



The Midland Voter

The League of Women Voters of the Midland Area

September 2013 (Vol. 46, Number 1)

www.lwv-midland.org

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Editor:

You are invited!

Midland LWV Calendar

Wed. Sept. 4: 1 p.m. Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, Conference Room A, our regular LWV board meeting; all LWV members are welcome. Sharon Mortensen, Director of the Midland Area Community Foundation will update us on Midland County's priority needs.

Tues. Sept. 17: 3 p.m., taping at MCTV studio of "Making Democracy Work."

Tues. October 1: a reception for **Michael Sharrow**, the new superintendent of Midland Public Schools at 7 p.m. in the "Saints and Sinners" Lounge, Midland Center for the Arts.

Wed. Oct. 2: LWV Board meeting at 1 p.m. in the Grace A. Dow Library conference room A; all Midland LWV members welcome.

Mon. Oct. 7: (tentative) candidate forum with MCTV for Ward 1 City Council member.

Wed. Oct. 9: Senior Expo at the Midland Mall.

Tues. Nov. 5: Election Day, city council elections.

Wed. Nov. 6: LWV Board meeting at 1 p.m. in the Grace A. Dow Library conference room A; all Midland LWV members welcome.

Tues. Nov. 19: Joint meeting with AAUW and Zonta on Human Trafficking.

Wed. Dec. 4: Holiday Gathering for all Midland LWV members.

January/February: LWVUS Agriculture Update (general and consensus meeting).

Feb. 14: Happy 94th Birthday to the League of Women Voters of the U.S.A.!

March/April: LWVMI Education Update (consensus).

May 21: Annual Meeting.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm looking forward to serving as our League's new President! I'm a relative newbie to the League – a total of six years as a member, serving on the Board of Directors the past four years. Fortunately, there are a number of Board members with a wealth of experience in League leadership and a generous spirit, willing to share their knowledge, and who I expect will keep me from getting too far astray.

To start off the 2013–14 year, we're looking forward to hosting a reception for Michael Sharrow, the new superintendent of Midland Public Schools, on October 1 (see below). With our study on local public school funding over the past three years, education has been and continues to be a priority issue for our League, and we're delighted to have an opportunity to meet Mr. Sharrow. We hope to see you there -- bring a guest, hopefully a potential League member!

Our schedule for the year, somewhat tentative at this point, looks to include a variety of topics and activities that we hope will attract your interest. One of our major Program goals is to identify local issues of concern in common with other groups in the community, then to find ways we can partner to inform the public on these concerns. As a starting point we'll be getting an overview of the Midland County Needs Assessment from Sharon Mortensen, Director of the Midland Area Community Foundation, to see where we might fit into plans for addressing the County's priority needs. In November we're looking forward to co-sponsoring a program with AAUW and Zonta on human trafficking. Early 2014 will find us working on two study updates – one on the LWVMI Position on education, the other on the LWVUS agriculture Position. We hope some of you will be joining in on these studies. It's a great way to learn about critical issues (in addition to making important contributions, of course).

Last spring we launched an electronic newsletter to be published shortly after each monthly Board meeting, to give our members timely reports on the status of our activities. We hope you're finding it informative and readable. We'll continue to publish this VOTER 3–4 times this year.

September is dues month! As you will see in the renewal form and in the reminder coming in your mail (and may recall if you attended the Annual Meeting), dues are increased to \$60 for an individual member and \$80 for a household. Of the \$60, we pay \$23 to the State League and \$31 to LWVUS, plus a little under a dollar for liability insurance, leaving about \$5/individual member for our local League. We're so appreciative of your Sustaining Memberships of \$100 or more, your donations to our local League and tax-deductible contributions to the LWV Education Fund. These additional funds allow us to continue to offer an ambitious schedule of programs and activities.

I look forward to hearing from you with comments and suggestions, and especially your interest in specific areas of the League. You can contact me at suedonmc@aol.com or 989-631-4180.

Sue McCollister

Our fall “kick-off” meeting will be an open house for **Michael Sharrow**, Midland Public Schools new superintendent, Tuesday October 1 at 7 p.m. at the “Saints and Sinners” lounge (formerly Garden Room) at the Midland Center for the Arts. Plan to come and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.

New Members

Two people joined the Midland LWV since the last Voter was mailed. Welcome to both!

Julie Ortiz is a realtor for Ayre–Rhinehart, where she has worked for 20 years. She was a member of the League years ago but let her membership lapse. She re-joined after our March meeting with the Chippewa Nature Center. She says she always thought the LWV was a worthwhile organization and “I appreciate the unbiased information they provide. I’m glad to be a member again.” Julie’s husband Jeff is a designer who works at Nexteer Automotive in Saginaw in their engineering department. They have two daughters who attend Michigan Technological University in the Upper Peninsula; one is studying biology and one is studying engineering. Julie’s interests are cross country skiing, hiking and all kinds of music. 1305 N. Parkway, Midland MI 48640 (989)–859–6259 jortiz@arthouse.com

Dr. Audrey (Dree) Stryker is an ob–gyn specialist practicing in Saginaw. Her husband, Michael Korn is an attorney who also practices in Saginaw. They have three daughters: Sarah who works with autistic children in Columbus, Ohio; Molly who is a constituent representative in the Michigan legislature, working for Lansing area representative Sam Singh; and Emily, who is a senior at Saginaw Valley State University majoring in international business. Dree learned of the LWV through her mother, longtime member Rhosan Stryker, and decided she too wanted to join. Dree heads a foundation set up to support her work, the International Women and Infant Sustainable Health Care (I WISH) Foundation, designed to aid women and infants throughout the world. She has focused on Haiti since the earthquake there. She will return to Haiti in September for a week to instruct medical personnel in the use of hospital equipment her foundation has sent to them. 2299 Old Pine Trail, Midland MI 48642 (989)–835–2412

League members were sorry to learn of the death of a former Midland LWV president, **Nita Wakeland**, age 86. Nita died in Pennsylvania, where she moved to be with her family.

Midland LWV also extends sympathy to member **Ellen Wolfe**, whose husband Richard, age 86, died Wednesday, Aug. 21 in Midland.

2013 Belle Ringer Awards

Named for Florence Belle Brotherton, the first President of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, the Belle Ringer Awards publicly thank members, selected by their local League, for a job well done. They are non-competitive awards. The work done by these members is critical to the daily operations of each local League. Each honoree is given a commemorative bell at the state conventions.

Three of our Midland LWV members were honored with this award at the State League convention in June. They are: **Donna DeVinney** for Voter Service, **Judy McDowell** for membership participation and **Connie Glave** for fundraising.

SEPTEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

A REMINDER TO MEMBERS AND AN INVITATION TO THOSE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MIDLAND LEAGUE

September is membership renewal month and a good time as well for new members to come on board. Please use the membership form on the back of this VOTER to send in your renewal.

An invitation to a non-member to come to a meeting or join the League would help to expand our numbers. If you know someone who might like a personal invitation to join, please contact Donna DeVinney at 631-7543 or e-mail devmath@aol.com.

Please renew your membership today. The health of our League depends on each one of us.

Watch our Program!

New "Making Democracy Work" shows airing this fall on MCTV

New topics and new guests continue to keep "Making Democracy Work" a thought-provoking addition to your League's voter education initiatives. On September 17 at 3 p.m. we'll tape two shows, which you're invited to attend. (Seating is limited; contact Cathy Nelson Price.) bobthesh@pipeline.com)

Cuts in public school funding and staffing continue to shrink arts programs and school libraries. What can classroom teachers do to help their pupils acquire the valuable learning skills these programs provided? Where can parents help? Creative 360 Arts Center founder Linda Z. Smith and teacher/director Cheryl Levy offer some insights and resources.

Fracking; Good science? Good energy policy? Good for the earth? If not, why not? As your League continues to follow the development of fracking around the state, we'll hear from geologists Hal Fitch, of the state of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, and Dr. Leroy Smith, consultant and author.

Watch us on MCTV Channel 99 or by streaming video on demand.

Cathy Nelson Price



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is my check (made payable to LWV of the Midland Area) for:

- Individual Membership (\$60)
- Household Membership (\$80)
- Student Membership (\$30)
- Sustaining Membership \$100___\$150___\$200___other-

specify_____

CHECK TOTAL

(Membership contributions are not tax deductible)

Separate check made payable to LWVUS Education Fund

(This contribution is tax-deductible)

NAME_____

PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____

ADDRESS_____CITY _____
ZIP _____

E-MAIL_____

(To save mailing and paper costs, communications are frequently sent by e-mail. If you do not have access to e-mail, please check here____)

Mail check(s) with this form to:
LWV of the Midland Area
P. O. Box 1203
Midland MI 48641-1203

Please include a separate sheet to note your interests, skills, and suggestions for LWV programs.