vote. It's rewarding to see the smiles when we ask students if they are already registered to vote or to have a conversation with them as they are registering.

We have an opportunity to express our thanks to Board and committee members and other League volunteers in person at the League Holiday Party next month. It will be on Sunday, December 10, from 3-5 p.m. at League member Sue Wabeke's house. I hope you'll be able to attend.

Whether you've had a chance to participate in any League activities this year or not, I'm grateful to have you as a member. We are stronger together.

Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving,

Angela Ryan

Voter Registration at Schoolcraft

Lena Packer



This year's Schoolcraft School Daze event took place on Sept. 20 and 21. Our members who volunteered for this event were Virginia Belinski, Rachel Rion, Pat Tavidian, Joan Gebhardt, Sue Wabeke, Angela Ryan, and myself. We registered 68 new voters from 22 different communities. This year we offered new registrants a "pledge to vote" sheet. They pledged to vote in the next election and provided us with contact information so we could send them a reminder to vote. We received 39 pledge sheets. Thank you to our volunteers for another successful registration drive.

Candidate Forums

Paula Bowman

Though 2017 was a relatively quiet election year, the League was still active in communities that had contested city elections. We held three forums: Belleville on September 20th, Livonia on September 21 and Garden City on October 4. We had excellent candidate participation at all of our forums and even though the physical audiences were not huge, videos of all the forums were available on our website for access by voters.

The League also prepared on-line Voter Guides at VOTE411.org for all the cities in our service area, including those with uncontested elections. Many thanks to Megan Chenoweth who does all the work and continues to make this project look easy! Megan first handled the Primary Election races on VOTE411 and then updated the Guide to reflect the candidates running in November. She met our goal of having all the information posted by October 1, in time for absentee voters to access the information.

From the candidate responses to our VOTE411 questions, we also provided print Voter Guides to Belleville, Livonia, Garden City and Westland. Angela Ryan and Paula Bowman had the Guides distributed by October 5, providing a needed service to voters eager to pick them up from their public libraries.

Voter service is a bedrock of the League's work. Many members pitched in and helped to make our candidate forums a success. The non-partisan professionalism that we display encourages candidate participation, which is essential in delivering comprehensive information to the voters. Thank you to all these members who helped with our forums this fall: Virginia Belinski, Barbara Miller, Donna and Manny Lavin, Elaine Gutierrez, Toni and Jim Clark, Kathy Mchahwar, Angela Ryan, Jean Norman, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Lena Packer, Ann Abdoo, Judy Patrick, Susan Rowe and Paula Bowman

Schoolcraft Speaking Engagements

Angela Ryan

Several years ago, the League hosted a forum at Schoolcraft College. Our moderator was a Schoolcraft assistant professor. After the forum, she asked if I would speak to her sociology class. Now, I give presentations throughout the year to her classes. On occasion, I speak to other professors' classes. I educate the students about the League and what we do. I speak about the importance of local and primary elections, and there's always a current legislative action to discuss. I also tell them about the Equal Rights Amendment.

I ask if there are any students who are not registered to vote, and there are usually at least 4-5 who are not. They sign up while I'm there, and their applications go to the appropriate clerk.

Studies have shown that the younger someone is when they start to vote, the more likely that they will continue to vote. With the low voter turnout in this country, I'm glad to have the opportunity to inform these students of their rights and responsibilities as voters.

Fall Auction

Lena Packer



Our fall auction was held on October 14 at Greenmead in Livonia. Our very generous members provided a wide variety of items for the auction along with a wonderful assortment of snacks and beverages. I am very pleased to report that we made over \$3300!

This fundraiser was truly a group project with so many people helping to make it such a success. I would like to thank Charlie Mahoney for acting as our auctioneer. She did a fantastic job running the auction and kept everyone laughing. A special thanks goes to Diane Wittl who worked at the table to sign in our guests. Our refreshment committee consisted of Nancy White, Mary Visos, Kathy McHahwar, Rachel Rion, and Lena Packer. They did a wonderful job organizing the food and beverages. Thank you for all the tasty goodies.

Several members helped in the set up and clean up of this event. Thank you to Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Sue Wabeke, and Jennifer Kurland. I would like to thank Toni Shepherd and Linda Curry for working at the auction checkout table.

I would also like to thank Paula Bowman for designing our auction flyers. Thank you to Ann Abdo and Paula Bowman for taking care of our publicity. Thank you to our business donations committee -Roberta Young, Angela Ryan, Susan Rowe, Reggie Miller, Barbara Rogalle Miller, Judy Patrick, Kathy McHahwar, and Sue Wabeke for bringing in such a wide variety of fantastic business donations! I know they made repeated visits to businesses to acquire these donations. We are so grateful for all of their time and effort.

I would like to give a special thank you to the following businesses for providing items for our auction: 1 Under Craft Beer and Eats, The Books Connection, O'Malley's Supper, Spirits, & Song, Phoenix Theaters, Sheesh Mediterranean Cuisine Trader Joe's, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Golden Gifts Jewelers, Helium Studio, Merri-Craft Florist, Michigan Philharmonic, Sorella's Homemade Baked Goods, Paige Ryan Salon, Livonia Symphony, Valentino's Pizza, Annie's Restaurant & Bake Shoppe, Scrambler's Marie's, The Stratford Festival, Fitness Things, and Claddagh Irish Pub. I would also like to thank Commissioner Marecki, Commissioner Haidous and Attorney Rob Young for their donations.

Our auction could not have been successful without the fantastic donations we received from our members. A very special thank you to all of these members who donated items and/or were Auction Angels; Laura Callow, Rosemary Doyle, Angela Ryan, Toni Shepherd, Barbara Rogalle Miller, Pat Tavidian, Sue Wabeke, Nancy White, Ann Abdo, Paula Bowman, Joan Gebhardt, Roberta Young, Linda Curry, Susan Rowe, Mary Sherwood, Kristen Farmer, Reggie Miller, Judy Patrick, Kathy Mchahwar, Mary Visos, Colleen Mills, Rachel Rion, Barbara Zysk-Berman, Diane Wittl, Jennifer Kurland, Jackie Peters, Donna Gilkey-Lavin, Philip Miller, Jean Norman, and Lena Packer. Thank you to Sue Wabeke and Angela Ryan for assembling so many lovely baskets.

As you can see, so many people were involved in this event. Without all of you, this auction could not have happened. Thank you so much for all of your time and effort to make this auction such a success!

*Commissioner
Glenn Anderson
Guest Speaker*

Glenn Anderson served in the State House and Senate and is now the Wayne County Commissioner for the 12th District. He spoke at the League's November 4th membership meeting sharing his views about a number of issues concerning the State Legislature and Wayne County governance.

One of the responsibilities of the Wayne County Commission is to adopt and oversee the budget. Commissioner Anderson stated that he and other Commissioners are demanding accountability on contracts and not allowing county departments to change them, sometimes years after they've been signed, as was past practice. The unfinished Wayne County jail is costing tax payers \$1 million per month for the cost of storing cell pods and paying for security at the site. There are several options being considered for the use of this land.

Commissioner Anderson expressed his concern about the State Legislature disregarding and/or overriding what the residents of the state vote for on passage of ballot proposals. They do this by adding an appropriation to a bill thus eliminating the possibility of a ballot proposal. They also change a section number of a law after petition language has been approved, so the petition becomes invalid.

When asked how to get a more responsive legislature, Anderson replied that we need to end district Gerrymandering. He went on to say that the opposition to a ballot proposal on this issue will be very strong.

He ended his talk by thanking the League for all of the work we do in helping voters make an educated decision about candidates running for public office.



*Your are Invited
to
The League's Holiday
Party*

at
the home of
Susan Wabeke
11397 Parkview
Plymouth 48170
on
Sunday, December 10, 2017
from
3-5 pm

Spouses and significant others are welcome.

Please bring an appetizer or sweet treat (enough for 6-8) along with serving dish and utensil. You can also bring any beverage that makes it a party for you.

Donna Gilkey-Lavin had planned to host the party, but due to a major plumbing repair, the location had to change.

“Equal Means Equal”

Laura Callow will be hosting the viewing of the movie, “Equal Means Equal” on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 10 am. at the theater at Waltonwood, 42600 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton 48187. “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.

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