

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *DETROIT*



JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Membership Renewal

It is the Season! If you have not renewed and were a member by the beginning of 2017, please renew now!

Your membership is so important to all of us. With more members we have more clout. We also have more funds to do our work. Membership numbers are counted at the end of January 2018!

You can renew by going to the State website at lwvmi.org and then going to Join Us to do this on-line or to print a copy of the form to use and to mail-in. Or contact Cheryl Bukoff, Member Coordinator for further information at 313-341-9355. Thank You!

News from the Detroit Board

Suzanne Cleage, our First President of the new Detroit League beginning in 2015, has resigned as Co-President due to increasing work responsibility. Her Co-President, Rhonda Craig, will continue as the President. We appreciate all that Suzanne did in her capacity as President to establish and provide on-going leadership to create a sustainable League!

She will stay on the Board as Member-at-Large. Thank you, Suzanne!!

January Activities

- Women's Anniversary March in Lansing – Jan. 21st, 2:00 pm, steps of the Capitol.
- Detroit Citizen First Citizen Assembly, IBEW Local 58
1358 Abbott St., Detroit, MI 48226 Dec. 27th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Parking lot and building entrance off Porter St. RSVP to sandra@citizendetroit.org.
- League of Women Voters Detroit Membership Meeting
Jan. 27th, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, 19000 Wildemere, Detroit 48221 (all members and interested persons welcome).

February Activities

- Coffee and Conversation – We are beginning various conversations in the community to reach out to people interested in the League and voter engagement and to hear what their concerns and ideas are.
February Coffee and Conversations – Feb. 24, 2018 (Sat.)
2:00-4:00pm, Sherwood Forest Public Library, 7117 W. 7 Mile, several blocks west of Livernois. All Welcome.
- General Membership Meeting – February 17, 2018. 2:00 – 4:00pm. Please put on your calendar. More details to follow.

News from the Detroit League

1. We had a great membership meeting Dec. 2nd at WC3 with guest speakers Rep. Stephanie Chang and Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo. They were very informative about the recent auto insurance proposals and what might be possible in the future.
2. Sara Weertz, a new member, is working with a small committee of the Board to design the web page for the Detroit League which we hope to inaugurate this February. The website will help us share documents, such as The Elected Officials Guide, the newsletter, membership applications, etc. Sara is a great asset and we really appreciate her skills and enthusiasm!

Letter from the President

Greetings and Happy New Year,

As members of Detroit League of Women Voters, potential members and interested parties, I am sure all of you have a reason why you feel the League is important. I want to share with you why I feel that this organization is important and necessary to the continued democratic functioning of our government.

While many may think that the current democratic system is deeply flawed evidenced by the numerous and varied inequalities, biases and discriminatory practices, one must realize that this is the best system available. I am reminded of the quote "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others".

In a democracy we can vote our leaders in or out, can publicly protest, boycott and strike to voice our concerns.

Therefore we, as a people, have the power to reduce, minimize and eliminate the negative aspects of the current governing system by our hard work and dogged determination. This is an opportunity that we should not pass up.

The league's commitment to educate the community and strengthen voting rights is just the first step in empowering citizens to change things. The league is akin to a good news article explaining an important event. We explain the who, what, when, where and how to the public regarding our elected officials, candidates and ballot proposals. This is an important step in the Democratic process. Knowledge is power. Acting upon that knowledge changes our community and the nation. As we enter the new year let us reflect upon our role in the process and act upon it.

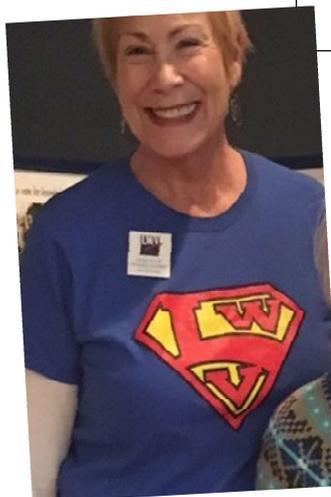
---- Rhonda Craig



Game Night Fundraiser

Thank you to all who supported our fundraiser Dec. 27th! A fun evening was shared by 26 people and we received \$500 in donations!

Two happy t-shirt Customers!



League T-Shirts for Sale

Most sizes available. \$20 each.

The back says "DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY".

Great way to say who we are and what we do! For more information contact Deborah Bunkley at 313-352-2928 or muffin@umich.org.

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is strictly nonpartisan meaning we neither endorse nor oppose candidates or political parties. Membership is open to men and women that are of at least 16 years of age.