



Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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President

Membership

Newsletter

CALENDAR

Feb 14:	Board Meeting at Rosemary Wilson's home: 4113 Cruz Drive, 7:00 p.m.
February 21:	Joint Meeting with Saginaw County LWV: 6:30 p.m. Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Rd. Freeland: speaker on ethics of death penalty (see article below)
March 14:	Board Meeting at Rosemary Wilson's home: 4113 Cruz Drive, 7:00 p.m.
March 21, 22 , 23	Radio Days: WMPX, WMRX – Tune in and support our sponsors
April 11:	Board Meeting at Rosemary Wilson's home: 4113 Cruz Drive, 7:00 p.m.
April 19;	General Meeting: Overseas Outsourcing Forum; Griswold Center
	Co-sponsored with Northwood University: 7:15 p.m.
May 26:	Annual Meeting
	Board meetings and <i>all LWV meetings</i> are open to Midland LWV members and friends.

FEBRUARY JOINT MEETING FEATURES SPEAKER ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The Midland League of Women Voters will join with the Saginaw County League for a dinner meeting at the Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Rd., Freeland on Monday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner, Dr. Francis Dane, Finkbeiner Chair in Ethics at the SVSU College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences, will speak to the group about the ethics of capital punishment. Dr. Dane has done extensive research on the behavior of trial jurors, ethics of violence and aggression and racism. Reservations are needed and carpooling can be arranged. Call Carole Swinehart, 989-636-7239 or 989-793-0116.

The February 19 meeting on Michigan Judicial Elections has been postponed and will be held at a later date.

'GADDING' TO BEGIN FOR MARCH RADIO DAYS FUNDRAISER

Radio Days, our annual league fundraiser, is scheduled to be broadcast March 21, 22 and 23. Thanks to **WMPX, WMRX** this has been the major fundraiser for our local league since 1971. It also provides the community with a source of information about the league and voter information. For those unfamiliar with the event, LWV members sell ads to local businesses which either provide information about their business or sponsor public service announcements offering information about citizen involvement in the voting process. These ads are broadcast on the special league time slots.

We need leaguers to become 'gadders' who go to participating businesses, and prospective new ones, to solicit ads. It's a quick visit and several stops can be made the same day. Gadding days are mid to late February or earlier.

Please call Ellen Wolfe, 835-3400, or Carole, 636-7239 and say 'yes' to this project.

President's Notes

Forget the cold outside, January is a great time for plotting and planning for the rest of the year. We have some excellent programs coming up! We were pleased to be asked by the Saginaw LWV to join them for a February program looking at the death penalty. This will give us time to thoughtfully consider the issue before the LWVMI convention in May. Also note on your calendars the planned Overseas Outsourcing Forum scheduled for April 19. Many thanks to Northwood University for co-sponsoring the program. It will supplement one of the Great Decisions topics and will bring information to our community on a reality that is challenging U.S. businesses and state economies. Hope to see you soon at a meeting.

Carole Swinehart

MEET TWO NEW MEMBERS

Jim Falender

Jim and his wife live on Sanford Lake. We first met him through Great Decisions; he will be participating in the Wednesday evening group this year. After retiring from Dow Corning four years ago, he began teaching chemistry and material science at Central Michigan University on a part-time basis. That has now developed into full time and chairmanship of the department until a permanent chair is hired. He has one daughter who is a chemist for a small company in California. The Falenders also own a cottage at Crystal Lake near Frankfort. In his spare time Jim enjoys gardening and sailing. We welcome him to the league.

Alice Morgan

Alice retired from Dow Agricultural Products and hasn't slowed down at all. She is in charge of AAUW's Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund, co-coordinator of the CROP Walk for Midland representing Church Women United, on the Church Council of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, a certified lay speaker for the United Methodist Church, and a docent at the Midland Center for the Arts. She and her husband, Jim, have two adult children and enjoy opera and active traveling. They recently returned from India and Bhutan and plan to go to Japan next fall. Alice taught science in Turkey before marrying and may lead a group there in March of 2006 to observe the next total eclipse of the sun. We welcome her to our league.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE LEAGUE MAY CONVENTION

What League of Women Voters of Michigan positions deserve priority attention 2005 - 2007? We all must make choices about how we use our time and resources. The LWVMI utilizes a state programming process to enable our members to determine which of their positions to focus on for each biennium.

On January 15, eleven local members gathered at Donna DeVinney's home for a lovely brunch and discussion. After a lively discussion of the current positions held by LWVMI, the following recommended priorities for update or action were chosen:

1. Education: Structure, Financing and Goals
2. Health Care (tied)
3. Social Services (tied)
4. Land Use
5. Great Lakes Ecosystem
6. Election Laws
7. Prisons in Michigan
8. Education: Public Academies

Death Penalty Position Concurrence

The LWVMI does not have a position on capital punishment. Michigan's Constitution prohibits the enactment of a death penalty by the legislature - as it has for over 100 years. Normally, League of Women Voters positions are adopted after study and consensus; however, nationally and on a statewide basis, the LWV is looking for ways to expedite this process. One method is to concur with the position that a league in another state has adopted.

Death Penalty (cont.)

Illinois Process

The Illinois League has adopted a position in opposition to the death penalty. The Evanston, IL league did the study and consensus and the state league concurred in that position.

Proposal for Michigan

The LWVMI Board is proposing that the position of the League of Women Voters of Illinois be adopted by the LWVMI through concurrence by the delegates at State Convention 2005. Because Illinois currently has the death penalty, the Illinois position statement is "The League supports abolition of the death penalty in Illinois." The LWVMI position statement which is being proposed is: "The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the Michigan Constitutional prohibition on enactment of a death penalty."

Kay Perry, from LWV of Kalamazoo Area, has prepared a summary of the issues for LWVMI use. There is also a recent study done by the LWV New Jersey.

There have been numerous attempts to change the Michigan Constitution so that the death penalty could be enacted in Michigan, including a failed petition drive in 2004. Adopting a position on the death penalty would give Michigan LWV members the opportunity to take action when future attempts are made.

PATRIOT ACT FORUM BRINGS LIVELY DISCUSSION

More than 60 people attended the January meeting featuring FBI Agent Walt Reynolds and ACLU Central Michigan branch chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union, John Scalise. While Scalise noted several concerns about how the USA Patriot Act clashes with the Bill of Rights, Agent Reynolds stated that his work in law enforcement in the Saginaw Valley area had not changed. Both agreed that discussion of the issues is good as Congress must decide whether to recommit, change or delete the Act in 2005.



March 11, 2005

The Summit will bring together women from all over the state and include national and state speakers to discuss the status of women in Michigan now and in the future. Regional meetings linked by satellite will be held in East Lansing, Dearborn, Kalamazoo and Sault Ste. Marie.

The event is being sponsored by leading women's organizations including the Michigan League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women of Michigan, YWCA of Michigan and many others. See more at info@oneunitedmichigan.org. If interested in attending, contact Carole Swinehart at 636-7239.

MIDLAND AREA LWV AND NORTHWOOD COLLABORATION

Outsourcing Forum, April 19, 2005, 7:15 p.m.
Griswold Lecture Hall, Northwood University

We are delighted to announce a community program made possible by collaboration with Northwood University. "Outsourcing Jobs: U.S. Dilemma" is one of the Great Decisions discussion topics and will be the topic of the forum. The program will include an academic economist from Northwood and representatives from regional industries. Details will be available next month but mark your calendars now.

**League of Women Voters
of the Midland Area**

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