



Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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Newsletter

CALENDAR 2008

- Sept. 3 Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset Drive, 1:00 p.m.
(Note this is a new day and time.)
- Sept. 17 **Dinner with State LWV President: Café American, 1525 Washington St., 6:00 p.m.**
- Oct. 1 Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset Drive, 1:00 p.m.
- October **Distribution of Voter Guides, Midland Daily News and other locations**
- Oct. 20 **General Election Candidate Forum: City Council Chambers, MCTV live, 7:00 p.m.**
- Nov. 4 **VOTE - Election night live coverage from County Building on MCTV**
- Nov. 5 Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset Drive, 1:00 p.m.
- November **General Meeting: Fair and Impartial Courts**

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

DINNER WITH THE STATE PRESIDENT

The September election year kick-off meeting is Wednesday, September 17, at Café American, 1525 Washington Street at 6:00 p.m. Come join fellow League members in welcoming Jessica Reiser, the President of the Michigan League from Kalamazoo. Jessica will have dinner with us and then tell us about the many state election activities, state program for the year and some great new grants the LWVMI has received and the projects connected with them.

Members and guests are invited to come, order a meal and join the League group in the back room of the restaurant for a private setting. Café American closes at 8:00 p.m. so we will all be on our way early.



OCTOBER

LWV MIDLAND ELECTION NEWS

The Voter Service Committee with Donna DeVinney, Chair, is planning two important October activities for the November elections. The General Elections Candidate Forum will take place on October 20 at the Midland City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. Midland Community Television will provide live coverage and rebroadcast several times before the election. The very popular LWV Voter Guides will again be printed and distributed through the Midland Daily News and should arrive in subscribers homes in mid-October. Copies will also be available at public places after that time. The State League provides the information for most state-wide candidates and issues. The local League develops questions, contacts candidates and prepares the copy.

ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2008
REGISTER
VOTE and be heard

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

This is the first Voter since I attended the LWVUS National Convention in Portland in June. I want to thank all of you for making my participation there possible. We all have much to be proud of in the work LWVs do around the country. The web sites of all three levels of LWV have been improved and I encourage you to go to them for news of activities locally, in Michigan and nationally. For election information, check out www.VOTE411.org. This great site is funded by the LWVUS Education Fund and has voting information for all 50 states.

After months of hearing campaign speeches and analysis of positions and candidates, the election is finally drawing close. Many of our members have been working on preparations for our candidate forum, Voter Guide and live coverage of election night. These are the heart of LWV. Now is the time for our members to say “YES” and help these events happen! Hope to see you September 17.

Carole Swinehart

REVAMPED WEBSITE HAS NEW LOOK

As of the first of September or very shortly thereafter, our website will have a new look. The templates were developed by the LWV of California and are used by many local Leagues across the country. This will identify us as part of a larger group and make it easier for visitors to find their way. A major advantage (from my point of view) is that different people can be in charge of their particular pages, e.g., Judy McDowell can cover the Membership page and Carole Swinehart can keep the calendar updated. In addition, changes are very easy to make. We owe Johanna Frohm a big thank you for setting up most of the initial pages.

Please check on the site soon, the URL is the same: www.lwv-midland.org and send in suggestions for improvements but keep in mind that I am on a steep learning curve.

Fran Hamburg

LWVUS FORMS HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

One of the program ideas approved by the delegates to the 2008 National Convention was to undertake a Health Care Education project. The LWVUS Board has approved formation of a Health Care Education Task Force to initiate the Education project. More information will be coming as to how local Leagues may get involved.



GOOD READ

WORKBOOK

Moral Values and “Sound Bites” by Norbert Bufka is meant to help the reader choose a candidate to vote for, not about specific candidates or races. The author’s intent is to offer a guide for all elections, national, state or local. Since campaigns use the running theme, Bufka divides the book into a training program with sections “Get Ready,” “Get Set,” and “Go.” In the “Get Ready” section, he discusses principles and leadership and moral values asking the reader to question their own mindsets in evaluating candidates’ positions. Under “Get Set” he discusses a number of sound bites on major topics of the day such as pro life issues, taxation, big government, gay marriage and others. Bufka readily admits he expresses his own views throughout the book and says he welcomes dialog and disagreement by phone or email at his home in Midland where the book can be purchased. He also writes a column for the Midland Daily News. The final “Go” section contains several pages of forms for the reader to use in choosing a candidate based on the book’s concepts.

Rosemary Wilson

LWVUS SUPPORTS MORATORIUM ON NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

As you may have read, the national League of Women Voters (LWVUS) has called for a ten-year moratorium on new coal-fired electric power plants. The press release issued August 7 stated in part: *“Global warming is happening now, said national League President Mary G. Wilson. “If we wait for federal action from our congressional leaders, it will be too late. We must take immediate and aggressive action to halt climate change,” she said. “Burning more coal is too big a risk for too many people,” Wilson said. “Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S., with power plants responsible for 33 percent of CO2 emissions. Because of this pollution, we already face increasingly severe heat waves and droughts, intensifying hurricanes and floods, disappearing glaciers and more wildfires. If left unchecked, the effects will be catastrophic to us and our planet,” she said.*

“We will be active in opposing the building of these plants,” said Wilson. “Coal-fired electric power plants have a very long lifespan and contribute huge amounts of pollution to the atmosphere. Building these new plants would foreclose the possibility of preventing dangerous global warming.”

For the complete statement and background information on the LWVUS position, go to www.lwvus.org.



PROPOSED NEW MICHIGAN COAL-FIRED PLANTS

Currently five permit applications are pending before the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality including the proposed Midland plant and one in Essexville. According to the DEQ, these applications are going through the New Source Review process and are not ready for public input. However, the DEQ says that it is aware of public concern and plans to give plenty of notice to

interested parties so that they may participate. For more information go to:

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/downloads/permits/cfpp/cfpp.htm>

Neither our local Board nor the LWVMI have as yet taken an official position. Please let us know if you have an opinion to share. Call Jenifer Kusch, Natural Resources Chair, 837-0307, email: j.kusch@charter.net or Fran Hamburg, LWMVI Advocacy VP 631-4769, email: fphamburg@chartermi.net



PLEASE JOIN US -TOGETHER WE MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK

September is membership renewal month and a great time for new members to come on board! Please use the membership form on the back of this Voter to send in your renewal today. Your invitation to a non-member to come to a meeting and/or to join the League is vital to expanding our numbers and strengthening the voice of our League. The health of our League depends on each of us. If you have questions or know someone it would be helpful to follow-up with regarding membership in the League, please contact Judy McDowell at 839-6926 or by email at jmcdowell@charter.net

PRESIDENTIAL VOTER GUIDES COMING

The LWVUS is undertaking a General Election Presidential Voter Guide with candidates John McCain, Ralph Nader and Barack Obama who have been invited to provide answers to the LWV questionnaires. The Guide will appear on VOTE411.org which offers election information regarding registration, polling places, issues and much more geared to specific locations. Other state and local Leagues may choose to print the Presidential Voter Guide or have it on websites.

The Voter is published monthly from September through May by the League of Women Voters of the Midland Area League of Women Voters.

