



# The Midland Voter

The League of Women Voters of the Midland Area  
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[www.lwv-midland.org](http://www.lwv-midland.org)

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*You are invited!*

## Midland LWV Calendar

**Wed. Feb. 20:** 1 p.m. at the Whiting Forest. Tawny Nelb will speak on "Voices from the Midland Home Front: Women's Contributions in WWI and WWII".

**Thurs. Feb 21:** 6:30 p.m. "Saginaw Rising," a film about violence in Saginaw. There will be time for questions and discussion at the midpoint and end of the film. Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 3109 Swede Rd.

**Tues. Feb. 26:** 7 p.m.: "The Future of Public Education in Michigan," a forum about educational proposals being discussed in Lansing and their impact on our schools. Panel includes John Austin, President of the State Board of Education, Michael VanBeek, Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Linda Cline, Associate Superintendent, Midland Public Schools; they will take questions from the audience afterwards. This program is sponsored by the Midland County Democratic Party at the Grace A. Dow Library lounge.

**Wed. Feb. 27:** 9:30 a.m. Local program planning at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, conference room D.

**Wed. March 6:** 1 p.m. Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, Conference Room C, regular LWV board meeting; all LWV members welcome.

**Thurs. March 7** at the Chippewa Nature Center at 7 p.m. In conjunction with the Chippewa Nature Center, our League is sponsoring a program on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in Michigan, a topic of great interest due to major changes in the drilling process used for recovering natural gas from shale.

**Wed. April 17,** 10 a.m. Sanford Meridian Technology Lab – we will gather at 10 a.m. to learn about the "new tech" program in the schools. 330 North Meridian Rd. in Sanford. There will be time for discussion after the presentation. We will meet for lunch after the presentation at the Railside in Sanford.

**Fri. – Sun. May 17, 18, and 19:** League of Women Voters of Michigan State Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing, Michigan.

**Wed. May 22:** 7 p.m. at the Holliday Inn: our Midland Area LWV annual meeting. Cost to members this year: \$26.50

## Perspectives on Fracking in Michigan

Our Midland League is co-sponsoring a program with the Chippewa Nature Center on hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in Michigan, to be held **March 7, from 7 to 8:30 pm, at the Chippewa Nature Center, 400 South Badour Road\***.

Fracking is the process used to release natural gas from rock by means of injecting fluids into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock. The practice is a subject of increasing interest due to major changes in the well drilling process used.

The program will feature presentations by Hal Fitch, State Geologist with the Office of Oil, Gas & Minerals, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; and by Chiara Barbier and Jacque Rose, co-founders of the Friends of the AuGres-Rifle Watershed. Topics to be covered include the geology, process, regulatory aspects, and environmental considerations. Although fracking has attracted a lot of attention nationally (even globally), our program will focus on the practices and issues in Michigan.

This free program is open to the public and promises to be an excellent opportunity to hear various perspectives on the subject. We encourage you to come and invite others who may be interested.

\***Directions:** M-20 to Homer Rd., South to Prairie Rd., East to Badour Rd.; or Business US-10 to Cronkright; over Poseyville Bridge to St. Charles St. Turn right, follow signs three miles to CNC.

Sue McCollister

**Correction: our new member:** last month we profiled five new members of our local LWV. One writeup had a few corrections that did not make it into the January Voter. Here is the corrected profile of Gila Mohadjer: **Gila Mohadjer** (pronounced Zhila) was born in Iran and grew up in Germany. She and her husband moved to Midland 14 years ago so her husband could work for Dow Chemical Co. Gila received her high school diploma in Iran at the German school in the year of the Iranian revolution before the school closed. She also earned a medical degree in Germany and decided to pursue a career in education in the medical field. She teaches human anatomy and physiology at Delta College as an adjunct. Her interest in how politics works led her to join a Great Decisions group. Three years ago she became a U.S. citizen and decided the best way to understand our laws and regulations was to become a member of the LWV. Her husband is also a citizen but their Iranian roots draw them back often; they spent Christmas vacation there. Their daughter was a college student at Alma and then went to Cambridge to get a masters degree; from there she moved to Paris and Berlin where she is earning a PhD in international relations; she has been married six months. Their son graduated from the University of Michigan and is now studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to our calendar happenings, don't forget to watch “**Making Democracy Work**” which is featured on MCTV (channel 99 on Charter television) and online. Go to [www.midland-mi.org/mctv/channel99.htm](http://www.midland-mi.org/mctv/channel99.htm), type “making democracy work” in the search bar and click to view a rundown of the programs.. Cathy Nelson Price, who hosts the program is also looking into future programming with Delta College. Library director Melissa Barnard has been one of the more recent interviewees.