



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Midland Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MIDLAND AREA

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Newsletter

CALENDAR 2009 - 2010

- December 2** **Board Meeting** at Carole Swinehart's home 5315 Sunset Drive, 4:30 pm
- December 2** **Holiday Potluck** at Carole Swinehart's home 5315 Sunset Drive, 6:00 pm
- January 6** **First of 2010! Info and Issues Meeting:** Regional Poverty. Jill Sutton, Executive Director of Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency, Youth Center First United Methodist Church, 315 W. Larkin Street, 7pm
- February** **90th Birthday Celebration** all month. See the new *Midland Voter* feature: "90 years in Photos", page 3
- March 26** **Info and Issues Meeting:** School Financing. Superintendent Chuck Volz, MCESA Building, 3917 Jefferson, 7 pm

REMEMBER LEAGUE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. BRING A FRIEND!

INFO AND ISSUES MEETING TO FOCUS ON REGIONAL POVERTY

Jill Sutton, Director of Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency, will be our guest speaker on January 6, 2010, at the Youth Center, First United Methodist Church, 315 W. Larkin Street. Mid-Michigan Community Action has supported individuals and families for over 42 years in Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola Counties.

MMCAA has over 20 programs to help low to moderate income families become more stable.

Some of these programs include:

- Rent/Mortgage Assistance
- Food Assistance
- Housing Repair/Rehabilitation
- Homeownership/Down payment Assistance
- Early Head Start
- WIC
- Preschool

Please park at the Larkin Street entrance. An elevator to the Youth Center is available.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Michigan League of Women Voters has chosen this year to restudy our position on prisons. In a few months we will be discussing questions and working to reach a consensus on answers. Among the questions we will be asked to consider is one comparing retributive, restorative and therapeutic justice. We will be asked to evaluate different alternatives to incarceration. We will discuss whether prisoners should have to forfeit certain rights like the right to vote, the right to court access, the right to use the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and their civil rights. We will rank the importance of various prison conditions and look at the role of parole boards.

All of the questions are available on the state website at www.lwvmi.org. Along with the questions is quite a bit of information on how the different types of justice are defined, how the penal system has worked in different times and various places. It will be most valuable to our discussions if you have done some preliminary studying on the topic.

Rather than wait until a position has been taken and then question if you personally agree with it, I urge you to study and discuss the League questions with each other, your families, and friends before our consensus meetings take place. I believe discussions are far more productive when those involved have already had some time to study, contemplate, and consider the information they have gathered from many sources.

I know the next month will have some busy days, but you can grab a few minutes here and there to begin collecting information and listening for bits of conversation or reports that relate to our upcoming restudy of prisons. Perhaps you can start a folder where you deposit all the tidbits you find.

Of course I don't want you to do all this work and miss out on the festive holiday season! Be sure to come to our potluck dinner at Carole Swinehart's house on December 2. It will be a great time to start the season right – with food, friends, and conversation!

Karen Sherwood, President

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN DECEMBER TO HELP OUR LOCAL LEAGUE

- ✓ Give a holiday gift of League membership to a friend or family member
- ✓ Consider a year end charitable donation to the LWV Education Fund
- ✓ Contact Sue McCollister and volunteer to help with the 90th birthday celebration
- ✓ Save paper and postage by requesting an e-subscription to *Midland Voter*.
(J.kusch@charter.net)



LWV TO CELEBRATE 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Leagues across the country will be celebrating our 90th anniversary and commemorating passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea on February 14, 1920. Passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote followed on August 26, 1920.

We are forming a committee to plan how we will celebrate the 90th birthday of our parent organization. Sue McCollister (phone 631-4180) is heading it up. She will welcome contributions in the form of activity suggestions, materials, photos and ideas, as well as additional committee members to assist in this undertaking. Please contact Sue to make whatever contributions you can that will help us make this celebration worthy of a 90-year-old parent!

INTRODUCING A NEW MIDLAND VOTER FEATURE:

90 YEARS IN PHOTOS

Each month during the 90th anniversary year, **Midland Voter** will feature a photo marking a decade of League history. In the photo below, a leading suffragist, Carrie Chapman Catt, center, leads a group in a New York City parade staged in the fall of 1917 to gain support for woman suffrage.

Pre 1920's



TIME TO SIGN UP FOR GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions discussion groups are forming, and there is still room for new members. Groups will meet for eight weeks starting in late January. Briefing books are \$18. Schedules for the four discussion groups are as follows:

Tuesday afternoons

Deb Ballard, Discussion Facilitator 832-2873

Wednesday mornings

Ghislaine Maurissen, Discussion Facilitator 636-7145

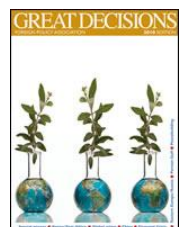
Thursday Mornings

Tina Laughner, Discussion Facilitator 633-3790

Thursday evenings

Margot Haynes, Discussion Facilitator 835-9204

The topics for 2010 are: Special Envoys, Preventing Genocide, Global Crime, US-China Relations, Global Financial Crisis, Russia and its Neighbors, The Persian Gulf, and Peacebuilding.



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NEXT MEETING: JAN 6