



Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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Newsletter

CALENDAR 2009

- March 4** Board Meeting and Local Program Planning at Donna DeVinney's home, 4954 Grandview Circle: 1:00 p.m. Planning; 2:00 p.m. Meeting
- March 17** General Meeting: Health Care, Trinity Lutheran Church Gathering Room, 7:00 p.m., Dr. Drew Hinderer, presenter
- April 1** Board Meeting at Carole Swinehart's home: 5315 Sunset Drive, 1:00 p.m
- April 14** National Popular Vote Compact (NPVC) Consensus Meeting, Communications Family Credit Union Conference Room, 100 Joseph Drive, 7:00 p.m.
- May 13** Annual Meeting and Award Presentations: D'Alessandro's, 6:00 p.m.

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

COMING: "MEDICINE, MORALITY AND THE MARKETPLACE" - LEARN MORE

Drew Hinderer, Professor of Philosophy at Saginaw Valley State University, will present "Medicine, Morality and the Marketplace: Prospects for Health Care Reform" on Tuesday, March 17 at Trinity Lutheran Church Gathering Room at 7:00 p.m. Hinderer who teaches health care ethics and comparative philosophy at SVSU will document problems concerning cost and access to the American healthcare system. He suggests that although we have a strong moral obligation to provide a decent minimum of healthcare services to all Americans, financial, practical and ideological obstacles make prospects for near universal access unlikely, regardless of which plan is considered. He will suggest that prospects for responsible change will require a very far reaching reconsideration of what healthcare is and how it compares to other social goods, such as education. Hinderer was a founding member of the Medical Ethics Resources Network of Michigan and conducts continuing education workshops for health care and social work professionals. He and his wife, Sara Hinderer, Nurse Practitioner at Saginaw High School's School Based Health Center, have written "A

Multidisciplinary Approach to Health Care Ethics" published by McGraw Hill.

Healthcare is of great interest to the League as LWVUS has been speaking out and calling for reform and is hoping that members across the country will learn more about the issues and become actively involved in the debate. For more information, go to: www.lwv.org. Check out the "For members only" section to learn more about joining a 'list-serve' for ongoing dialog with other League members across the country.

HAPPY 89th BIRTHDAY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Feb. 14, 1920-2009



For nearly nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative. Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago." Mary G. Wilson, president LWVUS.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm hoping to engage you in thinking about local issues that our League can focus on during 2009-2010. Since it is not a major state or national election year, we can focus on issues with education and advocacy based on positions we hold or engage in a new study of an issue that needs attention. Will local housing, education or corrections present opportunities for action or study? What else should we consider?"

Our Board will be discussing local focus and/or study possibilities for an hour preceding the March 4 board meeting and we invite you to be present or to send us your thoughts. This year we celebrate our 40th year in Midland and, as with all organizations, we need to strive to remain relevant to our community. Please write or call before the April board meeting or, best of all, join us on March 4.

Carole Swinehart

BOARD MEMBERS

Carole Swinehart	636-7239
Fran Hamburg	631-4769
Rosemary Wilson	631-4152
Julie Schmidt	631-1173
Karen Sherwood	832-3533
Donna DeVinney	631-7543
Cathy Heng	631-1502
Judy McDowell	839-6926
Dave Wirth	631-5198
Jenifer Kusch	837-0307

For email addresses, see membership list.

CONSENSUS MEETING IN APRIL ON NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

The Communication Family Credit Union Conference room at 110 Joseph Drive (a new meeting place for the League), April 17 at 7:00 p.m., will be the gathering place for League members to tackle consensus questions for the LWVUS study on The National Popular Vote Compact . At the first meeting on January 28, Dr. David Weaver led the discussion on the compact and related ideas regarding the Electoral College. LWVUS is asking local Leagues to study and come to consensus on this issue by May 1. Study materials including the consensus questions and pros and cons regarding the NPVC can be found at www.lwv.org.

SO WHAT IS THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT?

The National Popular Vote Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the Electoral College. States that legislatively enact the NPVC would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's Electoral College votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

So far, Maryland, New Jersey, Hawaii and Illinois have signed on.

NATIONAL VOTER MAGAZINE

The LWVUS Board has suspended publication of its **National Voter** until its finances are healthier. It is committed to finding new ways to deliver information. Check www.lwv.org for Leaders' Updates.

Congress are drawn in conjunction with the ten-year.

GOOD READS



Two books included in the 2009 Great Decisions study guide are new, timely, and truly “Good Reads.”

1. **“The Post American World”** by Fareed Zakaria, 2008.
2. **“Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia,”** 2008.

Both books are in the Grace A. Dow Library.

“The Elephant and the Dragon,” by Robyn Meredith, 2007, is available as a recorded book from the library and is a fascinating account of current developments in India and China with case histories of a number of multinationals telling how they are interacting with both India and China. Carole Swinehart.



MEMBERS CHOOSE PRIORITIES FOR LWVMI PROGRAM

Over brunch and lively discussion at the February 14 meeting at Donna DeVinney’s home we selected our top two of the five Democracy Agenda priorities to recommend to LWVMI for the April Convention.

1. Election Administration which would advocate for allowing no-excuse absentee ballots. Michigan presently allows unrestricted absentee ballots for citizens over 65 but stipulates certain restrictions for all others.
2. Redistricting which would call for change in the way districts for the Legislature and

The group also concurred with the Berrien/Cass County LWV position on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) which would allow Leagues to advocate for certain regulations that would protect Michigan waterways from farm animal pollution. Finally, the group agreed that more education regarding the campaign for Fair and Impartial Courts would be welcome.

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING TO SET FOCUS FOR 2008 - 2009

The focus for the September 2009 - May 2010 program will be discussed at a program planning meeting March 4, at 1:00 p.m. at Donna DeVinney’s home, 4954 Grandview Circle before the board meeting. The proposal will be finalized at the April board meeting and, if approved, will be sent to all members who will vote to accept, reject, or make a counter proposal at the Annual Meeting on May 13. Local program means just that. What are the issues right here in Midland city and county that local League members would like to learn more about or become active in doing something about. Climate change and recycling have been highlighted the past few years. Here are some new ideas:

- Monitor new jail procedures and programs to make sure they fulfill the goals of our local position
- Midland County Emergency Preparedness/Public Health Dept
- The value of separate annual school elections
- Local housing needs
- Homeless/Food Banks
- Lack of local jail alternatives
- Combining various county elected positions

Now we need your ideas. Your views are important so, if you can’t make the meeting, please call or email a board member.

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