



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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Newsletter

CALENDAR 2010

- February 14** **90th Birthday of LWV founded February 14, 1920**
- March 2** **90th Birthday Celebration:** Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver, key note speaker, Holiday Inn, 7pm
- March 3** **Board Meeting,** Conference Room B, Grace A. Dow Library, 1 pm
- March 24** **Info and Issues Meeting:** “The Future of Public School Financing in Michigan” Superintendent Clark Volz, MCESA Building, 3917 Jefferson, 7 pm
- April 13 and 20** **Consensus Study Days:** Study and Discussion of the League of Women Voters Michigan Restudy of Prisons, Midland County Jail, 101 Fast Ice Drive, 7 pm.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE, A FUTURE OF HOPE

In celebration of two major milestones -- the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women the right to vote, and the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters – the Midland League will host a reception:

**Tuesday, March 2, Midland Holiday Inn,
Tittabawassee Room, 7pm**

All League members and their guests are urged to join in the occasion. Women who have served as elected officials in Midland County will be honored.

Highlights of the event:

- ❖ Making Democracy Work awards will be presented to several women selected as representative of elected officials through the years, all of whom have played key roles in Making Democracy Work in Midland County.
- ❖ Guest speaker Honorable Elizabeth Weaver, Justice of the Supreme Court of Michigan, will address issues related to Fair and Impartial Courts.

Reservations are required, so please RSVP as requested when you receive your invitation in the mail.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, March 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m.! Put it on your calendar now and rearrange anything that has already been scheduled there! We are having a reception at the new Holiday Inn with special guests and a special speaker. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail soon and it is absolutely vital that we receive a positive response from all of our members for this event. As your League President I'm asking you to put forth an extra effort to attend this function. We simply must have a great turnout of League members to welcome our special guests.

The purpose of the reception is two-fold: We are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U. S. Constitution (women's right to vote) and the 90th birthday of the national League of Women Voters.

Local women who have filled elected offices throughout the decades in Midland County and its sixteen townships, the Cities of Midland and Coleman, the Village of Sanford, and local school boards will be invited as special guests. Many of these women were "pioneers" in a political world dominated by men. We will be awarding several "Making Democracy Work" awards to representative women among these honorees. Written invitations will go out to those women for whom we've been able to verify mailing addresses, and a further invitation will be published in the *Midland Daily News* to reach those whose current address we're not sure of.

The Honorable Elizabeth Weaver, Michigan Supreme Court Justice, will be our speaker. She will be addressing the issue of fair and impartial courts. This topic has gained interest since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that large campaign contributions can be considered as a reason to recuse a justice from hearing a case to which a large contributor is a party. Locally there has been controversy over the recent rules adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court justices to allow colleagues to decide if someone should be prevented from hearing a particular case.

I'm expecting it to be a very worthwhile evening. Please join us as we honor women in our community who have represented us over the years in elected positions. Also be sure to take this opportunity to meet and hear Justice Weaver here in our own City of Midland! It's the League's 90th birthday and we're still in the business of Making Democracy Work! We need your presence at this event.

Karen Sherwood, President



WHAT YOU CAN DO IN FEBRUARY TO HELP OUR LOCAL LEAGUE

- ✓ Mark your calendar now for the March 2 LWV 90th Birthday Celebration
- ✓ Volunteer to be a "gadder" for our Radio Days fundraiser
- ✓ Save paper and postage by requesting an e-subscription to *Midland Voter*. j.kusch@charter.net

ANNUAL RADIO DAYS ARE HERE!



Two great things happen to our League when members support Radio Days. This annual process of soliciting local businesses to place WMPX radio ads provides needed revenue for our programming while offering businesses a way to enhance their public image. Also, Radio Days is a means to spread our message. We have the opportunity to

present our accomplishments to community business leaders during a concentrated two week period in early February. Then in mid March our public service announcements are broadcast scores of times.

Your active participation is needed. Gadders, as they are affectionately called, are assigned to call on a select list of about five firms each. Most have purchased ads before and know us. Some will be new. We are always on the lookout for businesses owned by women and those that our members patronize. We also need people to record the public service announcements. Please contact Dave Wirth (631 5198) to volunteer.

90 Years in Photos: the 1930's

The Great Depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far-reaching changes to the League. Membership fell from 100,000 in 1924 to 44,000 in 1934. The National League's budget was cut in half, necessitating a major reduction in staff and services to Leagues. Perhaps the most important change was because of gas rationing, League members started meeting in small groups in their neighborhoods to discuss fundamental issues. These issues included the threat to democracy itself and the importance of the informed individual to the success of democracy. Grassroots activity thus was firmly institutionalized as a way of assessing concerns, studying and strategizing.



MARCH INFO AND ISSUES MEETING TO FOCUS ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING

The League will host area school district Superintendents at the March Issues and Info Meeting, "The Future of Public School Financing in Michigan." The meeting will be held on March 24 at 7 pm. in the MCEA building, 3917 Jefferson at 7 pm. Superintendents John Hill, Bullock Creek; Doug Fillmore, Meridian; Carl Ellinger, Midland; and Clark Volz, Midland County ESA will open the session with a short overview of financial issues in their respective districts. A moderated panel will follow. Discussion will cover such topics as alternate ways to fund public education, benefits and drawbacks of consolidation of schools and services, federal funding options, charter schools and legacy costs.

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