

LWV NWW Board of Directors
2018—2019

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cruiserryan@ameritech.net

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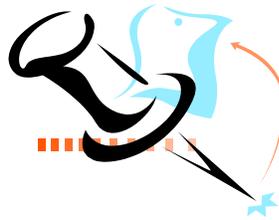
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LWV of NW Wayne County
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151
(734) 421-4420
EM: lwvmail@yahoo.com
Web:
www.LWVNorthwestwayne.org

Membership is open to anyone
age 16 & older

Dues: Student \$5; Individual
\$60; Household \$85

The League of Women Voters is
a non-partisan, political organi-
zation that encourages informed
and active participation in
government, works to increase
understanding of major public
policy issues, and influence
public policy through education.



President's Message

As 2018 ended, we saw a flurry of activity in the State legislature. Hundreds of bills were passed with few hearings or discussion. The League followed many of them. Thankfully, the governor vetoed some that we considered particularly egregious.

After almost two years since the League's lawsuit regarding redistricting was filed against the Republican legislators who drew the current map, we finally had our days in court this week. The trial lasted three days with the Republicans calling just one witness. Now, we wait for the judges' decision.

In the last newsletter, I addressed some of our accomplishments in 2018. Today, I want to mention some of our upcoming events, which will all provide opportunities for you to participate. There are detailed articles elsewhere in this newsletter about them.

The big one is the State League Convention, which will be held in Livonia from May 17 to 19, 2019. As the host League, we'll have a chance to show League members from all over the state how great our members and our community are.

We'll be monitoring three co-op elections in the coming months, one in March and two in April. These are exciting occasions to see democracy at work.

You'll have the opportunity to interview one or more of our Michigan representatives and senators in the coming months. You can choose your own officials, or someone in another community. Either way, it's a great way to get to know the people who are making the decisions in the State Legislature.

As you learn more details about these activities, I hope you'll be able to fit something into your schedule. Most of them will take no more than two or three hours of your time, but I expect that you'll be enriched by the experience.

I appreciate all of you for being members and look forward to seeing you at a meeting or one of the other League events in the coming months.

Angela Ryan

Suffragette's Ball

by Ann Abdoo

The Detroit History Club extends an invitation to a formal gala event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. The ball will be on Sat., March 9th from 6:30 pm – Midnight at The Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Tickets are \$175. A portion of the proceeds will go to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. For more information, go to <http://www.detroithistoryclub.com/tour>.

Detroit League Fundraiser

by Paula Bowman

On March 10, 2019 the League of Women Voters Detroit will be having their spring fundraiser at the Detroit Repertory Theater at 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit 48238. There will be a champagne reception at 1 pm with the play beginning at 2 pm.

The play is, *The House on Poe Street*. It is a feminist sci-fi fantasy that explores presumptions of wealth, gender parity, genetic determinism, and the power of poetry to conjure visions of a ghostly afterlife. The ticket price is \$25, but the Detroit League welcomes any additional donations. To order tickets: send a check made payable to LWV Detroit at PO Box 2503, Detroit, MI 48202; they will mail you tickets. A number of NW Wayne members have already purchased tickets, and we're considering going out to dinner following the play. If you'd like to join us, let me know you're going so we can include you in our post-theater plans. Email: paulabowman9000@gmail.com

I've been working with the Detroit League for a number of years, and am very impressed with their growth and determination. They will appreciate our support.

Elections at Co-operatives

by Angela Ryan

Seven years ago, the League was hired by the Westwick Square Co-operative in Wayne (4900 Heather Place) to monitor their annual Board of Directors (BD) election. They have invited us back every year since. This year's election will be held on **Tuesday, March 12**. We also provide League members ahead of the election to issue proxy votes. **We need two members for each of the following time periods:**

Thurs., Mar. 7, 4 - 7 pm

Sat., Mar 9., noon - 3 pm

Election, Tues., Mar. 12, 4 - 6 pm, 6 - 8 pm (or whenever the meeting ends)

Please let me know by phone at 734-591-0995 or email at cruiserryan@ameritech.net if you can assist during any of these times. It's an easy and interesting assignment, so I hope you'll consider volunteering.

Westwick is going to hold a bylaws amendment meeting on **Tuesday, April 9**. We'll be asking for volunteers when we have more information.

Colonial Square Co-operative in Ann Arbor (3012 Williamsburg Blvd.) is managed by the same group as Westwick. They hired us to handle their annual election last year and this year. We conferred with the Ann Arbor League president last year. She agreed to us handling these elections since we have the experience. This election will be held on **Saturday, April 27**, and I'm awaiting further details.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and consider volunteering for one or more of these events. These projects are a good way for us to put our League mission to work, and they are nice fundraisers for us as well.

Legislative Interviews

by Angela Ryan

At the start of every new legislative cycle, the State League asks local Leagues to interview their State Representatives and State Senators. These interviews help to establish a relationship with a legislator. That personal contact can be crucial to the League's future advocacy efforts, helping us determine what issues are important to each legislator. They also help the League anticipate what issues might be addressed in the next legislative session. Legislators who may not be familiar with the League outside of our voter service and candidate forums can also learn what issues our organization follows. These interviews are for internal purposes only, and the results are not published.

Volunteers are provided with questions and background material. Two League members are needed for every interview. Interviews are set up by the members at a date, time and location that works for both the members and the legislator. Locations used in the past have been libraries, coffee shops and restaurants. You'll soon receive an email from League Board Director Lena Packer with a list of the legislators we've been asked to interview. If you'd like to participate, please contact Lena at lena.packer@yahoo.com



2019 Convention

by Paula Bowman

Our NW Wayne County League will be the proud host of the League of Women Voters of Michigan's centennial convention on May 17-19, 2019 at Livonia's Embassy Suites. As the host League, we will have some special responsibilities. We already have a solid local convention committee in place.

The state convention is a weekend full of League business, education, inspiration and fun. We guarantee that those who attend will learn a lot and will be so proud of their LWV membership. The convention delegates will elect new officers, pass a budget, vote on bylaw changes and program, attend workshops, and enjoy fellowship with League members from all over the state. A highlight will be Saturday night's banquet featuring Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Ms. Weiss is a nationally recognized author and speaker and we are thrilled to have her. If you can't attend convention but would like to attend the Saturday night banquet (non-League members are also welcome), you may do so for a fee of \$50. All of the registration materials will be available on the lwvmi.org website on February 17.

Because the convention is in our backyard, we plan to send and pay for five voting delegates from our League and 5 or more additional delegates. At our January 26th membership meeting, a number of members expressed interest in attending. If YOU would like to attend, please contact Angela Ryan as soon as possible. The slots will go fast! Email: cruiserryan@ameritech.net

Schoolcraft Winter Daze

by Lena Packer

On January 23 and 24 we participated in Schoolcraft's Winter Daze student event. On January 23 we had terrible weather conditions in the morning so we cancelled our morning registration session. We did register voters that afternoon and on Wednesday, January 24. Schoolcraft invites us every year to their fall and winter student events. We really appreciate their invitation and always enjoy meeting the students and registering new voters.

New Online Voter Registration Law

from Press Release

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson made the following statement regarding the governor's signing of legislation to create an online voter registration option for applicants:

"By allowing voter registration applications to be securely submitted electronically in Michigan, the governor and legislators have given citizens a convenient and secure option. I'm grateful to the supporters on both sides of the aisle who worked together to make this important measure a reality." Johnson has advocated for online voter registration for a number of years. The law was signed on Nov. 15, 2018

Program Planning for 2019

by Ann Abdo

Prior to the Convention, the State League asks all local Leagues to review the state advocacy positions. This is a way for members to learn or review the positions the state already has. Local Leagues can propose an update of a current position, a new study or adoption of a new position by concurrence, or they can accept the State League positions as they are.

On January 26th at the general meeting, we reviewed each of the State positions, and voted to accept the State positions as they are currently written. These positions allow us to testify regarding bills and engage in other advocacy. For a summary and complete list of state positions go to <https://www.lwvmi.org>. After careful study local Leagues can also adopt positions. For our positions, go to www.lwvnorthwestlwayne.org.

The National League goes through the same process before their convention. As issues arise, local leagues use local, state or national positions to advocate for or oppose these issue.

Your League Needs You!

by Paula Bowman

At our League's annual meeting in June, we will be electing new officers to our local Board. Accepting a board position can be a very fulfilling opportunity. We guarantee you'll learn a lot and enjoy the experience. Any current member is welcome to join the board – whether it's for an officer position or a director at large. Some may think that joining the leadership team of our League is intimidating or requires lots of extra work. Not true! This is a cooperative group and there is plenty of support and historical knowledge to help an officer or director do a job. And the more people who participate, the easier the work load. The League of Women Voters is entering it's second century of service—please consider being part of this trusted institution. If you would like to join the board, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Kathy Mchahwar ; kmchahwar@gmail.com; Paula Bowman: paulabowman9000@gmail.com; Pat Tavidian: tavidian@aol.com or Sue Wabeke.: bunkierose769@att.net.

Belleville Unit

by Angela Ryan

In January 2016, the Belleville Geographical Unit (GU) was formed, under the guidance of the NW Wayne Country League. Since then, members from Belleville have served on the NW Wayne Board of Directors and various committees. Meetings and other events have been held in Belleville, and members from Belleville have participated in activities in other parts of NW Wayne. The formation of a Belleville leadership team is a part of the process for the GU to move on to being a Member at Large Unit, the next step to becoming an independent League. In 2018, we endeavored to recruit someone from Belleville to serve as co-president and shadow the current president. That effort was unsuccessful, and no future leaders of the unit have been identified. We'll continue to work to develop the Belleville GU.

Women Rise from the Crypt

by Ann Abdo

Adelaide Johnson (1859-1995) was known as the “sculptor of the women’s movement”. She was commissioned by the National Women’s Party to create a memorial to the pioneers of women’s suffrage, so she sculpted the busts of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott on a very large piece of marble. On Feb. 15, 1921, the Portrait Monument was unveiled at a ceremony held in the Capitol’s Rotunda. The next day it was moved to the basement, known as the crypt.

Fast forward to 1995, Karen Staser, founder of the National Women’s History Museum, came upon the sculpture by accident. She did recognize Susan B. Anthony, but not the others. Ms Staser was determined to find out more. She talked with someone from the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument organization, and learned of their desire to have it moved to the Rotunda by 1995 as part of the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

So far their efforts to get it moved had failed, so Karen Staser offered to help. Karen’s husband worked for Senator Ted Stevens (R-Ak), and he convinced Senator John Warner (R-VA) to help. There was a press conference where Karen asked people to donate to help cover the \$150,000 cost of the move; however not enough donations were received. The House of Representatives objected to using public funds for such expenditure. The campaign continued with over 100 groups forming the Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign. When Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich (R-GA), was told ...”You have locked three Republican women in the basement,” attitudes started to change; but it was not until 1996 that Congress passed a resolution allowing for the Monument to be moved to the Rotunda for one year. In 1997, the Monument was moved to the Rotunda, rededicated, and remains there today.

Information source: “A Different Point of View;” National Women’s History Museum, vol. 27.

