



# Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

Volume 35, Number 6

September, 2004

Carole Swinehart, 989-636-7239

Donna DeVinney, 631-7543

Rosemary Wilson, 989-631-4152

President

Membership

Newsletter

## CALENDAR

- October 11: Board Meeting at Rosemary Wilson's home: 4113 Cruz Drive, 7:00 p.m.
- October 20: General Meeting - Michigan Land Use Issues: Chippewa Nature Center, 7:15 p.m.**
- October 21: Candidate Forum - Local Elections: MCTV, 7:00 p.m.**
- October 30: Deadline to request absentee ballot: City Clerk's Office (2:00 p.m. )
- November 2: Election Night Live on MCTV: County Building, 9:00 p.m. VOTE!!**
- November 3: "Morning After Brunch": Shirlene's Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.**
- November 8: Board Meeting at Rosemary Wilson's home: 4113 Cruz Drive, 7:00 p.m.
- November 12: General Meeting - Women and Children in Iran: G. A. Dow Library Lounge: 7:15 p.m.**
- December 13: Board Meeting/Holiday Potluck**

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

### LEAGUE TO PRESENT TWO ELECTION PROGRAMS ON MCTV

Our League is planning two Midland Community Television presentations for this election season. On October 21, a forum will be held for contested seats and the two ballot proposals. The contests will be for County Commissioner Districts 4 & 7, Drain Commissioner, Register of Deeds, Treasurer and Sheriff. The forum will be broadcast live from the Midland City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

On election night, our MCTV live programming will begin at 9:00 p.m. from the Midland County Building. This broadcast takes place as the returns are coming in from around the state and as local precincts are being counted and posted. While so many local officials are present, we will take the time to talk to them about local affairs and ideas. Anyone is welcome to show up at the County Building. If that isn't possible, we hope our friends and fellow members will join us by tuning in to Cable channel 3 anytime between 9:00 p.m. and

approximately 11:00 p.m. to see what goes on.

### LWV AND CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER COSPONSOR OCTOBER MEETING

Brad Garman of the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) will speak about land use issues on Wednesday, October 20, 7:15 p.m. at the Chippewa Nature Center.

Garman will discuss the milestone document released by the non partisan Michigan Land Use Leadership Council last year which contains recommendations aimed at improving the environment and economy. He will explain how they apply to our part of Michigan and the potential for legislation to work toward the goals. The full report and a summary of the report is available at: [www.michiganlanduse.org](http://www.michiganlanduse.org)

## President's Notes

My mail box has been brimming with materials from LWVUS aimed at getting our citizens registered, informed and ready to vote. LWVUS has a great collection of materials available on their web site that will enhance your watching of the Presidential debates Oct. 8 and 13. Look up the materials at: [http://www.lwv.org/voter/geteducated\\_debates.cfm](http://www.lwv.org/voter/geteducated_debates.cfm) or at the LWVUS web site under Elibrary at the top of the homepage. When renewing your membership, please give us your e-mail address so we can send new LWV materials to you.

Our Voter Guide will be delivered with the October 19 Midland Daily News and also will be available at the Grace A. Dow Library. Now is the time for each LWV member to encourage your friends and neighbors to utilize this great resource. Make a note of the great web sites that also have solid voting information; they are included in the notes from our September meeting.

Thank you for your good wishes as I proceed through chemotherapy. Fortunately, you have a strong board. This is a good year for YOU to be more active!

Carole Swinehart

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

At the September 22, computer workshop a number of websites were suggested for league and government information and action. They include:  
LWV national: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
LWV mi: [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org)  
Dnet: [www.congress.org/congressorg/e4](http://www.congress.org/congressorg/e4)  
Mi legislature: [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)  
Mi. Sec. of State: [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos)  
Mi. Sec. of State: [Publius Voter Information Center: www.sospublius.org/](http://Publius.VoterInformationCenter.org)  
City of Midland: [www.midland-mi.org/](http://www.midland-mi.org/)  
Project Vote Smart: [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)

Also, concurrence was reached with the State proposed revision to the Great Lake Ecosystem Position which supports preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence river Ecosystem.

## THANKS TO SPONSORS OF VOTER GUIDES

Several local businesses have helped to fund the Voter Guide which will be distributed October 19, in the Midland Daily News and be available at Grace A. Dow library. Thanks to Peggy McGee who makes the contacts with the contributors.

## Wilson Miller Funeral Home Chemical Bank and Trust

### Comerica

### Wolverine Bank

USWA, Local 12075

The Dow Chemical Foundation

Chemical Bank & Trust

Midland City Education Association

### Dow Corning Corporation

### Midland Morning Rotary Club

## BRUNCH "THE MORNING AFTER"

Whether you are celebrating or mourning, meet other League members for a late breakfast at Shirlene's on the day after the elections, November 3, at 9:30 a.m. Shirlene's is located at the corner of Wackerly Rd, and Eastman Ave. We will be unwinding from an autumn of Voter Service activities and media bombardment by political parties.

## NATIONAL LWV GOALS

Based on the convention 2004 mandate, LWVUS Board officially recognized civil liberties as a top tier LWVUS priority at its July meeting. Election Reform, Campaign Finance Reform and Civil Liberties now comprise the League's three top legislative priorities for 2004.

## **PROGRAM ON ELECTION REFORM**

MCTV cable channel 3 is offering a program listed in the guide as “Elections” which describes public financing of elections projects in Arizona and Maine. Check it out.

## **GOOD READS**

Julie Schmidt recommends The Right Nation: Conservative Power in America by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge. One reviewer wrote: “For decades, if not centuries, people have wondered, ‘Why is America so different?’. The gifted duo of Micklewait and Wooldrige answer the question, explaining America’s strange mix of energetic capitalism and fervent moralism. The authors describe an American future that will delight or dismay you, depending on your politics...wonderfully written, intelligent, accessible book.”

## **NOVEMBER MEETING FEATURES WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN IRAN**

Our international program for fall 2004 will be held November 12, 7:15 p.m. at Grace A. Dow Library Lounge. Gila Mohadjer, a native of Iran and Midland resident, spent six weeks in Tehran this past summer with her college-aged daughter. She had secured a summer internship with the non-profit, The Society for Protecting the Rights of the Child. You can read about them at their web site: [www.irsprc.org/english](http://www.irsprc.org/english). Gila will speak about the lives of women and children today in Iran. Come hear a first hand account of life today in this important country from which we get such scanty news.

## **LEAGUE OBSERVERS MATTER**

The following story comes from the Michigan LWV (while admitting that it has not been confirmed):

During the school integration ruckus in Arkansas, Governor Faubus closed the state legislature to reporters, the public audience. The guards, however, recognized a woman as a familiar face

and let her in assuming she worked there – she was always there. She was a League Observer and her reports were the only ones to come out of these sessions...Susan Younkin, LWV Los Altos-Mountain View Area

Our observers have begun attending County Commissioner meetings. We need a few more people to take turns covering the meetings so please consider participating. Carol Locker is coordinating this program. You can call her at 631-7492. County Commissioner meetings take place bi-monthly at 9:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. LWV observers attend public meetings and are identified by wearing a LWV button. They do not participate in the meeting but record observations.

## **REMEMBERING MARIAN JONES**

Charter member, Marian Jones, 91, died on September 10, 2004. Marian was the model of class and grace as she steadily advocated for UNICEF, the UN and LWV. As League finance chair she was very successful in securing donations. One of her daughters, Jacqueline Leigh of Sierra Leone, is a long distance member of our League. Knowing that Marian’s daughter was there kept many of us feeling much more connected to African events and issues of international peace. Marian will be fondly remembered for her principles, her work and herself. Many of us feel we are better people for having known her for so many years.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

It is membership renewal time. If you haven’t yet renewed your membership in LWV now is the time. Just complete the form on the back page and send it with your check (or checks) to the address shown. Remember, you are a valued member even if you are unable to participate in all activities. New members are always welcome!

League of Women Voters  
of the Midland Area

P.O. Box 1203, Midland, MI 48641

The Midland Voter is published nine times a year,  
not in November, July or August

