



The Leelanau VOTER

December 2016

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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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.

From the President.....

Chris Carson the national president of the League of Women Voters recently commented:

"With this historic election has come an unprecedented danger to the very foundation of our democracy. Defending the rights so many have fought and died for will be hard work. Rebuilding our communities will be an uphill battle. But the values we all hold dear can and will be the building blocks forward."

"We can and must do more to stand up for the rights of all Americans to participate in our democracy. And our fight starts now."

Democracy has invoked many a conversation and many a memorable quote. From the cynical, by Winston Churchill "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter;" to the cautionary by Franklin D. Roosevelt "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education;" to the outright humorous "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters" by Abraham Lincoln.

Whatever your thoughts, we can agree that democracy is always difficult to achieve and generally challenging to keep and improve. It takes study, discussion and action. Keep in touch with your representatives at all levels of government and let them know your thoughts and concerns. Consider making it your New Year's Resolution to regularly attend local government meetings. Listen, learn, speak up and don't turn your back on the fire.

*Best regards,
Marian*



**Join us for
our Annual Holiday Luncheon
for county officials and
League members and their guests.**

**Wednesday, December 7 at 12 noon
in the Community Room of the Government Center
Service provided. Bring a hot or cold dish to pass.**

**After lunch, a program on Dark Skies will be presented
by Mary Steward Adams,
Director of the International Dark Sky Park in Emmet County.**

**RSVP by December 2nd to
lelandheights@yahoo.com
for yourself and your guests.**



Special thanks to

Fran Eckerson and Suzanne and Bill Hoff for hosting events in October and November for prospective new members;

the Pipeline Committee and Township presenters: Dave Barrons, Betty and Dennis Bushey, BJ Christensen, Tricia Denton, Darlene Doorlag, Fran Eckerson, Rick Foster, Sam Getsinger, Mary Hagan, Joan Hunault, Laurel and David Jeris, Jay Johnson, Jacquie Johnson, Marian Kromkowski, Nancy Lindeman, Vina Mikesell, Stephanie Mills, Jane Packard, Chris Palmer, Matt Posner, Jan Rygwelski, Martha and Tom Shaver, Patricia Soutas-Little, Shirley Wall, and Susan Wheadon;

and to those participants and docents on the October 30th Solar Harvest Tour.



EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION, RESILIENCY AND GOOD HEALTH

The November 2 Forum focused on the critical role early childhood intervention plays in preventing poor health outcomes in adults. The topic is part of the League's effort to educate citizens on public policy positions. Recent medical research has connected stressful early childhood experiences to a variety of negative mental and physical health problems in subsequent years. Chronic stress in young children can substantially increase their chances of developing many serious health conditions including cancer and heart disease.

A TED talk by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris (shown via video) opened the session by describing the science behind early childhood stress and negative health outcomes. Dr. Mary Beth Hardwicke, an internist from Interlochen, placed the information within the context of her practice, pointing out that stressors in early life, referred to as adverse childhood experiences (ACES), affect all kinds of people, regardless of

socio-emotional status. Experiences as varied as losing a parent, divorce, abuse and neglect can all lead to chronic mental and physical conditions. Dr. Hardwicke not only described the problem, she suggested solutions. She reminded the audience that prevention and/or early intervention is more effective than treating adult health issues. She highlighted the importance of public policy, organizations and individuals supporting families. She provided a powerful example of how grandparents and other close relatives can make a critical difference in young children's lives. Early intervention in the form of prevention and treatment reduces costs involved in providing mental and physical health treatment to adults and also has far reaching positive consequences for our social service, judicial and educational systems.

The forum was attended by League members and many community members who are personally involved, through their work or volunteer efforts, with families of young children. The County Commission, court system, schools and health communities were represented. The Q & A session was both lively and informative, with audience members asking questions of Dr. Hardwicke and sharing information with each other.

**If you missed any of our fall meetings, see them at
Video Links on our website LWVLeelanau.org.**

Welcome to our newest members

**Alison and Conrad Heins – Elmwood Township,
Paula Kemler – Glen Arbor, Barbara Schneider – Maple City
and Kathy Wessell - Northport**



Send in your suggestions for our 2017 LWVLC Book Read with the title and author to LWVLeelanau@gmail.org. We will display the choices at our December Holiday luncheon and will vote at that time. The Book Read is in mid-April at a member's home.

October 30th Solar Harvest Tour Photos



Joan Hunault demonstrating a solar cooker.



Larry Hauser and Barbara Abbott at home with Solar Harvest tourists



Matt Posner, Ann McInnis and others at Karen Wach and Joe Farrell's home.

Eleven locations from Northport to north of Traverse City were featured in the first Solar Harvest Tour co-sponsored by the LWV Leelanau County and NEAT (Northport Energy Action Taskforce).

Homes, businesses and the Northport School were stops on the tour.

Don't forget to RSVP for the Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 7th. Send your reservations to LelandHeights@yahoo.com



**GET READY FOR THE FEBRUARY FORUM
with former Michigan Treasurer,
Robert Kleine.**

**Government Finance Consensus
Discussion will follow.**

Delegates at the LWVMI Convention in May 2015 voted to update our State League's Taxation and Budgeting Position. The Taxation and Budget Study Committee has prepared the documents linked at http://lwvmi.org/member/mem_studies.html for local Leagues to use in reaching Consensus on the Government Finance study questions. At noon on **February 1, 2017**, in the Lower Level of the Government Center, we will host **Robert Kleine** who will provide us with an overview of Taxation and Budgeting in Michigan, along with a critique of the current model, its impact and shortcomings. Kleine was the Treasurer of Michigan from April 2006 until January 1, 2011. He was formerly vice president and senior economist at Public Sector Consultants where he was employed for 16 years.

Following his presentation, LWVLC members will engage in a **consensus discussion** on Government Finance. An email about this meeting was also sent to members on November 21st.

Let's take the mystery out of the state budgeting process and be ready for an informed discussion on February 1, 2017.

LEELANAU CALENDAR



**DECEMBER 7 – HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT NOON
LOWER LEVEL, COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING**

**DECEMBER 12 AT 3:30 PM
The Equal Rights Amendment meeting
LOWER LEVEL, COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING**

**DECEMBER 19 – LWVLC BOARD MEETING AT 9:30 AM
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM 2**

**JANUARY 4 – MEMBER MEETING AT NOON
Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail
LOWER LEVEL, COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING**

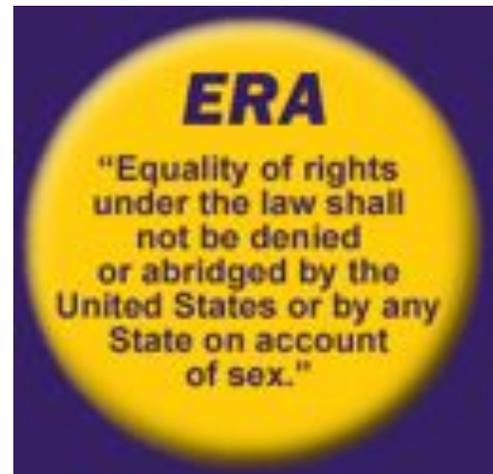
**JANUARY 23 – LWVLC BOARD MEETING AT 9:30 AM
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM 2**

LWVLC Committee meetings

- **AGE FRIENDLY LEELANAU**
Wednesday, December 7 at 10 am
Government Center, Suite 106
- **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
Wednesday, December 7 at 10 am
Lower Level, Government Center
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS AND SERVICES**
Friday January 20, 2017 at noon
Munnecke Room, Leland Library
- **FARM LABOR TASK FORCE**
Monday, January 9 at 9:30 am
Law Library, Government Center
Guest: Joseph Hubbell
Leelanau County Prosecutor

Consider making a year-end gift to the LWV Leelanau County.

Send your check to
Nancy Duck, Treasurer
P.O. Box 992
Leland, MI 49654



ERA PLANNING MEETING SET

On October 24th an overflow crowd at the Bay Theater watched *Equal Means Equal*. The attendees wanted to take action. On November 2nd LWVLC members agreed to call a meeting on the issue of the Equal Rights Amendment. That meeting will be held on **Monday, December 12 at 3:30 pm in the lower level of the Government Center**. The purpose of the meeting is to plan how to educate ourselves and others about the history of the ERA, its struggle for passage and where we go from here.

From EqualRightsAmendment.org: The ERA was written in 1923 by Alice Paul, suffragist leader and founder of the National Woman's Party. She and the NWP considered the ERA to be the next necessary step after the 19th Amendment to guarantee "equal justice under law" to all citizens. The ERA was introduced in every session of Congress between 1923 and 1972, when it was passed and sent to the states for ratification. The seven-year time limit in the ERA's proposing clause was extended by Congress to June 30, 1982, but at the deadline, the ERA had been ratified by 35 states, three states short of the 38 required for ratification. It has been reintroduced into every Congress since that time. Michigan ratified the ERA in 1972.

A fascinating history of the LWV and ERA may be found at
<http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/misc/LWV-ERA.pdf>

FLTF Report from June - November 2016

Since the LWVLC Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Worker Position was adopted as a LWVMI position in May 2015, the FLTF has been working closely with the LWVMI advocacy committee. The Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Migrant Legal Aid, and Farmworker Legal Aid have provided valuable information used in support of HB 5940/5041 which would make specially-designated non-commercial Michigan Drivers' licenses and state identification available to applicants who do not have proof of immigration status. This action is supported by our League position:

I. Local and State Law Enforcement

B. Should allow a lawfully present, qualifying person to apply for or secure and renew a driver's license or obtain and identification card.

It is reported that a number of area farm workers or family members drive without a legal license or no license and no insurance.

Further Action

June - Two FLTF members participated in a meeting lead by representatives of the Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights (MDCR). Participants included members of local law enforcement, reps from migrant/immigrant service agencies, the Catholic church, Latino businesses and LWVLC/FLTF to discuss law enforcement and civil rights issues in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. We learned that MDCR has used the FLTF 2015 agricultural worker study as a discussion reference.

We alerted LWVGTA about possible action on a proposed Mayfield Township/Grand Traverse County zoning ordinance requiring proof of citizenship for seasonal labor housing occupancy.

Guest resources for updates on area migrant/seasonal farm workers are:

Beatriz Cruz - Suttons Bay Public Schools bilingual liaison for K-5 families
Gladys Munoz - Justice and Peace Action Center Director, medical & cultural interpreter
Monica Marquez - Telamon Field Clerk, recently relocated from Venezuela

Merry Christmas



Happy Hanukkah