



Neva Carter, new president of West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters, addresses an organization.

## LWV keeps Neva Carter learning & moving on

*Editors note: This is the second in a series of articles on the women who make up the membership of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters.*

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Neva Carter assumed the presidency of the West Bloomfield-Farmington chapter of League of Women Voters this spring, a post that is not new to her.

The Farmington Hills woman served in the same position for the Northville-Plymouth-Canton- Novi chapter from 1976-78.

Of her six year membership in the league, she said, "It's the best way I know to keep learning; keep moving on. The goals (of all the chapters) are the same, but there is always new issues to study, new areas of concern."

The area of concern that's getting priority attention from the local league now is finance, because, she said, "No matter what the issue, it all seems to come down to money."

A study group now in session is

learning the ways of Farmington Hills city finances to be better able to speak to that city's budget. This will be ultimately keyed-in with study on the state government finances.

"We'll be better equipped to address money issues so we don't sound like fiscal ninnyes," the new president said.

"SOMETIMES I think we over-compensate for being housewives with the studying we do," she said. "We study an issue so thoroughly we often end up knowing it better than most businessmen because it's our hobby. And our hobby is a full-time job for many of us."

Mrs. Carter said she never would have considered taking on the chapter's presidency if she didn't have a good strong board of resource people to work with.

She advocates league membership because it holds a special function for the migrants.

"No matter how much you move from place to place, you'll find the league membership filled with those just a cut above average; the woman

who enjoys getting involved; the woman who enjoys research and study and then taking a stand," she said.

Mrs. Carter went on to relate stories of those who were attracted to league work but were insecure about their own abilities.

"Those situations always turned out to be a great confidence builder," she said.

Constant review, a study of one facet of an issue that dovetailed into the overall, keeping abreast of change, added up to a grooming ground for many other things.

"A LOT OF OUR league turnover comes because our members get official appointments, take seats on boards or commissions. Some run for office," she said, "and more often than not its because of the groundwork done at the local chapter."

"My hope is that the league is thought of as an open group. We have a wide representation from the community, but we want an even wider one with more people participating in our government."



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## Michigan Ballet stages Spring Dance Festival

The Michigan Ballet Theatre celebrates National Dance Week with its Spring Festival of Dance Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29 in Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt Roads.

Showtime for the performing company member of the Mid-States Regional Ballet Association's festival is 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The featured ballet will be "Graduation Ball," a reconstructed ballet staged by Mary Margaret Holt, a principal dancer in the Houston Ballet Company.

The ballet takes place in a formal drawing room of a fashionable girls school in Vienna. Excitement runs high as the girls try to outdo each other impressing the visiting cadets from a

nearby military academy at their annual graduation ball.

Evelyn Kreason, artistic director of the theatre, describes the ballet as "a fun ballet with appeal for all ages; somewhat like Nutcracker."

Nutcracker is the company's traditional offering to show-goers every pre-Christmas season.

THREE ADDITIONAL ballets are on the playbill.

"Three Quarter Past Time" is an original ballet choreographed by Jill Eathorne Bahr, a former dancer in the Michigan Ballet Theatre who is currently assistant artistic director of the Canton Ballet Theatre.

An untitled piece choreographed by Ms. Kreason will be performed, and

also "Excerpts from Liebeslieder Waltz."

The theatre, now in its second decade, is dedicated to encouraging youth to participate in dance and related arts, and is dedicated as well to enriching the cultural environment of the community.

Headquartered in Farmington Hills, its repertoire has grown to include a wide variety of programs and its schedule has grown to include about 15 performances a season.

The company is governed by a board of directors and supported financially by Friends of Michigan Ballet Theatre, a group of volunteers.

Tickets for Spring Dance Festival are on sale in Farmington Community Center, 477-8404, or at the door.



"Graduation Ball," a mainstay of Michigan Ballet Theatre's repertoire and a perennial spring favorite, will be performed in Harrison High School in observance of National Dance Week.

## Class aims to develop your speaking talents

Basic techniques and principles of communicating orally in a group, or person-to-person encounter, will be explored in a Farmington Community Center class called "Techniques of Oral Expression."

Cecil Kliger Ruda, assistant professor

of speech and drama at Mercy College, will lead the six sessions, from 1-3 p.m. beginning Wednesday.

"As you develop your speaking talents, you'll broaden your leadership abilities in community or club organizations," Mrs. Ruda said. "I recently

had a woman comment, after taking only three sessions of a class, that she felt ready to give a speech in city hall."

Not everyone will want to line up at the podium, but Mrs. Ruda believes everyone does want to be a better conversationalist, which in turn devel-

ops self-confidence.

"My classes have helped businessmen and women polish their approach to the public. They've learned how to effectively handle people," she said.

Her course will deal with the problem of criticism. Students will learn how to constructively give and graciously accept criticism without offending.

"The result is the development of assertiveness and the courage to be assertive in daily affairs, whether in business, organization organizations, or at home," she said.

Part of the course will cover the oral interpretation of literature when participants will learn how to read aloud with understanding and expression.

MRS. RUDA is listed in "Who's Who of American Women" as educator, author and civic leader. She has been the recipient of the Gold Heart Award, and was given the key to Detroit by Mayor Coleman Young for her humanitarian efforts.

She is the winner of the 1957 Writers Award from Detroit area suburban newspapers, and more recently, has helped prepare numerous college speech-writing competitors who have gone on to become winners.

Fee for the new class is \$32.

Registrations are being taken now by calling the Farmington Community Center, 477-8404.

## "Avanti" It Has Finally Arrived!



March WAS Wall System Month, but the Avanti didn't arrive until April. As compensation, we've extended our introductory special on this high quality Designer Wall System.

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