



Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

Volume 37, Number 6

November, 2005

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President

Membership

Newsletter

CALENDAR

November 8:	Election Day
November 8:	Board Meeting at Donna DeVinney's home: 14 Dartmoor Place, 1:00 p.m.
November 15:	Breakfast Meeting to Review Three LWV Local Positions: Holiday Inn
	8:00-10:00 a.m. (see below)
November 17:	Lunch Meeting to Review Three LWV Local Positions: Holiday Inn
	12:00-2:00 p.m. (see below)
November 21:	"The Future of Affirmative Action in Michigan: a Dialog: Lawrence Tech Campus, Southfield, MI, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (see page 3 for details)
December 13:	Board Meeting and Annual Holiday Party at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset, Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.; Dinner, 6:00 p.m. All members welcome!

Remember LWV meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend

NOVEMBER MEETINGS: A REVIEW OF SIX LOCAL POSITIONS

Treat yourself to a meal out, meet friends and help keep our League ready to respond to local issues. All local positions including the six we will review can be found on our web site www.lwv-midland.org. In addition to making edits for relevancy, we will look for possibilities for local action. Please join the effort.

November 15 – Breakfast, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Holiday Inn Restaurant

Paul Graveline, Director of the Midland County Juvenile Care Facility will give an update on the facility and its services. He will also comment on two positions:

- 1) *Youth and Children Services for the Pre-Delinquent and Delinquent*
- 2) *Juvenile Justice Facility*

before we review them for updates. We will also review our *Adult Corrections* position.

November 17 – Lunch, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Restaurant

LWV member Rose Marie McQuaid, current County Commissioner, will join us in reviewing three positions:

- 1) *Midland City Government*
- 2) *Midland County Government*
- 3) *City and County Planning*

Join us to discuss what is working and what could be improved in our local governments and our positions relating to them.



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, Tuesday, December 13 for holiday cheer, good food, and conversation. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will follow at 6:00 p.m. Please call Carole if you can come and bring a dish to pass: 636-7239

GREETINGS FROM VP CAROLE,

Our new Midland LWV administrative structure has your three leaders walking with a lighter step. We are enjoying being responsible for just one third of the leadership tasks. This is good change for the League and I am enjoying the change of a much healthier year.

As a Vice President, one of three leaders, I will oversee Program, Public Relations and Great Decisions. Thus, I'm the one to contact if you have an idea for a meeting, whether a recommendation for a good speaker or a topic that the membership and/or the community would benefit from knowing more about. The scope of League positions is broad, as are yours, and I welcome your input.

Keeping ourselves apprised of conditions relating to our position topics is an ongoing challenge for League members. Join us in November when local experts give us current updated information relating to six of our local positions. You will find details on page one.

Carole Swinehart

GREAT DECISIONS TOPICS FOR 2006

Another Great Decisions season arrives with a sneak peak at the timely and news producing foreign policy topics to be discussed. Great Decisions, first published in 1954, is the centerpiece of the longest running informal foreign affairs discussion program in the United States. Groups in Midland have met for more than 20 years for these important discussions. Participants in the series purchase a \$15 study book that is prepared by the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association. The booklet contains articles on the selected topics and lists for additional reading and internet sources for each topic.

As part of the discussion process, group members read the assigned topic at home and come together to discuss. At the end of each topic, there are Consensus questions which members are to fill in and send to the Foreign Policy Association where the results from groups across the country are tabulated and then shared with the U.S. State Department and published the following year.

The topics for 2006 are:

U.N. Reform

Brazil

Human Rights in the Age of Terrorism

The U.S. and Iran

Global Health Pandemics and Security

Turkey

Energy Resources

China and India: Partners or Competitors

Group sessions in Midland usually begin in late January. They are held on Wednesday mornings, Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. To join a group or for more information please call Sharlene Kruger at 687-7716

GOOD READ

“LAZY B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest” by Sandra Day O'Connor and Alan Day.

“Lazy B” is an unforgettable journey into a uniquely American way of life that is now almost completely lost to history. The pages are filled with wonderful descriptions of a harsh yet beautiful desert existence, peopled by a close family, colorful local characters and stoic cowboys who worked the ranch. It is written in a no-nonsense, open American style. There isn't a pretentious or overworked line in the book.

According to Sandra and Alan, “It wasn't a life-style for sissies. Judging from the contents, it was perfect training for the job of a justice of the Supreme Court. “Lazy B” is available from the library or in paperback from Barnes and Noble for \$13.95.

Nan Skochdopole.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Midland League has five new members.
We welcome:

Anita Frye, 2424 Pinehurst Ct. 48640
Paula Headbloom, 3306 Thornbrook Ct.
48640
Rose Mary Laur, 2589 Lakeview Dr.
Sanford, 48657
Stephen Mehlberg, P.O. Box 1744, 48641-
1744 (spouse of Lynn Mehlberg)
John Palen, 911 Eastman Ave. 48640

The committee is grateful to the renewed members who have paid dues so promptly. Ninety percent have paid at this time. Please invite someone to a League meeting or give names of potential members to the Membership committee, so we can invite your candidate to join. THANKS: Jean Houghton, Evelyn Lipowitz, Joyce Scott. Margaret Rockwell, Chair

NEW MEMBER INTERVIEW

Anita Frye has been active in the League in the past. League's method of consensus proved very useful to her in other organizations. Our local study item on planning resulted in her serving on both city and county planning commissions. She and her husband, Cec, are loyal participants in Great Decisions. Welcome back, Anita

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DIALOGUE

Dr. Frank Wu, Dean of Wayne State University's School of Law discusses affirmative action with the sponsor of the so called "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative" and former University of California Regent, Ward Connerly, on Monday, November 21, 2005, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Ridler Field House, Lawrence Tech Campus in Southfield, Michigan. This program called: "The Future of Affirmative Action in Michigan: a Dialogue" should be a worthwhile event. Those interested in attending could carpool, so if you can join us, please call Donna DeVinney at 631-7543 or email her at devmath@aol.com. If the event is videotaped we will view it in Midland at a later date.

DID YOU KNOW?

Michigan women still face challenges in their struggle for equal opportunity, especially in gaining access to educational and employment opportunities. Currently, Michigan ranks as the second to last state with the largest wage gap between women and men with women making only 67 cents for every dollar men earn. On the national level, women earn approximately 77 cents for every dollar men earn. In addition, only 20% of women in Michigan have four or more years of college education.

The so-called "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative," a possible 2006 ballot proposal which the League of Women Voters opposes, would eliminate university programs that encourage women to enter fields where women are underrepresented and could earn higher wages, thus making it harder for women to earn degrees and attain high paying jobs...From "One United Michigan," the coalition opposing the initiative.

LWVUS UPDATE FROM LEAGUES IMPACTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

President Maxwell has been in contact with a number of affected local and state Leagues in the area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. True to form, League members are managing well under incredible stress. You can find some of their stories on the Louisiana and Mississippi pages on the LWVUS Web site: www.lwv.org. You can also read about Marcia St. Martin, a New Orleans member of the League and the city's Sewerage & Water Board Executive Director in the News Clips Section.

Published by the
League of Women Voters
of the Midland Area
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