



The Voter

A publication of
Dearborn and Dearborn Heights
League of Women Voters

120 N. Military Dearborn, MI 48124 313-278-6476 www.lwvddh.org



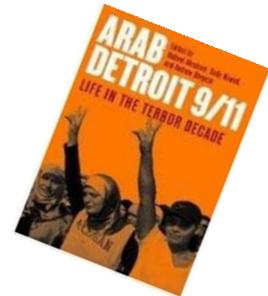
May 2013

After the right to vote was established for American women in 1920, the League of Women Voters worked to inform the influx of new voters. LWV has since become a resource for ALL voters. Men and women with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints rely on our non-partisan candidate guides and forums as well as our well-studied positions on local, state and national issues.

League of Women Voters Dearborn/Dearborn Heights Annual Meeting Announcement

PUBLIC WELCOME

Saturday, June 8, 2013
Habib's Cuisine (formerly City Tavern)
14316 Michigan Ave.



11:00 a.m. Gathering
11:15 a.m. Business Meeting
12:30 p.m. Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Program

Please join us for our annual opportunity to share with members and guests what the League has accomplished over the last year and what is being planned for the coming year. Let us hear what **YOU** have to say about **OUR** League and how we can serve our members and community even better. We will be discussing and approving an operating budget and will be electing new officers and directors to lead the League over the next two years. Finally, we are honored to have a local author and educator speak to us about his recent award winning book.

Nabeel Abraham, Ph.D., instructor of Anthropology and director of the Honors Program at Henry Ford Community College, co-edited *Arab Detroit 9/11: Life in the Terror Decade*, published by WSU Press in 2011. The recent recipient of the Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award, the book "chronicles the trauma, unexpected political gain and moral ambiguities faced by Arab Americans in Detroit in a post-9/11 world".

A display copy of the book and also of Dr. Abraham's earlier book *Arab Detroit: From Margin to Mainstream* will be available, along with order forms for online buying with discount.

It should be extra fun to be dining at Habib's Cuisine known for its high quality Mediterranean cuisine. Cost for the family style luncheon will be \$25.00.

TAKE A MINUTE AND ASK A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO COME WITH YOU – THEY WILL SEE WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT ... AND MEET AN AUTHOR FROM WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR YOUR RESERVATION FORM

MEMBERSHIP

Open to any U.S. citizen.
Dues are \$60 per year payable
July 1st to: **LWVDDH.**

MEETINGS

The League Office and most local meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church
120 N. Military at Cherry Hill,
Dearborn, MI.

The church is handicap accessible with elevator and an outdoor ramp.

LEAGUE OFFICE

120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124
313.278.6476

Email: lwvddh@gmail.com

Web: www.lwvddh.org

Mary Bugeia, President,
313.562.7524

Mary Jo Durivage, Secretary
Barbara Adams, Treasurer
Carolyn Buell, Membership
313.274.4811

Chris Sullivan-Rathwell, Events
313.563.4586

Patti Mack, Editor
313.278.4376

LWV Michigan

517.484.5383
www.lwvmi.org

LWV-US

1.202.429.1965
www.lwv.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The LWV, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of people in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

“**The Voter Newsletter**” is included in membership. Others can subscribe for \$10 per year. We are also transitioning to an email alert for those who opt out of the printed newsletter. Contact us at 313-278-6476 or lwvddh@gmail.com to request an email or printed subscription

**Peace**

*Peace will come when people live
In friendship, side by side,
And cherish understanding
More than hatred, greed and pride.*

*Peace will come when people see
All people as the same,
And no one has to live in fear,
In ignorance, or shame.*

*Peace will come when people
Who are needy can reach out
For shelter, food, or love,
And no has to do without.*

*Peace will come when people
Learn to listen and to care
About the rights and dignity
Of people everywhere.*

*Peace will come when love and trust
And kindness know rebirth,
And on that day all people
Will rejoice in peace on earth.*

Amanda Bradley



Youth Scholarship Opportunities

Recently, a Michigan 2020 Plan was introduced to make higher education more accessible for every student. Scholarships have the ability to do the same by assisting in the payment of tuition and other educational expenses. There are countless scholarship opportunities available. Below are a few that are available locally.

Dearborn Community Foundation - Provides students with a growing list of donors and scholarship funds for college expenses.

More information can be found here: <http://www.dearborncf.org/scholarships/>.

State of Michigan Scholarships and Grants

This program, funded by the State of Michigan, is based on financial need and merit. Students may use the scholarship funds at any degree-granting, Michigan public or independent postsecondary institutions for tuition and fees. More information can be found here: <http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/0,4636,7-128-60969---|,00.html>.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Make check payable to:

LWVDDH Education Fund
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124



**** Tax-deductible donations** are designated for educational publications and programs such as non-partisan voter guides, candidate forums and the annual publication of local, state and national elected officials (Who's Who). These non-partisan resources are essential to our community and appreciated by our voting population. These contributions are managed by the LWVDDH Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Mail registration form and check (made out to LWVDDH) with memo "Annual meeting" to:

LWV DDH
120 N. Military
Dearborn MI 48124

Please call the League office at 313-278-6476 with any questions or to arrange for transportation. Members have happily offered to provide rides for members who are not able to get to the meeting otherwise.

Name _____

Additional Guests _____

Phone number and email (in case we need to contact you) _____

Reservations are due in the office by May 29, 2013

On Monday evening, April 29, Mary Bugeia, Judy Carty, Betsy Cushman, Joe Borrigo, Toni Tront, and Patti and Don Mack attending a Detroit Voter Service Task Force Meeting, chaired by Paula Bowman, along with 17 other concerned individuals to discuss the 2013 City of Detroit election and how to provide election and candidate information to Detroit voters. Challenges were discussed as eight candidates have already declared they are running for the mayoral race. Additionally, there will be a council member elected from each of 7 districts and 2 at-large members. There are estimates that between 6 and 14 candidates will run for each council position.

After explaining League principles concerning elections and alerting them to the on-line Voter Guide, Vote411 and how it works, the following goals were decided:

- Prepare a (print) education piece possibly using a Frequently Asked Questions format to explain voting by district, why it's important to vote in a primary election, etc.
- Post an on-line voter guide (LWV's Vote 411 product)
- Prepare a corresponding print voter guide using information collected from the Vote411 project. Prepare a separate guide for each of the 7 districts.
- Circulate a PDF on the print voter guide via email to people in the Detroit Community.
- Send letters to the editor emphasizing why it's important to vote in the primary election.



Next steps were discussed and various participants volunteered for several tasks. Paula Bowman will work with LWV leaders to arrange a Vote411 hand-on tutorial and hopefully have another meeting soon. Additionally, the LWV will work with other groups (VoteDetroit, Publius) to find other ways of providing timely, comprehensive and accessible election and candidate information to voters.

All in all, those in attendance left the meeting feeling a sense of accomplishment and unity.



Excerpts from an article *Brunch with Bridge* Guest Columnist, Karen Dumas, April 21, 2013

A LITTLE LATE: Detroiters, through their neglect of civic duties, are in a poor position to complain about the appointment of an emergency manager or the actions he takes, argues Karen Dumas. The city of Detroit has become a glaring example of what happens when citizen engagement and voter accountability are passive, at best. Historically low voter turnout, election – and re-election – based on name recognition and not holding those elected officials accountable has gotten us all in trouble, financial and otherwise. An ever-declining population, high crime, less than desirable city services and an ineffective city government are the catch phrases synonymous with Detroit's troubles. With Gov. Rick Snyder declaring the city in a state of financial emergency and appointing an emergency manager, add to those complaints that the democratic process has been circumvented or ignored. And it has.

But who's to blame? There is no question that the right to vote and the democratic process are worth fighting for. A voice, a vote, the right to be heard – these are fundamental to what it means to be American. But this is an example of what happens when the right to vote becomes nothing more than an unused asset or reminder of what used to be, like the dress from your high school prom: pretty, nice to look at and remember, but never to be worn again.

Having a right without exercising the attendant responsibility equates to failure. Allowing those elected or charged with managing the city and its finances to gloss over an otherwise glaring reality has compromised who and where we are. The complaint that democracy has been compromised and rights stolen should be, instead, that we gave them away. Kevyn Orr's appointment as emergency manager has brought a divided response: support from the business community, who long for a resolution to the challenges and perception impeding Detroit's turnaround, but opposition from a community who feels he was forced upon them. Orr comes with unmatched power to make long-desired — but highly opposed — changes to the city's operations, union contracts and legacy debts. He can wipe out employees and departments, and sell assets the city has held on to but not cared for; his every move should be a reminder of what could have been done, but wasn't. When the opportunity to elect new council members presented itself, voters chose five new members, but returned four to office. Work-force reductions were met with marches and accusations of union busting, without recognizing that the pot from which they were paid was dry.

The hand of the city has been slapped. For ignoring, covering up and pretending the problems didn't exist, we all will now pay a price. Whether Orr makes structural changes, a real difference and then returns the reins to voters who will both promise and perform responsibly the next time around, or if he stays much longer than the anticipated 18 months holding voters and their vote at bay, will ultimately determine if that cost will be viewed as a penalty for negligence — or an investment in an elusive, but much desired, brighter future for Detroit.



ELECTION EXCITEMENT ABOUNDS

My favorite deadline is just around the corner: May 14. That's when all the candidates who are serious about running for office must file their petitions. They have 3 days to reconsider and may withdraw by 4 p.m. on May 17. The list of candidates won't be final until then. Are you as curious as I am to know who filed?

We need to encourage citizens to run for office – that's part of our purpose as the League of Women Voters – to encourage the active and educated participation of citizens in government. So I say THANK YOU to everyone who enters a race. And the rest of us should think about it.

My least favorite deadline is June 22, (in case you were wondering) the day absentee ballots must be ready. They won't be mailed out right away but they must be ready. That's when the League phone starts ringing with citizens eager to read our Voter Guides. We want to be ready, so we contact the candidates as soon as we can after the list is finalized.

The Board voted to pay \$150 to participate again in VOTE411.org, the online voter guide. The State League paid the other half of the \$300 cost, and we appreciate it. The committee feels that VOTE411 has been a valuable resource to voters and its popularity will grow as more voters turn to the internet for information. For most of the candidates in this August 6 primary, VOTE411 will be new. We believe most will appreciate this new voter service, as most did last year, our league's first experience with VOTE411.

The information gathered through VOTE411 will be used to make a PDF document which can be posted on our website. Some voters prefer to click on the link and page through the Voter Guide, rather than to enter a new website which requires a lot of "clicks." We are glad we can present a choice.

The most difficult challenge this primary election will be to explain to voters, the public libraries, and to city halls why there will be no printed Voter Guides in the Primary. Voters count on us and they expect to find the Voter Guides at their usual locations.

With the possibility of more than 20 candidates running for Dearborn City Council (21 have pulled petitions as of May 2) the cost of printing Voter Guides will be high. The information is available online and can be printed out, if desired. The Voter Service Committee recommended that the money be saved in the primary to be spent for the November 5 General Election Voter Guides, when the voter turnout will be greater.

We know that many citizens and many of our members do not have access to a computer. They will miss a printed Primary Voter Guide. We are very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who will gather the information from the candidates. We are in need of funds. Thanks to the Finance Committee, letters have been sent to donors and soon letters will go out to members. Not everyone can give but we really appreciate those who can and do.

Since it is a choice between a few printed Voter Guides for the Primary or a more adequate number of Voter Guides in the General Election, we have made the difficult decision to fund the General Election when we expect a great many more voters. We hope you agree.

- Betsy Cushman, Chair, Voter Service Committee



George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles. ~Author Unknown



The following is a quiz developed by the PPACA (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ... also known as Obamacare) Test your knowledge and awareness of this new act.

1. Will the health care reform law require nearly all Americans to have health insurance by 2014 or else pay a fine? Y N ?
2. Will the health care reform law allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare? Y N ?
3. Will the health care reform law cut benefits that were previously provided to all people on Medicare? Y N ?
4. Will the health care reform laws expand the existing Medicaid program to cover low-income, uninsured adults regardless of whether they have children? Y N ?
5. Will the health care reform law provide financial help to low- and moderate-income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage? Y N ?
6. Will the health care reform law prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history or health condition? Y N ?
7. Will the health care reform law require all businesses, even the smallest ones, to provide health insurance for their employees? Y N ?
8. Will the health care reform law provide tax credits to small businesses that offer coverage to their employees? Y N ?
9. Will the health care reform law create a new government run insurance plan to be offered along with private plans? Y N ?
10. Will the health care reform law allow undocumented immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance? Y N ?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

Blight Elimination



The Michigan Senate took up a package of bills on Thursday, April 18, 2013 that are aimed at helping to eliminate blight in the State of Michigan. The bi-partisan package, supported by State Senator Morris Hood III, would allow certain counties and cities to establish an administrative hearings bureau to increase violations and provide stricter sanctions for people that are found to be responsible for a violation.

The city may designate only a violation of any of the following types of ordinances as a blight violation: (1) zoning; (2) building or property maintenance; (3) solid waste and illegal dumping; (4) disease and sanitation; (5) noxious weeds; (6) vehicle abandonment, inoperative vehicles, vehicle impoundment and municipal vehicle licensing; and (7) right-of-way signage, for purposes of this subdivision, right-of-way signage violation means the placement of signage in a right-of-way without a proper permit from the city.

If the civil fine and costs imposed were \$1,000 or more and the person did not pay within 30 days after a final decision and order of the hearing officer or (upon appeal) of the circuit court, the person would be subject to the following:

— For a first violation, the person would be responsible for a State civil infraction and could be ordered to pay a maximum civil fine of \$500.

— For a second violation, the person would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 93 days and a maximum fine of \$500, or both.

— For a third or subsequent violation, the person would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to one year and a mandatory fine of \$500.

For additional details on this legislation you can view the Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of the entire package at

www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2013-SFA-0035-F.pdf

Friends of the Detroit River Friendship Cruise
Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Boat Leaves at 6:30 pm - Please arrive by 6:00 pm
\$35 per person

Cost includes pizza dinner, 1 year membership to Friends of the Detroit River
And a narrated tour of the Detroit River
On the Portofino Friendship Boat
3455 Biddle Avenue; Wyandotte





Rest in Peace Angela Stanyar ...

Angela Stanyar, past member of LWV passed away in her sleep at home on April 9, 2013 per her daughter Marie Stanyar.

Joan Morgan, another daughter, wrote a lovely tribute of which a few lines are reproduced here. The paragraph is tellingly ironic when placed in the context that Angela died on Equal Pay Day.

Angela led a successful life as learner, educator, mother and traveler. While she has gone onto a new journey, the many family members and friends left behind will miss her dearly.

“Our mother instilled in each of us the value of education. Learning for learning’s sake, learning to broaden ourselves as people, and learning as a means to a career, a livelihood ... and “Finally, our mother taught each of us that the bond between mother and child is a complicated one. The challenges, conflicts and turbulence of life can stretch it, strain it. But it is a bond that cannot be broken. Our mother raised five children, alone, on a school teacher’s salary. Even now, as adults, this is something so difficult to comprehend that it bears repeating – five children, alone, on a school teacher’s salary – with no support from anywhere, in an era where it was embarrassing to be a single mother. She fed us, clothed us, sent us to college, by saving pennies, every day, for decades, recording every expense on a little note pad.

“That all five children were near to her, loving her, at life’s end, is her legacy and her reward.

Thank you Mom.”



The 1st and 2nd Amendments to the US Constitution have received considerable attention in recent years. However, the 24th Amendment to the Constitution is beginning to come to the forefront in a controversy. The 24th amendment states: *Section 1 – “The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for the President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax”. Section 2 – The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriated legislation.*

What is a poll tax? It is placing the burden of paying for one’s right to vote. A poll tax was a part of the Jim Crow laws that were used extensively in the south following the Civil War. Those laws targeted African-Americans as a way to leverage / circumvent the new reality of slavery abolished. Imposing a tax requirement was employed to make it difficult for people with limited financial resources the ability to exercise their rights as American citizens guaranteed under the Fourteen Amendment of the US Constitution.

Poll taxes come in many forms and all are tied to the larger effort of deliberately “suppressing the vote”. Currently, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law eliminating the dependent status of students who register and vote on campus, using an address different from the home address of their parents. Failure to comply would eliminate the tax deduction allowed parents for their dependents away from home attending school; a monetary forfeiture directed at parents to keep their students from voting in districts that can influence election outcomes in those areas. How this action stands up to the Twenty Fourth Amendment is certain to be tested in the courts.

Joseph Borrajo

WELCOME

Welcome New Member to LWVDDH!

**STATE SENATOR, THE HONORABLE
MORRIS HOOD III**



PPACA QUIZ ANSWERS

Y to...1, 4, 5, 6, and 8

N to...2, 3, 7, 9, and 10



League of Women Voters
Dearborn & Dearborn Heights
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124

Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 2 – 7 pm

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 – 7 pm

Technical Training

Tuesday, May 14 – 7 pm

Finance Committee

Friday – Sunday, May 17 – 19

Michigan League Convention

Tuesday, May 21 – 1 pm

Voter Service

Saturday, June 8 –

Habib Restaurant – Annual Meeting

