



The Leelanau VOTER

August 2016

2016-2017

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From the President.....

Have you enjoyed your summer? It's not over until September 22, 2016 at 10:20 am!

The League has been busier than usual this summer with our efforts to have townships and villages sign onto resolutions concerning Pipeline 5. We still are awaiting a decision from Kasson and Bingham Townships. Regardless of the final "score," we have definitely raised awareness on this important issue in Leelanau County. We will try to have more Shut Down Pipeline 5 signs at our September 7th meeting on "Microplastics in our Waters" with Jeanie Williams of Inland Seas.

Our Voter Services Committee has also been busy planning candidate forums. A complete list of the forums is listed elsewhere in the VOTER. We always need volunteers to assist. Let me know if you are able to help or you may sign up to help at our September 7th meeting.

The League will hold at least four candidate forums this fall in Leelanau County. Each will be moderated by a local judge. We will continue with written questions from the audience. These protocols will best serve the interests of an informed electorate and be in conformance with established League candidate forum guidelines. We value our integrity and will continue to conduct this valuable voter service and work with all citizens of good will to register new voters. The completely unfounded accusations in the August 25th Enterprise will be answered in a forum piece approved by the LWVLC Board. Stay tuned!

Remember, the last day to register is October 11. Voting is a civic responsibility. Let the candidates know you will be attending the local League candidate forums and you expect them to attend. Voters are more likely to vote when they know who the candidates are and where they stand on the issues. Our goal: to make our democracy strong.

*Best regards,
Marian*

MISSION STATEMENT

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



MICROPLASTICS

in the GREAT LAKES:

An Opportunity for Stewardship

Jeanie Williams

Jeanie has been teaching science in the outdoors since 1999. Today she manages the research and education programs at Inland Seas Education Association.

Wednesday, September 7 at 12 noon
Leelanau County Government Center Lower Level

LWVLC PIPELINE UPDATE

Successful: Centerville Township, Cleveland Township, Empire Township, Leelanau Township, Suttons Bay Township and Suttons Bay Village, Village of Northport

Failed: Elmwood Township, Glen Arbor Township, Leland Township and Solon Township

To be determined: Bingham and Kasson Townships have scheduled evening meetings with Enbridge. Kasson will meet on September 12th and will take a vote after that presentation. Bingham meets on September 19th. **Please attend these meetings if you are able.**

Many League members are needed to help at our candidate forums. Signup sheets will be available at the September 7th meeting. Please volunteer to help and attend the events. This is the best way to see candidates in action and to decide whom you want to represent you.

LEELANAU CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 7

Noon MEMBER MEETING
Microplastics in the Great Lakes
LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 24

Booth at Leelanau UnCaged
NORTHPORT

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 am BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONF. ROOM 2

OCTOBER 5

Noon MEMBER MEETING
Civility in Government
LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT CENTER

OCTOBER 14-15

LWV LAKE MICHIGAN REGION Conference
PORTER, INDIANA

OCTOBER 24

9:30 am BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONF. ROOM 2

CANDIDATE FORUMS

SEPTEMBER 21

County Treasurer and Prosecutor
State Representative
7 pm - Government Center

SEPTEMBER 29

Board of Commissioners
Districts 1, 6, and 7
7 pm - Elmwood Fire Hall

OCTOBER 4

Board of Commissioners
Districts 4 and 5
7 pm - Leelanau Township Fire Hall

OCTOBER 6

Board of Commissioners
Districts 2 and 3
7 pm - Suttons Bay Fire Hall

OCTOBER 10

Congressional Candidates
7 pm – Lars Hockstad Auditorium
Traverse City

OCTOBER 17

Northport Board of Education
7 pm – Leelanau Township Fire Hall




DUES ARE DUE now.

If you joined after February 1, 2016, you do not owe dues.

Dues are \$60/individual or \$90/household.

Checks should be made out to League of Women Voters Leelanau County (LWVLC) and sent to Treasurer, Nancy Duck, P. O. Box 992, Leland, MI 49654.

Or, you may pay at the meeting on September 7th.



Welcome to our newest
members since June

CEDAR

Sandra and Chris Altemann
Beth Chiles

EMPIRE

David Jeris

NORTHPORT

James Ham and Nancy Petersen

SUTTONS BAY

Stephanie and Michael Long

TRAVERSE CITY

Ronnie Alff and Katherine Purcell

WOMEN'S + EQUALITY DAY

Celebrating Women's Right to Vote

August 26th marked the 96th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. Women's Equality Day is all about celebrating what we all, as Americans, can do to build a better democracy: VOTE! Women who fought for the right to vote understood that voting is the key way to make an impact on the critical issues facing their communities.

There is so much at stake this election year, on the national stage as well as locally. Please set aside just a few minutes to check on your registration status, as well as to start learning about the candidates and issues that will be on your ballot.

VOTE411.org and LWVLeelanau.org are two places for all of your election information in 2016.

**CONTINUING GET WELL
WISHES TO**

**Randy Harmson and
Judy Hoeffler**

League members Suzanne Landes and Barb Marsh are celebrating the life of Barbara Reinert at the Planned Parenthood benefit "Healthy Family Luncheon" on September 27, 2016. Barbara was an active Planned Parenthood supporter for 65 years and a life long member of the League. During the 20 years she lived in Topeka, KA, Barbara was a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood.

It is our hope that we can have 5 tables from Leelanau County to honor the memory of her dedication to Planned Parenthood.

**NEW AND RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS
AT JUNE ANNUAL RETREAT**

L to R: Barbara Krause, Christi Bardenhagen, Jane Packard, Marian Kromkowski, Fran Eckerson, Tricia Denton, Vina Mikesell, Joan Hunault, Ann McInnis, Sharon Golm, Nancy Duck and Chris Palmer



LWVLC Committee meetings

- **Age Friendly Leelanau**
Wednesday, September 7 – 10am
Law Library, Government Center
- **Energy and Natural Resources**
Wednesday, September 7 – 10am
Conf. Room 1, Government Center
- **Early Childhood Needs and Services**
Friday September 16 at noon
in the Munnecke Room
- **Farm Labor Task Force**
Monday, September 19 at 9:30am
Law Library, Government Center
- **Voter Services**
Friday, September 9 at 9:00am
Conf. Room 2, Government Center

Thank you to the Recent Donors to the
Barbara Reinert Fund

Theda Connell
Porter and Anita Abbott
Ed Reinert

bringing the total to \$2,200.00

In early December, members will receive a current Directory with a calendar of dates and current contact information for members. Until then, here are the monthly programs planned for 2016-2017

September 7 *Microplastics in our Waters*

October 5 *Civility in Government: How to Talk with People with Whom You Disagree*

November 2 *Early Childhood Needs & Services Program*

December 7 *Holiday Luncheon*

January 4 *Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail*

February 1 *LWVMI Tax Consensus Meeting and Presentation*

March 1 *Changing Ethnic Demographics/Refugees*

April 5 *Farm Labor Task Force Program*

May 3 *Age Friendly Leelanau Program*

June 7 *Energy and Natural Resources*

Leelanau County Notice to the Public

2017 Appointments to Boards and Commissions

The Leelanau County Board of Commissioners is seeking qualified and interested citizens to participate in public service through appointments to various Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Authorities.

2017 appointments will be made to the following Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Authorities:

- Benzie-Leelanau District Board of Health
- Benzie-Leelanau Environmental Health Board of Appeals
- Construction Codes Board of Appeals (Category: Building)
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Land Bank Fast Track Authority
- Northwestern Regional Airport Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission (Categories: Agriculture, Municipal Government, Tourism)
- Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Board of Appeals
- Solid Waste Council (Categories: Environmental, Local Government, Public, Regional Solid Waste Planning, Solid Waste Industry)
- Veterans Affairs Administrative Committee
- Workforce Development Board

To be considered for a 2017 appointment, **applications must be submitted to the County Administrator's office by the first Tuesday in November (11/1/16).**

For an application or additional information, please visit the County's website at leelanau.cc, or contact the County Administrator's Office at 231-256-9711.

MICROPLASTICS

Where does all the plastic come from? Where does all that plastic go? Since it is petroleum based, can it be turned into energy? How much plastic do people actually recycle, especially in our area where it is all accepted in our single stream recycling process?

Might we do a survey of residents, businesses, etc.? Could we brainstorm ideas which might motivate folks to recycle better or to dispose of wastes properly? Are there ways to make it even easier than it is?

Would curb-side recycling motivate a higher percentage of recycling? What would be the cost? Could neighborhoods organize so a volunteer can take things to the recycling center on a regular basis?

Would initiating a ban of plastic bags work here?

<http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2012/01/31/what-happens-to-all-that-plastic/>



REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters Leelanau County sent Vina Mikesell and Nancy Duck to Washington D.C. to the National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States on June 16-19. As Nancy and Vina found out, the League of Women Voters that they took to the Convention was not the League that they brought home.

First, the voting delegates voted to change the Bylaws to encourage inclusivity and diversity. Bylaw Article III, Section 2, Types of Membership, A. Voting Members was changed to read "Persons (not Citizens) at least 16 (not 18) years of age shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS." These Bylaw changes will be incorporated automatically into each League's Bylaws because the first three Articles of all Leagues of Women Voters are to be the same as LWVUS.

Secondly, League members were asked not to use the word "non-partisan." At least for this election year, that word should be struck from our vocabulary because it confuses many of our listeners. Instead members, when speaking about or for the LWV, should say that the League never supports candidates or parties.

At the Convention, Voter Services were stressed for their importance in this election year. We were pleased that our League is already doing (or trying to do) all of the suggested items. We were directed not to speak about any particular candidate but to talk about the historical importance of the first female presidential candidate and how this is a direct link to the work of the League for nearly 100 years.

Both Nancy and Vina were grateful to be able to join with hundreds of League members from across the country both to learn what is happening elsewhere and to feel the collective energy of the group. We were busy from early morning to late at night, attending workshops, caucuses, and plenary sessions. We walked miles in the hotel to get to our various events. The 2018 Convention will be in Chicago so we hope more people from Leelanau can attend. Both exhausting and exhilarating, attending this National Convention was a wonderful experience.

Vina Mikesell and Nancy Duck

Is there a special book you would like to recommend for the League's Book Group? Voting will take place this fall.

Stand and Be Counted

by Donna Hornberger, Former President of the LWV Grand Traverse Area

In June I attended the national convention of the League of Women Voters in Washington, D.C. The one image that will stick with me is a young delegate from Dearborn in her headscarf standing at a microphone and crying. She started out talking about herself and her Muslim neighbors and their fear of the future. No political candidate was mentioned. As she stood there crying, one of the other Michigan delegates, a non-Muslim from Lansing, went and held her in her arms. I was stunned that we as a nation are walking down the path we trod in the 1940s, when loyal American citizens, some with sons fighting for us overseas, were interned because of their national origin. Are Muslim-Americans going to be treated the same way we treated those American citizens of Japanese national origin?

The poet Edwin Markham said in his poem *Outwitted*, "He drew a circle that shut me out - Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win. We drew a circle that took him in."

We are a nation of immigrants. If you are not full-blooded Native American, somewhere in your family's past your forbearers came here from someplace else. They were looking for a better life and they found it here. Do we as a nation want to deny that opportunity to others? Are we saying, "Now that I am here, shut the door"? I hope not.

I spoke to that young woman from Dearborn after the session had ended. I told her that we all are not like some who are speaking the loudest now. We care about our neighbors, whether they are like us or not. We are a welcoming nation. At least we try to be. Let us learn the lesson from the mistake that was made in the 1940s when the US government interned between 110,000 and 120,000 Japanese-Americans whose only crime was their national origin.

Another writer, George Santayana, once said, " Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Let us remember what happened to Japanese-American citizens during World War II and learn from that mistake. A great nation treats all of its citizens with dignity and respect.

You may say that you cannot do anything because you are only one person. One person can do a lot. You can write to or call your elected representatives. You can write letters to the editor. You can talk to your neighbors. And you can exercise your most powerful right, the right to vote. Stand up and be counted when it matters most.

reprinted from a Forum piece in The Record-Eagle
on August 2, 2016