



Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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President

Membership

Newsletter

CALENDAR

May 3: School Board Elections: VOTE

May 9 Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset Drive, 7:00 p.m.

May 20-22 LWVMI State Convention: Holiday Inn, West Lansing, MI

June 15 Annual Meeting: Pi's Restaurant, 6:00 p.m. Health Care Topic

August 18 Board Planning Session: Donna DeVinney's home: 14 Dartmoor Place, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

MIDLAND LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 15

The Annual Meeting will take place Wednesday, June 15, at Pi's Restaurant beginning with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Used books and videos will be sold and members are asked to bring any such items in good shape that you'd like to donate. Proceeds from the sale will help pay for the administrative costs of the meeting. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and include a speaker on health care issues and a short meeting to elect officers and consider programming for the 2005-06 league year. A reservation form is provided on the back page. Plan now to come for a social and informative evening.

Slate of officers to be elected:

- President: Donna DeVinney
- Vice President: Carole Swinehart
- Vice President: Fran Hamburg
- Secretary: Julie Schmitt
- 2 year Directors: Catherine Heng, Carol Peck, and Rosemary Wilson

Nominating Committee:

Carol Locker, Maureen Pillepich, and Robin Stott. Further meeting information will be mailed to all members later in May. There will be no June Voter so be sure to save the reservation form or call Evelyn Lipowitz: 631-0119 for details.

OUTSOURCING FORUM DEFINES ISSUES

"Outsourcing Jobs: A U.S. Dilemma" the LWV forum presented in conjunction with Northwood University, April 19, at Northwood offered viewpoints from academia, business and labor in a lively round of presentations and questions. Northwood's Dr. Timothy Nash, Provost, and Dr. Dale Matcheck, Chair of the Economics Department, gave brief overviews of what has happened to the job market historically and recently. Strongly supporting a pro-market theory of economics, they both believe that education is the key to the problems of outsourcing and unemployment in this country. David Schwartz of Lyle Industries, Inc., Beaverton, MI employs 150 people in his industrial machines manufacturing business and competes against companies in China who sell for less. His costs are higher

(Forum cont.)_ primarily because of worker costs, especially for health benefits. His company's success relies on a reputation for quality and service which he and his employees have built upon for twenty plus years. While he does not want to move his operations to China, he says "We need help and we need to change." Ken Holsing, president of the Local United SteelWorkers says, "Outsourcing is a reality we all must face." He noted the effects on individuals and communities with the loss in income and jobs as many unions have agreed to steep wage reductions in order to save jobs which means people have less money to spend on consumer goods and communities receive less tax

money to support services. The fifth speaker, Denise Cadreau, a Michigan State University professor and AFL-CIO labor representative, said that policies to level the playing field like not trading with countries that exploit workers and not ignoring environmental standards are needed. She agreed that education is necessary to help deal with unemployment. The program is being broadcast on MCTV. Time and day can be found in the Sunday Midland Daily News TV guide.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT,

As our year draws to a close, I want to extend sincere thanks to the entire board. Their dedicated efforts have produced a successful year for our league. We have registered voters, provided opportunities for voters to be well informed going to the polls and to become more knowledgeable about timely issues.

You will be receiving an Annual Meeting mailing soon. Come welcome the new board and join us in launching a new year. Our speaker will address health care delivery in Midland County. Details will be in the mailing.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President for the last two years.

Carole Swinehart

LWV STATE CONVENTION OFFERS INTERESTING SATURDAY EVENTS

If it is not possible to attend the full LWV Michigan convention in Lansing, May 20-22, a day trip on Saturday, May 21, would be well worthwhile. There will be a lunch time speaker dealing with Land Use and afternoon workshops covering Michigan Sprawlscapes, Advocacy ABC's, Civics Education, 'No Child Left Behind' and Great Lakes protection. While it appears that for varied reasons there will not be a Midland League delegate to the convention, if anyone is interested in Saturday attendance, please contact the LWVMI office: 517-484-5383 or lwvmi@voyager.net for information. Cathy Woods in the Lansing office will be happy to help. Fran Hamburg from Midland will attend as a state board member but will be out of town and unable to answer questions until just before the date. She looks forward to seeing a familiar face from Midland.

League's first Electronic Auction

Do you have items of value in your home that you just don't want anymore? Would you like to move them out for a good cause? The Michigan League will be selling items via the internet auction company, eBay using a company that specializes in these auctions and manages all the details. Proceeds will be split between LWVMI and the local league providing the merchandise. Items should be worth \$30 or more, fit in the passenger side of a car and not be too heavy for a healthy Leaguer to lug. If you have something to contribute or would like to know more, please call Rosemary Wilson: 631-4152 or email: www.rwilson100@charter.net. Fran Hamburg is willing to transport items to Lansing on May 20.

LWVUS E-VOICE NEWSLETTER NEWS

Freedom Award

The LWVUS was recently notified that it has been chosen as the recipient of the 2005 Freedom Award given yearly by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) for its 85-year commitment to the election process. This award recognizes and honors those who contribute significantly to the cause of free elections in the United States.

League urges support for SAFE Act of 2005

League President Kay J. Maxwell has written senators to support and cosponsor this act which addresses some of the most problematic provisions of the USA Patriot Act. It would require increased public recording of the use of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and, in general, preserve authority for law enforcement officials to combat terrorism while protecting innocent Americans from unrestricted government surveillance. More information is available at: www.lwv.org.

GOOD READ

“KITE RUNNER” by Khaled Hosseini is a gripping and moving story about two boys growing up in Afghanistan in the ‘60s and ‘70s and how life changed during the upheavals of a civil war, Russian invasion, and Taliban abuses. It describes the culture of the Afghanistan people but is also a story of family, friendship, betrayal and redemption. A note of interest: the author, Hosseini is one of the speakers in the Matrix Midland Festival coming to the Center for the Arts in June.
Rosemary Wilson

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GREAT DECISIONS CONCLUDES A LIVELY AND INFORMATIVE SEASON

Over 45 persons have met in morning, afternoon or evening Great Decisions groups over the past three months to read and discuss eight topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association. Topics studied were: U.S. Intelligence Reform; Putin’s Second Term: a scorecard for Russia; Outsourcing Jobs: U. S Dilemma; China: Economic Giant Emerges; Sudan and the War in Darfur; The U.S. and Global Poverty; U.S. Challenges in Iraq and in the Muslim World; Freshwater and Foreign Policy: New Challenges.

Here are some of the enthusiastic comments from the participants:

Great group and interesting timely topics...

Affairs of the globe come alive for me during this season of study and discussion.

...candy for the intellect!

I feel honored to be a part of this group...

Best part is the diversity of this group...challenged each of us to support our positions while maintaining our friendships...

A highlight of my Michigan winter...

Great Decisions is a challenging way to study the complexities of alternatives to solve these problems...

Seed time for further learning in every day reading...makes me more knowledgeable about important world concerns.

It’s nine months and counting until the 2006 Great Decisions season begins. Eight new topics will be chosen for study. See you there.

Sharlene Kruger.