



The Leelanau VOTER

December 2013

2013-2014 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.

LEELANAU CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 8

BOARD MEETING

10:30 a.m.

MEMBER ONLY MEETING

Local Program Planning and
LWVMI Education Consensus

12:00 noon

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Monday, January 13

Farm Labor Task Force

10 a.m.

Conference Room 2 - GOVERNMENT CENTER

"The Big Picture Society"

Made in Dagenham

3:00 p.m.

OLD ART BUILDING in Leland



Wednesday, January 15

Energy Study Committee

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT CENTER



Thursday, January 23

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

sponsored by the League and
conducted by the Center for Michigan

6:30 pm

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!!

What's Happening!

Big Picture Society

On Monday, January 13th the Leelanau League will host the first of what we hope will be a series of documentaries at the Old Art Building in Leland. From 3-5 pm, our group will show a different film on the second Monday of each month. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted.

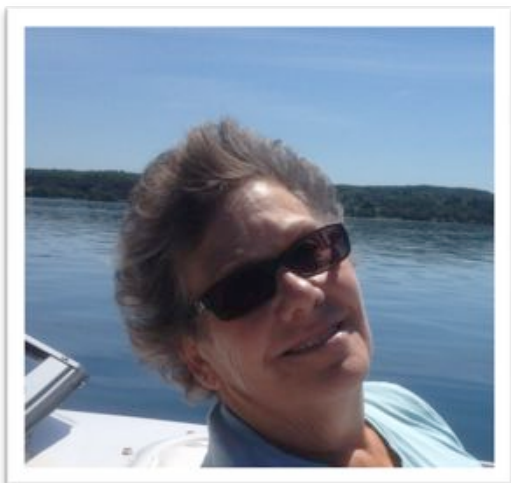
In the first film, Sally Hawkins stars in this cheeky dramatization of the landmark 1968 labor strike initiated by hundreds of women who rebelled against discrimination and demanded equal pay for their work in a London automobile manufacturing plant.

Thanks to a generous donation from Phil and Vina Mikesell's children, much of the cost of renting the building and hiring a projectionist for the first few showings has been met.

You may bring your own refreshments to share, BUT NO WINE. Do bring friends.

Welcome our 100th member!!!

PAT HABER



I lived in Ann Arbor previously to moving to Leelanau County in 2010. I am now happily retired, but was a clinical social worker for 40 years. My work history was varied, but my last job was as a therapist in private practice. I am originally from Chicago, then went to Michigan State for undergrad and grad school, and lived in Kalamazoo for a while, then Ann Arbor.

I love being up here and appreciate the beauty of the area as well as the very interesting people I am meeting.

January 8th meeting EDUCATION

The meeting on Wednesday, January 8th, will be devoted primarily to discussing the proposed changes to the LWVMI positions on Education. Each of you has been emailed the documents relating to this topic. You may also find the papers on our website, lwvleelanau.org, under Member Resources.

Our League is studying very Early Childhood Education which is not covered in these positions. Come to the meeting and add your voice. After our discussion, our comments are sent to the state office. From these and other League responses, new positions on education will be crafted, allowing our lobbyists to speak to the issues at the state level.



THANK YOU

RON AND MARY TONNEBERGER
for your recent gift to our League's Education Fund. If you are thinking about making a year-end donation, please consider a gift to the LWVLC Ed Fund. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will be used to educate voters in the upcoming elections. Send a check to Jo Walker, Treasurer LWVLC, P.O. Box 132, Leland, MI 49654.

Leelanau League hosts Community Conversation on January 23, 2014

In cooperation with the Center for Michigan, we are hosting a conversation with Leelanau County residents on Thursday evening, January 23rd in the Community Room of the Government Center at 6:30 pm.

The Center aims to engage thousands of people all over Michigan in these discussions with the goal of identifying priorities for the state in 2014 and beyond. Discussion topics include:

- How you feel about Michigan today
- Education
- Economy & Prosperity
- Quality of Life
- Public Money Priorities

Mary Tonneberger is coordinating the effort for our League. We sent more than 50 invitations in hopes of reaching out to a wide range of citizens to obtain a balance of gender, age and geographic location within our county. The optimum number for a group is 40 people. A facilitator from the Center for Michigan leads the discussion.

If you are interested in taking part, please let Mary or Vina know. We will put the names of League members in a hat and draw names, depending on the response from other groups.

This is a wonderful opportunity to have our state elected officials hear feedback from Leelanau County.

Leelanau Receives 2014 Youth Voter Registration Project Grant

The Leelanau League applied for and received a \$500 grant from the LWVUS Ed Fund to undertake voter registration activities in Leelanau's six high schools with the assistance of our County Clerk, Michelle Crocker. BJ and Vina wrote the grant that will pay for yard signs and handouts for the prospective voters.

WHAT DOES FOOD HAVE TO DO WITH ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOVING THE PLANET?

Everything. “The global food system — from production to consumption to waste — contributes to one-third of all **greenhouse gas emissions**” and is a **huge energy hog**. “Agriculture is the single largest user of land, worldwide, and agricultural chemicals pollute lakes, streams, and rivers. Here are eight ways you can eat with the planet in mind.”

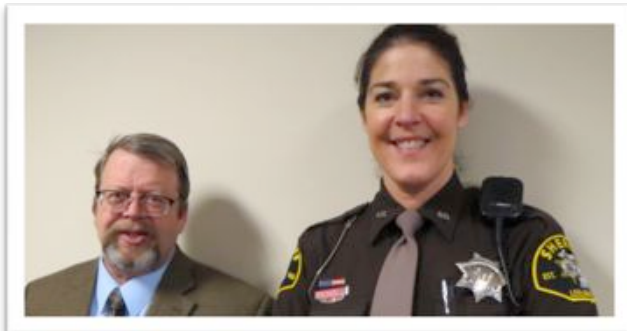
1. **Go organic.** Ecological farmers use sustainable agricultural methods.
2. **“Eat the rainbow.”** Diverse colors of fruits and vegetables are signs of varied nutrient content — and are also key to ecological health. Better health also means less need for energy intensive medical care and pharmaceuticals.
3. **Go local.** Support local farmers, get fresh food and cut out the long-distance energy used for transportation.
4. **Don't waste food.** More than 40% of food is wasted which means that half the energy, water and land is wasted just in producing the food...and this contributes to potent carbon emissions from methane released from landfills.
5. **Cut the packaging .** More than **40 billion plastic water bottles** are tossed out each year in our country....along with umpteen food containers (mostly made from petroleum using lots of energy) creating a **huge** ecological footprint. Use reusable containers; recycle and reuse.
6. **DIY food.** Grow and cook your own food and share with friends and neighbors.
7. **Reach for real food.** “Foods with double-digit ingredients' lists or ingredients you can't pronounce are also energy-intensive to produce.”
8. **Go meatless one day a week.** “Industrial meat and dairy operations are incredibly energy-intensive, from the production of feed to the operation of factories and slaughterhouses, to the processing and shipping.” **18 percent of human-caused greenhouse gases comes from the livestock industry.** “If everyone in the United States **cut out meat one day a week**, the greenhouse gas emissions reductions would be like cutting out more than **91 billion miles of driving.**”

... extracted from an article by [Danielle Nierenberg](#) and [Anna Lappe](#) in *Grist* April 22, 2013, <http://grist.org/food/on-earth-day-eight-ways-to-eat-with-the-planet-in-mind/>

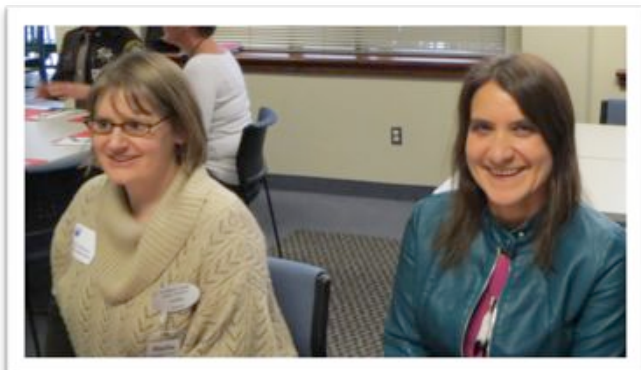
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PHOTO ALBUM



League members and their guests, county officials, listen to an introduction of Laurie LaCross, Victim's Advocate, by Suzanne Hoff, Vice-President.



upper left: Prosecutor Joe Hubbell and Deputy Mary Patterson



lower left: April Missias and Kristen Smith

upper right: Judge Rodgers and Judge Nelson

A REVOLUTION IN OUR TIME: The changing role & status of women, 1960 – 2010 submitted by Phillip Mikesell

During WW II almost 7 million women joined the labor force. At war's end, however, most of them returned to domestic life. While there were changes in education and employment in the 1950s, most of the 'action' occurred from 1960 onward.

A selected timeline [mostly from *The Business Insider*]

- 1960 The Pill introduced.
- 1963 Equal Pay law passed.
- 1964 The Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, nationality & gender.
- 1965 Griswold v Connecticut Birth control okayed for married couples.
- 1968 The EEOC made it illegal to have sex-segregated help-wanted ads.
- 1973 Roe v Wade
- 1978 Law banned discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace.
- 1981 Sandra Day O'Conner became the first woman on the Supreme Court.
- 1982 Stewardesses won a lawsuit against being fired for marrying.
- 1983 Sally Ride goes into space.
- 1991 Women in combat roles in Gulf War.
- 2008 Hillary Clinton's run for the presidency.
- 2010 72 million women in the workforce (47% of the total). 30 million added since 1985.
Women earn 81% of what men do - up from 62% in 1980.
48% of women earn at least half of family income.
14% of women are executives at Fortune 500 companies.
Women own 40% of U.S. businesses.
Marissa Mayer, youngest CEO of a major corporation, was appointed while pregnant.

Also of interest...

There are some 11 million women enrolled in universities; about 8 million men.

Women's enrollment rate = 71%, men's = 61%.

Median age of marriage for women was 21 in 1960. It's almost 27 today.

In 1960, about 8% of women 35 & older had not married. Today it is 10.5%.

More than half of births to American women under 30 occur outside of marriage.

Sign up at the January meeting to usher at the State Theater for the League. We usher, make popcorn and sell concessions every third Monday of the month from 2:45 -5:30 p.m. Volunteers get free pop and popcorn and a voucher to see another movie. Sharon and Norman Golm, Gary and Christi Bardenhagen, Jan Shroyer and Sandy Zwemer worked this month and had a great time.

Family income erodes, child abuse and neglect rises

Kids Count report seeks to improve Michigan child well-being

LANSING, Mich. – More Leelanau County kids are growing up in families struggling to make ends meet, according to the 2013 Kids Count in Michigan report, which offers clear steps to a brighter future for those children.

Statewide, the most dramatic change in the report was a 53 percent increase in the rate of young children who qualified for federal food assistance between 2005 and 2012. More than one in every three qualified for nutritional help because their families were living on incomes under 130 percent of poverty (about \$31,000 a year or less for a two-parent, two-child family).

Leelanau County ranked No. 5 of 83 counties (No. 1 has the best, or lowest, rate) with 23.3 percent of young children (ages 0-5) eligible for food assistance, compared with 37 percent statewide. “Though the recession officially ended years ago, the toll on children is still apparent with the persistently high number of children living in need. It’s especially troubling that young children are growing up in poverty because research shows a deeper lifelong impact of deprivation during early childhood,” said Jane Zehnder-Merrell, Kids Count in Michigan director at the Michigan League for Public Policy.

There were 18.3 percent of children living in poverty in Leelanau County in 2011, a jump of 66 percent since 2005. Statewide, the child poverty rate increased 34 percent in that time period. Nearly 560,000 children, about one in every four in Michigan, lived in poverty in 2011. The Kids Count report also found a big increase – 41 percent – statewide in the number of children living in families investigated for abuse and neglect between 2005 and 2012. A total of nearly 207,000 children – the highest number in 22 years – were living in investigated families in 2012.

Leelanau County ranked No. 11 with 76.3 children per 1,000 living in homes investigated for abuse or neglect compared with the statewide average of 90 children per 1,000. The report, which ranks counties on 15 areas of child well-being, found five dramatically worsening trends – all tied to eroding family economic security. Six areas showed improvements,

while three remained about the same. One indicator could not be tracked over time.

Livingston County ranked No. 1 (or best) on five of the trend indicators and Lake County ranked last (worst) on eight of the 15 indicators. Even well-to-do Livingston County, however, experienced a big rise in child poverty....

The biggest improvement statewide was a 33 percent drop in children living in out-of-home care. There were almost 17,000 Michigan children living outside their homes in 2005, compared with just 10,300 in 2012. The drop likely reflects improvements resulting from a court-approved settlement in a lawsuit filed against the state.

Also improving were the report’s education indicators. Fourth-grade reading scores improved 20 percent, while eighth-grade math scores improved slightly at 1 percent between 2008 and 2012. Leelanau County saw a 21 percent improvement in fourth-grade reading and a 24 percent worsening in eighth-grade math.

Kids Count in Michigan project is part of a broad national effort to improve conditions for children and their families. Funding for the project is provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Detroit-based Skillman Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, local United Ways and the Battle Creek Community Foundation.

**More state and local data are available at the Kids Count Data Center,
www.datacenter.kidscount.org.**

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LWVleelanau.org

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