



www.lwv-midland.org

# Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

Volume 42, Number 1

September 2009

Karen Sherwood 989-832-3533  
President

Judith McDowell 989-839-6926  
Membership

Jenifer Kusch 989-837-0307  
Newsletter

## CALENDAR 2009

- September 2** Board Meeting in Conference Room B, Grace A. Dow Library, 1:00 pm
- September 15** **General Meeting: Tour of new county jail with Sheriff Nielsen 7:00 pm, Fast Ice Drive**
- October 7** Board Meeting in Conference Room B, Grace A. Dow Library, 1:00 pm
- November 8** **General Meeting: Nuclear Disarmament, Whitman Room, Doan Historical Center, cosponsored by the League and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Film followed by discussion with Jim Head, expert in the field of nuclear disarmament**

**Remember LWV meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!**

### SEPTEMBER MEETING TO TOUR JAIL WITH SHERIFF NIELSEN

The 2009-2010 local League programming year kicks off on September 15 at 7:00 pm with a tour of the new Midland County Jail. The tour will be followed by a question and answer time with Sheriff Jerry Nielsen. Please enter via Fast Ice Drive.

The local League has long held a position on Local Adult Corrections available at: <http://lwv-midland.org/position>. A review and restudy of this position, which includes seeking alternatives to confinement, was approved as this year's local program focus at the May 2009 Annual Meeting. The September program at the jail will also help prepare us for the spring 2010 prison restudy and consensus process spearheaded by LWVMI.

### TAKE ACTION FOR QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

This summer we have witnessed a lively debate about the future of health care in this country and, specifically, H.R. 3200. Please take time to contact our legislators and let your voice be heard. The LWVUS believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all residents.

Furthermore the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes prevention of disease, health promotion and primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Other League supported health care policy goals and background resources can be found at <http://www.lwv.org>.

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the beginning of a new year for the League of Women Voters of the Midland Area. I am looking forward to being our League's President and representing us in the community. I am expecting a challenging year with the potential for many rewards.

Our calendar is beginning to take shape. The Board of Directors will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm in Conference Room B of the G. A. Dow Library. Members are always welcome to attend and give input, though only Directors have a vote. Our Program Director, Sharron Such, has scheduled a tour of the new jail September 15. We are co-sponsoring a program on world-wide nuclear disarmament (a passion of our member, James Head) in November. Our former President, Carole Swinehart, is hosting our Christmas potluck in December. February is the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday month for the national LWV – brilliant ideas are welcome! Spring will find us answering consensus questions centered on Michigan prison reform. Our annual dinner meeting will be May 19. Put it on your calendars now. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jenifer Kusch, will host the June picnic/potluck finale. More details on all of this, as well as other program plans, will be announced as they become final. Look for the specifics in monthly issues of the "Voter" and on our fabulous website: <http://lwg-midland.org>.

By now many of you have likely received a personal contact from a member of our Board of Directors. If you haven't, you will. You need to let your Board member know how much "contact" you can tolerate or desire. Our vision is to see that you are kept abreast of meeting dates as they approach; that you know of projects within the League on which we may need your helping hand; that you have a direct link to the Board if you have ideas, concerns, questions, etc. In a nutshell, we want to have membership that is in touch with the Board and a Board in touch with the membership.

The collection of annual dues will begin during September. Our local dues remain at \$55.00. From this amount we pay your Michigan per member payment (PMP) of \$21.65 and your national PMP of \$28.00. We also pay for liability insurance, which amounts to a little under \$1.00 per member. All in all, your \$55 local dues payment results in less than \$5.00 for our local League. That's why we urge you to become a Sustaining Member or make an additional contribution either directly to the LWV of the Midland Area or a tax-deductible contribution to the LWV Education Fund. We use the extra dollars you pay to become a Sustaining Member as well as any contributions you make to the local League or Education Fund for local programs and projects such as our Making Democracy Work awards. Please consider giving early and often!

Always feel free to contact me with your ideas and comments. My e-mail address is [karsherwood@charter.net](mailto:karsherwood@charter.net). My phone number is 989-832-3533 and my address is 6005 Millbrook Drive. I'm new at this job and will appreciate ideas, advice, and even constructive criticism. Well, here we go on our way into the next year of League activities!

*Karen Sherwood, President*

### OF NOTE:

#### 2009 ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

The Grace A. Dow Library is sponsoring a series of events centered on the book *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway. The book presents the struggles of people to maintain their humanity during war and explores both healing of the wounds and the many losses cultures suffer in war. There are three events to mark on your calendar, all held

at the GAD Auditorium at 7:00 pm. **Film** - Sept. 10 *No Man's Land*, **Lecture** - Oct. 1 - SVSU Historian, Julie Keil, "War in the Balkans" and **Meet the Author and Cello Performance** - Oct. 8. Five book discussion groups are meeting from Sept. 1 - Oct. 1. If we have enough LWV participants, we could have our own discussion group. Anyone interested? Call Carole Swinehart, 636-7239.



## IT IS FAST AND EASY TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE LEAGUE

Now more than ever, you can get just the information you want about the League, just the way you want it!

**LWV-Midland Area:** Our local website <http://lwv-midland.org> places all of our information in one convenient place: calendar, contacts, Midland Voter, local position statements, background materials for programs, and local elected officials. Webmaster Fran Hamburg has also provided useful links to government sites.

**LWVMI:** To stay up to date on issues of interest to Michigan residents visit the state League website: <http://lwvmi.org>. You will find the state positions, voter information and news.

**LWVUS:** National League has a very comprehensive website with resources and advocacy opportunities too numerous to list. There is something of interest for everyone. <http://lwvus.org>.

**FACEBOOK:** LWVUS has a Facebook page as do many local Leagues. Registration with Facebook is easy and free. If you enjoy networking and learning what other Leagues across the country are doing, log into Facebook and become a fan.

**E-ACTION ALERTS:** This year Fran Hamburg will send e-mail action alerts so members can advocate for League positions on time-sensitive pending legislation.

**MIDLAND VOTER:** You can go paperless and save trees and mailing costs by accessing Midland Voter on the first day of the month: <http://www.lwv-midland.org/Newsletter.html>. Alternatively, you may receive the newsletter electronically as a PDF file in your e-mail box.

## PLEASE JOIN US.... TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

September is membership renewal month and a great time for new members to come on board! Please use the membership form on the back of this VOTER to send in your renewal today.

Your invitation to a non-member to come to a meeting and/or to join the League is vital to expanding our numbers and strengthening the voice of our League. The health of our League depends on each of us!

If you have questions, or know someone it would be helpful to follow-up with regarding membership in the League, please contact Judy McDowell at 839-6926 or by e-mail at [jmcdowell@charter.net](mailto:jmcdowell@charter.net).



## LWVMI TAKES ACTION FOR A FAIR IMPARTIAL JUDICIARY

The LWVMI partnered with several other organizations, to submit their support for the Michigan Supreme Court to adopt new procedures for the disqualification of judges. Michigan is currently the only state without rules for recusal in the event of a conflict of interest. The Court will hold a public hearing on the proposed standards on September 2, 2009.

To **OPT IN** to electronic newsletter options, please e-mail Jenifer Kusch at [j.kusch@charter.net](mailto:j.kusch@charter.net). You may request to return to the paper edition at any time. The local League will not give or sell your e-mail address to any third party.

Published By  
**League of Women Voters**  
**Midland Area**  
**P.O. Box 1203**  
**Midland MI 48641-1203**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Enclosed is my check (made payable to LWV of the Midland Area) for:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$55)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Household Membership (\$75)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Membership (\$30)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Membership (\_\_\_\$100\_\_\_\$150\_\_\_\$200\_\_\_other-specify amount \$\_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK TOTAL**

(Membership contributions are not tax deductible)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Separate check made payable to LWVUS Education Fund**

(This contribution is tax-deductible)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail check(s) with this form to LWV of the Midland Area, Box 1203, Midland MI 48641-1203**  
**Please use separate sheet to note special interests, skills, suggestions for LWV meetings.**

