Remembering Those who Fought for Us

“Winning the vote required seventy-two years of ceaseless agitation by three generations of dedicated, fearless suffragists. . . The women who launched the movement were dead by the time it was completed; the women who secured its final success (on **August 26, 2020**), weren’t born when it began. “

( see article on p. 6 )
Happy Summer League Members!

Are you feeling as if your life has been canceled? I've received so many notices of cancellations of events and appointments, that it seems pointless to schedule an in-person event. The 2020 election is definitely NOT cancelled, and the League is finding innovative ways to deliver our services to voters. Zoom forums, webinars, conference calls, and leaving paperwork on front porches are the norm these days. I am proud of the members that have adapted so well to this new reality. By continuing your membership, you are making the important work of the League possible. Here are some facts to keep you inspired during this unusual time:

DID YOU KNOW THAT..?  
- LWVUS published a statement concerning the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement? This statement can be found on our local, state and national websites.  
- LWVMI is party to several lawsuits concerning voter suppression in Michigan? We’re on the right side of justice!  
- our local dues rate of $60 is one of the lowest in Michigan?  
- LWV is participating in the “Vote Early Day” initiative? Vote Early Day is October 24, a campaign to tell people how to register, which states allow early voting, and other voting regulations.  
- a number of our local members applied for the Independent Redistricting Commission? Sadly, none were chosen in the first round but we thank them for trying.  
- every library and every clerk in our service area has been encouraged to refer voters inquiring about election information to VOTE411? Some even put the link on their websites.  
- our League has 5 “lifetime” members? Those members who have served the League for more than 50 years are: Esther Friedrichs, Laura Callow, Roberta Young, Rachel Rion and Diane Wittl.  
- our “Annual Meeting Report/Booklet” is on our website? Check it out on the “About Us” page.  
- if you have an email address, you receive “League Links”, an on-line bulletin that comes out once a month and is loaded with LWVMI news? LWVUS makes a similar on-line publication available twice monthly that covers national issues. Sign up by visiting the League Management Site at LWV.org.  
- Michigan is one of only four states that has used VOTE411 for the past 10 years? LWV introduced it as the national on-line voter guide in 2010, NW Wayne has been on board since 2012.  
- LWVUS responded to DHS’ deployment of para-military troops in Portland by stating that the actions were unconstitutional and represented out of control leadership? See the statement in the “Newsroom” section on the LWV.org site.

Stay Safe!  

Paula Bowman  

President's Message
Candidate Forums go Zooming
By Carrie Moon-Dupree

This spring our candidate forums could not be held in person, due to the Covid Pandemic. Did that stop us? Of course not. We held our candidate forums by Zoom. Doing a virtual forum was a learning curve for both the members of the League and the candidates. With a little bit of trial and error, and a lot of patience, we held the following forums:

10th District State Rep. (Redford & Detroit) June 15th
Redford Township Supervisor, June 22nd
Van Buren Township Trustee, June 30th
Sumpter Township Supervisor, July 8th
These forums can be viewed on the Vote411 website, as well as our League’s website and Facebook page. Local papers also received notifications.

Of course this couldn’t have happened without the help of the Voter Service team, especially Susan Rowe, Val Nelson, Paula Bowman, Maureen Hughes and me. While we hope this pandemic will be over for the fall forums, we aren’t counting on it. Once the primaries are over, and we decide which races to do, we will be ready to proceed by Zoom if necessary. I wonder if our foremothers ever anticipated how much of a role technology would play in the League of Women Voters’ effort to keep the voting public informed?

Vote411 and Print Voter Guides
by Paula Bowman

The League’s on-line voter guide, went live in June. LWV of Michigan’s VOTE411 guru also happens to be Megan Chenoweth, our own guru. We’re so lucky to have such a capable person providing this League service. Judy Westra and Carin Meyer helped Megan load in the races, and a whole bunch of people helped us get as much participation as possible by calling candidates and reminding them of the VOTE411 opportunity: Jackie Peters, Roberta Young, Laura Jannika, Jewel Butler, Marjorie Lynn, Maureen Hughes, Kathy Mchahwar, Louise Weller, Paula Bowman, Deanna Master, Toni Jones, Pat Tavidian, Ann Abdoo and Linda Curry. This teamwork provided a product that is a trusted, non-partisan resource to our area voters.

Partly because of the pandemic, our Board chose not to prepare print voter guides for the Primary Election. We DO plan on preparing print guides for the November election. Even if we are unable to use the libraries as pick-up spots as we have in past years, we know that there are plenty of voters who still depend on the print guides rather than logging on to VOTE411. This fall, we may direct more of our print guides to senior facilities and under-served populations. Here’s a list of tasks for which we’ll need help:

- Preparing the print voter guides. If you’re familiar with using tables in Word, you can help! Because of our wide service area, we print up to 8 versions of local guides. Work on these guides will start this month. Contact me at 734-277-2243 or at Paulabowman9000@gmail.com.
- Stuffing in late September. Inserting the local guide that we prepare into the LWVMI newsprint guide was usually done at a “stuffing party” that was fun and productive. Starting this year we will still have our party, but with masks.
- Deliveries. We’ll need help with deliveries when we get to that point. In the meantime, if you know of an under-served population that would like our print Voter Guides, please let me know so I can add it to our list.
- Staffing. It’s possible that we will be setting up tables outdoors at public spots that are open in October to pass out the Guides. Think – grocery stores, farmers markets, etc. No dates are set yet.

Watch for ‘help wanted’ messages about the latter three tasks.

New Members:

James Dupree and Jodi Flavell, Canton;
Gilmore Peters and Anne Kozal, Plymouth; Allison Nomura, Livonia; Gwendolyn Hooks, Belleville.
**Annual Meeting**

by Paula Bowman

We were forced to do something new this year – voting by electronic and paper ballots to elect our officers, pass the budget, and approve the continuance of our “Making Democracy Work” program. Happily, all passed unanimously, and we appreciate all of you who participated. The new Board of Directors can be found below. We finished up our Annual Meeting by Zoom on June 23. The voting results were announced and we even had a short history lesson about women’s suffrage in Michigan from Angela Ryan, and an update on the ERA (yes, we’re STILL fighting for it!) from Laura Callow. Thank you to both Angela and Laura for providing some entertainment. Though we missed the in-person celebration that we had planned for this anniversary year, we did accomplish the business of the League by our virtual alternative.

**Board of Directors**

2020 – 2021

President: Paula Bowman  
VP Voter Service: Carrie Moon-Dupree  
VP Development: Angela Ryan  
Secretary: Deanna Master  
Treasurer: Susan Rowe  
Voter Editor Ann Abdoo

Directors:  
Donna Gilkey-Lavin  
Maureen Hughes  
Manny Lavin  
Kathy Mchahwar  
Carin Meyer  
Val Nelson  
Lena Packer  
Judy Patrick  
Jackie Peters  
Mary Visos

**Have You Paid your Dues?**

by Maureen Hughes

Remember the groundbreaking work the League did in 2018 to win the universal ability of registered Michigan voters to cast their ballots by mail and to make registering to vote easier and more convenient? Although this unimaginable pandemic wasn’t even on the radar at the time, these amendments were added to the constitution, so Michigan voters now have a safer and easier way of exercising their constitutional right to register and to vote by mail.

Your membership dues have fueled this victory and many more. For your convenience, a membership renewal form is enclosed. Your continuing support enables the League to ensure that the work continues. Thank you for your participation.

**Making Democracy Work (MDW) Grant II**

by Paula Bowman

Our League has signed up to participate in the second phase of the MDW grant project. The goals of this project are to support voter protections, monitor the implementation of the voting rights gained by the passage of Proposal 3 in 2018, to support the work of our county and local clerks, and to increase visibility of VOTE411. Val Nelson, Deanna Master and Paula Bowman comprise the leadership team for the MDW grant, but we’ll be asking for member support prior to the election. We will receive some funding with this grant, which we will use to further the goals mentioned above. This project will last through the November election, so you’ll be hearing more as our tasks are defined.
LWV US Convention
by Paula Bowman

The 2020 convention in Washington DC was supposed to be a spectacular celebration of the 100th anniversary of the League and the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. We were planning to send Carrie Moon-Dupree and myself as the two delegates, joined by other League members. Like every other event this year, the pandemic got in the way. The LWVUS staff did a remarkable job of conducting a virtual convention. Carrie and I still attended as delegates, as did a number of non-delegates from our League. Instead of rushing around a DC hotel to get to our meetings, we planted ourselves in front of our computers to watch Zoom workshops offered each day for 2 weeks in advance of the convention, and then finished up with the actual convention covering 3 days at the end of June.

We were able to vote for new officers, the budget, bylaw changes and program. We listened to inspiring talks from the keynote speaker, Norah O’Donnell from CBS News, as well as our Executive Director, Virginia Kase, and our new president, Deborah Turner. We learned a lot from attending a myriad of workshops on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Single Payer Health Care, Voter Suppression Tactics, and a host of other topics. We loved the cameo ‘happy birthday’ messages from so many of our congressional representatives and participated in the LWV Advocacy Day urging our Senators to move on the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Despite all the work to make this event as exciting as possible, we still missed the excitement and the energy available only at an in-person convention.

Inkster Resident Council
by Paula Bowman

Last year we agreed to help the Inkster Housing Commission with their HUD required Resident Council election. The quarantine delayed this project for months; but by the time you read this Voter, we should have completed most of our work with the Council. Elections were held the last week in July, and a Council was finally elected. We shared this project with LWV Detroit, and the two Leagues will be splitting the fee that we charged for this service. Thank you to Deanna Master for helping with this challenging project.

League’s Facebook Page
by Ann Abdoo

Lynda Franklin deserves accolades for all the work she does with our Facebook page. She developed the page and has managed it since 2013. On her own initiative, Lynda does most of the posting, and she posts articles on a wide variety of topics. Thank you, Lynda.

Check out the latest posting. From our web page: on first screen scroll down and click on the Facebook icon or go to http://facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfNorthwestWayneCounty

League Auction Postponed
By Angela Ryan

As has happened with many events this year, the League fundraising auction that had been scheduled for October 3 has been postponed until October 23, 2021. The Board considered several options and concluded that rescheduling to next year was the best decision to make. We hope that if you have items set aside to donate as auction items, you can hold on to them until next year. Remember that there are many ways to participate in the fundraising effort, and we’ll address those in the coming months. Thank you for all your past support of the auctions. We anticipate that next year’s event will be bigger and better than ever.
**Remembering Those who Fought for Us**  
by Ann Abdoo

Three generations of women defied the social norms of their time to work for the right to vote. They spoke in public, viewed as "unseemly." They marched in parades, viewed as "shocking." They formed national, state and local organizations where hundreds of thousands of women volunteered using their time and using their talent that some didn’t even know they had until they stepped up to the challenge to work for woman suffrage.

The first Woman’s Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1848. At the convention, they developed the “Declaration of Sentiments,” using the Declaration of Independence as their guide: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that they have hitherto occupied. . .We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal..." It continued with a list of grievances including being unable to vote, being forced to comply with laws for which women had no input, and unequitable divorce, and child custody. Newspapers denounced the Convention, and ministers gave angry sermons about women “stepping beyond their proper sphere.”

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was pleased with all the negative response. Writing to Lucretia Mott she stated, “It will start women thinking, and men too; and when men and women think about a new question, the first step in progress is taken.”

The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) founded in 1890, came about with the merger of The National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association, both founded in 1869. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first president. NAWSA sponsored several newspapers and published pamphlets, broadsides, and books. They held annual conventions. They lobbied elected officials.

The National Woman’s Party (NWP) was formed in 1916; Alice Paul being the first president. They worked for the passage of the 19th amendment, and they advocated for other issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment. NWP was viewed as the “militant” group, not afraid to confront elected officials who did support woman suffrage, and who didn’t keep their pledge to support the 19th Amendment. From 1917 to 1919, they staged Silent Sentinels outside the gates of the White House. They stood holding signs demanding the right to vote. They were arrested and sentenced to thirty days in a filthy rat-infested workhouse where they were beaten. When they went on a hunger strike to protest their treatment, they were force fed resulting in damage to some women’s esophagus. Upon their release, the NWP presented them with the “Jailed for Freedom” pins which they proudly wore as a badge of honor.

The last NAWSA convention was held in Chicago, six months before the 19th Amendment was ratified. President Carrie Chapman Catt was so confident that the Amendment would be ratified, she launched the League of Women Voters. The League became a “mighty political experiment” whose mission was to educate 20 million women on how to be responsible voters.

After 100 years, the League is no longer an experiment, but a highly respected strong organization still fulfilling its mission, with membership steadily increasing.

Our local league had forty-two members in 2015 and now we have over 100. In 2015, there were 1383 members state-wide. As of January 31, 2020 there were 2,417.

(Information and quotes taken from LWV US website, and “The Woman’s Hour; the Great Fight to Win the Vote,” by Elaine Weiss.)
Northwest Wayne Dues Renewal Form

Annual dues for the LWV Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 are now due. We value the membership of each of you! Payment of your dues assures you of another year of promoting political responsibility through active and informed participation of citizens in government. Payment of your dues provides for your membership at the local, state and national levels of the League of Women Voters. Please remit your dues promptly or pay your dues on line at LWVnorthwestwayne.org.

Renewal Dues: $60.00
Second Person dues: $25.00 (Dues for second person in the same household)
Renewal Dues for Student: $ 5.00

If you joined in late 2019 or before March 1, 2020, you only owe a pro-rated share of dues. You’ve been notified of that reduced amount if you’re in this category.

Contributions are welcome and appreciated! Please add any amount to your dues check. If you want to claim a tax deduction for your contribution, you must write a separate check to LWV Education Fund. This check can be sent to Susan Rowe along with your dues check.

Please make your check payable to the League of Women Voters and send it to our treasurer:
Susan Rowe
35415 Elm
Wayne, MI 48184

If you need financial assistance to renew our dues, or if you have any questions, please contact Maureen Hughes, Membership Chair at 734-620-5715 or mhughes616@yahoo.com

Please send this bottom portion in with your check:

Name __________________________________________________________________________
Dues Amount: $_____________________      +   Donation to the League: $__________________
If you have a new phone, mail or email address, please write it here:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼☼
If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the League, please indicate the name and contact information below so that we may personally contact the prospective member.
_________________________________________________________________________________