

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *DETROIT*



APRIL AND MAY 2019 ISSUE

June Annual Meeting and
Election for Board positions

Please consider nominating
yourself or someone else for
the following positions:

- Voter Services
- Membership
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Contact Gerry Barrons,
gerbarrons2@att.net or 313-
345-6992.

Mark your Calendar and Register!

LWV Michigan State Convention, Embassy Suites, Livonia

May 17-19, 2019

Members, please join everyone in celebrating the 100th birthday of the League in Michigan and the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage and right to vote! Register at www.lwvmi.org. Saturday night speaker is Elaine Weiss, author of The Woman's Hour. Saturday lunch speaker is LWVUS President, Chris Carson, and life time Detroit League member, Kathleen Straus, is on a panel to discuss memories of the League.

Well worth going to hear all of it, speakers, panel, workshops.

Schedule of Activities/Events

APRIL Activities/Events

- **April 17 - ACLU 100^t Anniversary** – LWV Detroit
- **April 17 - Citizen Detroit in partnership with the League, Forum on Auto Insurance, Marble Bar** 7:00 pm. RSVP. See website at lwvdetroit.org.
- **April 20 - Membership Meeting cancelled.** (Easter weekend)
- **Merry Month of April** member volunteers will be interviewing our elected officials. (please see article below about Volunteers Needed)

MAY Activities/Events

- **May 4 – May Membership Meeting** (note early date) **2:00 – 4:00 pm.** *Location to be determined shortly.*
- **May 17- 19 – LWV Michigan State Convention**
- **May 18 – Highland Park City Forum** to discuss the City Charter, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, *Location to be determined.* See information on the Forum on page 3.

Volunteers Needed

1) **April 17 – ACLU 100** at Cobo Hall. 12:00 – 2:00 pm LWV Detroit will have volunteers outside under a heated tent to do voter registration and share membership information. More information at <https://www.aclu100.org/location/detroit-mi/>. Please contact Deborah Bunkley at muffin@umich.edu to register voters!

2) **Month of April** – Join us in interviewing our elected officials, senators and representatives that serve Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck. Each interview will have an Interviewer and a Scribe to take notes. The questions have been determined by the State Board. This information gained helps us locally and the State Board to understand where our officials stand on various issues. Most interviews are conducted at a local restaurant or public location and last about one hour. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the person being interviewed and about her/his positions on various issues. Contact Jennifer Goossen at jbgoossen@gmail.com to find out more about this and to sign up for a date and/or an elected official that you are interested in interviewing.

- 3) **Volunteers Needed continued**- The League will be sponsoring various candidate forums this **summer for the primary in Highland Park and Hamtramck** and your help is needed. Contact Rhonda Craig at LWVdetroit@gmail.com to find out what you can do to help.

Women's Informal Network **WIN** Celebrates its 22nd
 a 501(c)(3) organization since 1992

Women's History Month Luncheon
 "The Most Influential African American Women in Metropolitan Detroit"
 Theme: **Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence**

Honorees

 Rhonda Craig, Esq. President, Detroit League of Women Voters	 Brenda Hill Political Consultant / Strategist	 Oneita Jackson Author & Former Copy Editor, Detroit Free Press	 Terri Markray Owner Solid Foundation Tutoring
 Dannis Mitchell Client & Community Engagement Barton Malow Company	 Lavonia Perryman 910 AM Radio Host Author, Democratic Activist	 Anquetette M. Sarfoh Founder, BOTANIQ Former Anchor, Fox 2 Detroit	 Maureen Taylor State Chair/MI-Welfare Rights Org.

Keynote Speaker
Honorable Denise Langford Morris
 Oakland County Circuit Court Judge

Mistress of Ceremonies
Carolyn Clifford
 WXYZ-TV Channel 7 News Anchor

March 30th Saturday // 11AM - 2:30PM
 TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

Entertainment • Vendors • Raffle Prizes
707 East Banquet Center
 707 East Lafayette Blvd. // Detroit, MI 48226
 Complimentary Parking

Tickets: \$75 each • Tables: \$750
 Tickets, Sponsorship Opportunities,
 and Program Book Advertising Available
Call: Bobbie Smith, WHML Chair • 248-797-5770

Congratulations to our President, Rhonda Craig, and one of our newest members, Anquetette Sarfoh for being Honorees of "The Most Influential African American Women in Metropolitan Detroit" at the March 30th Women's Informal Network's Women's History Month Luncheon! Rhonda received this honor in recognition of her well-deserved work as President of the League.



MARCH 10TH FUNDRAISER – Susan Slattery

A huge THANK YOU to all that our contributors for this fun event!! We received just shy of our goal of \$5000. We grossed \$4965, our net after expenses is \$3505; the best fundraiser we have had to date and what a fun day. From the feedback I received and as a participate, the play was very good with the added bonus of acapella singing from cast members which was harmonic and entertaining. We had a champagne reception before the play with a variety of hors d'oeuvres that were so good we cleaned them up.

If anyone has any comments on what we could do better, please forward to our email, LWVdetroit@gmail.com. We will plan on doing this again in the future. Again, many thanks for making this such a successful event.

Reinstatement of Detroit Charter – Rhonda Craig

On May 9, 2019, the State League of Women Voters approved our request for reinstatement as a full charter. It now goes on to the National League for final approval. This has been a long journey for our league. The Detroit League was disbanded in 2007-2008 due to attrition. In 2014-2015, Valerie Ash, Carol Banks, Cheryl Bukoff, and Suzanne Cleage made a request to the State Board for a Member-At-Large (MAL) status. The MAL status was granted, and we adopted bylaws and a non-partisan policy. We established a board and committees and began to serve our voting community.

There were many steps and hurdles to make in order to complete the qualifications for the application. Our board and especially Susan Slattery, chair of the Charter Committee, worked hard for months to complete the application process. We also worked closely with our Membership, Leadership and Development (MLD) coach, Paula Bowman, to navigate the documentation requirements. The website will have the application available for review. The State Board was very impressed and proud of our achievements and we should be also. Without a hardworking and dedicated membership this would not have been possible. Congratulations Detroit League of Women Voters!



Current LWV Detroit Board Members, Deborah, Susan, Rhonda, Helena, Cheryl and our State Mentor, Paula Bowman. Thanks to the State League for this picture after the vote approving our application for reinstatement, and for the champagne toast and cupcake celebration!

The Highland Park City Charter Forum

The LWV Detroit has, as part of its' mission, to serve not only Detroiters but also residents of Highland Park and Hamtramck. We share some of the same issues and the same state legislators. The Membership Committee and the Board are trying to reach out to all three populations. This May there will be a special election, May 7th, in Highland Park to determine whether the citizens approve or disapprove of the changes made to the current City Charter. The Detroit League is collaborating with the Highland Park Business Association to sponsor a forum to discuss the Charter and the pros and cons of the revisions made by the former Charter Commission. It will be held, April 18 at a location that will be announced shortly from 6:00-8:00pm. Whether you live in Highland Park or not, everyone is welcome. Please let your friends who live in Highland Park know as well.

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.