



.Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

Volume 34, Number 8

November-December, 2003

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Newsletter

CALENDAR

November 11: Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

November 18: General Meeting - MCTV - Ron Beacom Interview Workshop, Library, 7:15 p.m.

December 09: Christmas Cheer: Potluck dinner and board meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass.

January 13: Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

January 20: General Meeting - Education Update, Aldersgate Methodist Meeting Room, 7:15 p.m.

February 10: Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, 7:00 p.m.

February 21: General Meeting - Presidential Elections Concurrence, Rosemary Wilson's home: 4113 Cruz Drive, 9:15 a.m. (Please bring a dish to pass.)

Board meetings and *all LWV meetings* are open to Midland LWV members and friends.

NOVEMBER MEETING TO INCLUDE TOUR OF MCTV AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

Have you ever seen your friends and fellow Leaguers on MCTV? Have you ever wondered how they do it? November 18 will be our night at MCTV. Ron Beacom, the

station manager, will be on hand to show and tell us how MCTV goes on. Not to worry!

We will not be on the air. We will just be there learning how the whole thing works.

Join us for an informative and enjoyable event, Tuesday, November 18, 7:15 p.m. at the MCTV studio located on the lower level of the Grace A. Dow library.

If you missed Dr. Terrance Blackburn's excellent presentation on the relationship between the UN and the U.S., Oct. 29, it can be seen on MCTV. Check their schedule for dates and times.

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GREAT DECISIONS 2004 TOPICS

The following are the Great Decisions Topics for 2004:

- ❖ **The Media and Foreign Policy**
- ❖ **The Philippines**
- ❖ **Weapons of Mass Destruction**
- ❖ **The U.S. and Europe**
- ❖ **Diversity in Islam**
- ❖ **Latin American Overview**
- ❖ **Reform in the Middle East**
- ❖ **Public Diplomacy**

Judy Rose will be organizing discussion groups that will begin in late January. If you would like to learn more about the Great Decisions program, please call Judy at 631-2237.

NOTES FROM CAROLE

Advocacy and the LWV. Hmmm. Borrowing from our October program, I ask you to consider "The LWV With and Without Advocacy and Advocacy With and Without the LWV." For many years our local League has focused our energies on the important work of voter service and we have served our community well. Our members who have concerns centered on specific issues have tended to carry out their advocacy through other organizations. Two powerful realities of our times are pushing me to come to you and ask you as members of the Midland Area LWV to increase our legislative advocacy.

Why now? The Presidential election of 2004 is coming ever closer. The election of 2000 was highly flawed and surely not a model of best election practices. At a time when our country is engaged in transplanting democratic practices in Iraq, it seems we in this country should be doing all we can to demonstrate best practices of democracy.

National and state LWV positions have been adopted and refined over many years. They are a solid base for grass roots activism. As your President I receive "Action Alerts" in many areas. Sending all of them would be "spam" but sending on none seems remiss. You can find all LWV positions using links on our web site (lwv-midland.org) to LWVUS and LWVMI. Please review the positions and identify those areas where you are willing to track related legislation and to communicate with the appropriate legislators. Please contact me or any of our board members and let us know your interests. We look forward to hearing from you. Carole

WELCOME CHARLOTTE ALLEN

New member Charlotte Allen is a practicing attorney with the firm of Allen & Leapheart, specializing in family law and estate planning.

She is very active in Michigan legal activities, was recently elected Coordinating Secretary of the Family Law Section of the State Bar and serves as Chair of the Domestic Violence Committee. She was also appointed by the State Bar Chair to the Standing Committee on Domestic Violence (sounds the same but is different than the above, concentrating on policy and the training of law enforcement).

Charlotte is the author of many articles and is currently writing the chapter on Friend of the Court for the upcoming 6th edition of Michigan Family Law. She is also teaching at the annual Family Law Institute in Troy.

She has a son, Shawn, 21 years old, a student at Delta and a future Four Seasons chef (currently at Bob Evans), a dog, a cat and a love of all kinds of music, especially jazz, blues and classical. She didn't mention this in the interview, but we happen to know she has a lovely singing voice and has participated in many local singing groups.

LWV ON THE WEB

[<lwv-midland.org>](http://lwv-midland.org)

If an election is coming up and you want to know who is running or if you want to know the deadline for absentee ballots, you can find this information on our site.

Have you misplaced your Voter and need to confirm a meeting date? Or do you want to look up what the League was doing three years ago? There is a complete archive of *Midland Voters* on our site.

Our position on Education is being updated this year? Do you know what the current position is?? It's on our site.

Not only do we supply local League information, we are linked to LWVMI, LWVUS and many governmental and political sites.

Our web site is five years old and although our Voter Service pages get many 'hits,' local members have been slow to think of it as a resource. Let's change that. In addition your suggestions are always welcome. Fran Hamburg

HOLIDAY BOARD MEETING

All members are invited to come to the December League Board meeting and potluck dinner at Carole Swinehart's home, 5315 Sunset, 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 9, for holiday cheer, good food, and conversation. A review of coming events and socializing are the agenda items. Please bring a dish to pass.

Resources for coming meetings:

January - Position statements on Education: Midland Public Schools Grades 9-12 – adopted 1982; Physical Education – adopted 1988. If you do not have copies, check our web page, www.lwv-Midland.org or call Fran Hamburg, 631-4769 for a hard copy.

February - LWV National Voters for September/October and May/June 2003 in preparation for the Presidential Election Concurrence at the February meeting. The December/January 2004 LWV National Voter will include the Concurrence questions.

GOOD READS FOR NOVEMBER

ROGUE NATION by Clyde Prestowitz

This book offers a comprehensive view of U.S. foreign policies. It describes how we see ourselves and how others see us. Written with objectivity, the author presents a history of our relations with Iraq and other Mid-east countries, the Koreas, China and Taiwan, Japan, Latin America, Europe and NATO. Prestowitz shows how powerful lobbies influence U.S. policy disregarding the wider picture. The last chapter outlining a new way of thinking and relating to other countries is especially provocative. The author is now President of the Economic Institute in Washington, D.C. He has had wide experience in international life, both in the private and government sectors. I highly recommend this important book as a basis for critical debate. Margaret Rockwell

MADAME SECRETARY by Madeleine Albright

Albright calls this ‘a personal account, not a history of the Clinton administration foreign policy or even a remotely comprehensive chronology of world affairs at the end of the last century.’ How can one resist a 'to do' list like this: '1) Call Senator Helms; 2) Call King

Hussein; 3) Call Foreign Minister Moussa; 4) Make other Congressional calls; 5) Prepare for China meeting; 6) Buy non-fat yogurt
Positive Reviews
Fran Hamburg

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

If you missed the October 1st deadline, it's still not too late to renew your membership, or become a LWV member, just complete the form on the back page, and return it to the address shown on the form. DO IT NOW, and it will save you from receiving a phone call! Thank you.

<p style="text-align: center;">League of Women Voters of the Midland Area P.O. Box 1203, Midland, MI 48641 The Midland Voter is published eight times a year, not in December, March, July or August.</p>
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