



The Leelanau VOTER

February/March 2014

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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

Tuesday, February 25

MINI ENERGY FAIR - 6 pm;

FORUM at 7 pm

**“Community Energy Resilience –
How Do We Achieve It?”**

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, March 5 – 12 noon

**MEMBER MEETING to arrive at a consensus
on the LWVUS agricultural study update**

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Monday, March 10 – 4:00 pm

BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

“Please Vote for Me”

OLD ART BUILDING IN LELAND



Monday, March 17 – 2:45 pm

USHERING AT THE STATE THEATER



Tuesday, March 25 – 9:30 am

LWVLC BOARD MEETING

GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, April 2 – 12 noon

DR. CHRISTOPHER GROBBEL

**“The Risks of Oil and Gas Development
& Potential Solutions”**

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

Meetings



Wednesday, March 5 at noon

Our two hour member meeting will be devoted to a consensus discussion on the LWVUS agricultural study update, as well as a brief business meeting. The update is only a portion of the national position on agriculture but, as is typical of League thoroughness, there are excellent background resources to prepare each member. As the time is limited, and we can't expect an in-depth discussion of all eleven questions, we will address each one, in order, to sense the group consensus (or no consensus). All the consensus questions will be shown on the screen.

Your responsibility is to prepare for the discussion. The links to background information may be found at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update?> or on our website, lwvleelanau.org. While the list of resources seems daunting, the information given in each resource is fairly brief. It is your informed opinion that makes up the membership consensus on this national issue.

Section leaders will help answer questions on their subjects: Marian Kromkowski on Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector; Suzanne Hoff on Animal Management; Christi Bardenhagen on Research and Development; Sharon Golm on Food Safety; and Jay Johnson on Food Labeling. Suzanne will begin with a brief overview of the study. Please call or email Suzanne if you have questions.



Wednesday, April 2 at noon

Through the generosity of Susan Wheadon, the Energy Committee has obtained an outstanding speaker for the April meeting. Dr. Christopher Grobbel, Environmental Specialist of Grobbel Environmental and Planning Associates, will speak on "The Risks of Oil and Gas Development & Potential Solutions." Dr. Grobbel has taught many courses at Michigan State including Michigan Environmental Policy and Law, Environmental Justice, Environmental Ethics, Natural Resources, and Water Law & Policy, Land Use Policy & Law since 1992. He is also a primary author and cofounder of MSU Extension's award winning, statewide Citizen Planner Program.

Some of the points he will raise are: What should we know about hydraulic fracturing and how do we find out about development plans in our area? If spills happen, what can be done about them? What tools are available to citizens to protect our water, land and air from the impacts of oil & gas development?

Bring friends to learn more about this important topic.

Remember these dates

May 3 – LWVMI Regional Workshop
at the Leland Library

May 7 – Consensus for Agricultural
Migrant Worker position

May 22 – LWVLC Annual Meeting
Speaker: Justice Bridget Mary
McCormack at the Leland Lodge

June 4 – Update from Early Childhood
and Changing Leelanau
Committees. Member vote on
Migrant Worker position

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The FARM LABOR TASK FORCE meets on
February 25th at 11:30 a.m. at the
Government Center.

VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE meets on
March 7th at 10:30 am in the Community
Room of the Government Center.

CHANGING LEELANAU COMMITTEE meets at
11:00 a.m in the Community Room prior to
the April 2nd League meeting.

The ENERGY COMMITTEE meets at 10:30 am
on March 5th in Conference Room #1,
Government Center.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION meets
at noon in the Muennecke Room, Leland
Library on February 24, March 31, April 28
and May 19.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE meets at 11 am
on March 31st at Martha Shaver's home.

Big Picture Society Continues March 10 and April 14

LWVLC will host its third and fourth films at
the Old Art Building at 111 Main Street in
Leland on Monday, March 10 and Monday,
April 14, 2014, at 4:00 pm. Please note the
change in time. These films are open to the
public at no charge, but donations are
appreciated.

On March 10th, the documentary "Please
Vote For Me" will be shown. Wuhan China,
a city the size of London, conducts an
experiment in democracy. A 3rd grade class
holds an election for class monitor. Three
children are chosen to be candidates by the
teacher. They have a few days to campaign
and to convince their classmates to vote
for them. The candidates are seen both at
home and school where parents do their
best to make sure their child wins the
election.

On April 14th, we will show "Wadjda," the
first feature film shot entirely in Saudi
Arabia. This is the story of a young girl who
is determined to raise enough money to
buy a bike in a society that sees bicycles as
dangerous to a girl's virtue. This is also the
first feature film made by a female Saudi
filmmaker in a country where where
cinemas are banned and women cannot
drive or vote.

Both films have been shown at the Film
Festival in Traverse City. After the April
movie, the series will begin again next
fall.

You may bring refreshments to share.
No alcohol allowed



February 5, 2014 Meeting

“The Agricultural Migrant Worker in Leelanau County: Issues and Challenges, 2013-2014”

Moderator: Suzanne Hoff
Panelists: Sierra Gould,
Ana Garcia, Ginger Bardenhagen, Don Gregory

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History
Ann McInnis, Co-chair Energy Committee

How could it be possible that we humans are causing the largest die-off of species since the dinosaur age....now called the sixth great extinction? Elizabeth Kolbert's newly published book of that title explores how human activity....fossil fuel consumption, ocean acidification, climate change, pollution, deforestation and fragmentation, invasive species migrations, over-population....threaten life forms of all kinds (potentially including our own) on the only planet we know which supports life. Cutting down our fossil-use footprint ASAP, individually, as a community, as a nation, and as world citizens would go a long way toward addressing this problem as would concerted efforts to save irreplaceable natural habitats with their associated species from over-exploitation. If we do nothing, what kind of future do you think our next generations will experience?

AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS

It is the custom for Leagues to give awards at their Annual Meetings. We would like your suggestions for recipients for two awards. One is the “Making Democracy Work Award,” presented to a non-League member who has contributed significantly to our community. The second is the “Outstanding Service Award” presented to a current League member for his or her work with the League.

Please email your suggestions to Vina at mikeselv@wabash.edu.



Community Energy Resilience...
How do we achieve it?

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Leelanau County Government Center - M-204

6-7 pm "Mini Energy Fair"

Exhibits, brochures and representatives from "green" community businesses and organizations (volunteer and non-volunteer) with many action oriented ideas.

7-8 pm FORUM

**"Low Hanging Energy Fruit...Energy Efficiency and Conservation:
How can we save energy?"**

Brian Beauchamp, Michigan Land Use Institute Energy Program Director
Heatherlyn J. Reamer, Policy Director to the Regional County Farm Bureau

**"Renewable Energy - Solar and Wind
How can we generate electricity?"**

Steve Smiley, Smiley Energy Services and Leelanau Solar, LLC

**"Simple, If Not Easy...Voluntary Simplicity
How can less be more?"**

Stephanie Mills, Post Carbon Institute Fellow and internationally known writer and teacher

Reprinted from Solutions, Vol.45, No. 1 Winter 2014

How clean are EVs?

Certainly battery-powered cars are much cleaner than conventional gas guzzlers. But how much coal, gas or hydro does it take to provide the electricity needed for the recharging? Is it an equal tradeoff - spew carbon on the road, or spew it at the power plant?

Shirley Wall, Suttons Bay, MI

*Welcome our
newest member,*

Jane Miller

*from Elmwood
Township.*

LWV LEELANAU COUNTY BOOK GROUP

The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins
by Kirstin Downey

Wednesday, April 9th at 3 pm
in the home of Nancy Duck

A readers guide will be sent to participants
the week before.

MAKE a gift to the League of Women Voters Leelanau County (LWVLC) Ed Fund. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will be used to educate voters in the 2014 elections.

Send your check to
Jo Walker, Treasurer
LWVLC, P.O. Box 132,
Leland, MI 49654.

VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE ORGANIZES
To Help Register Leelanau County High School Students

In April, League members will accompany County Clerk Michelle Crocker to the six Leelanau high schools to register seniors and staff wishing to vote. Different members are contacting the schools to make arrangements. Pamphlets in both English and Spanish have been ordered from LWVUS as well as yard signs for the schools. In addition, a flyer has been created by BJ and Vina as a check list for new voters. This document has been translated into Spanish with the help of Carla Wojtal and her mother. The Clerk has indicated she would like some of these to have on hand in her office, as well. All of this has been made possible by a grant from the LWVUS Education Fund.

Plans to register voters at several college locations in Traverse City are in the works. If you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities to register voters, please contact BJ Christensen or Vina Mikesell.

BE on the LOOKOUT.....

In April, League members will receive two separate mailings. The first will be a request to donate to the LWVLC first Annual Fund Drive for the League's General Fund or to the tax-deductible LWVLC Ed Fund.

The second mailing will be an invitation to the League's Annual Meeting on Thursday evening, May 22nd at the Leland Lodge. Our speaker will be MI Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack talking about her first year's experience on the bench. Dues for next year will be accepted at this time.

During the business section of the Annual Meeting, members will vote on the 2014-15 Budget, Officers and Directors, Changes to the By-Laws, our Non-partisan Policy and Study Topics for next year. You will receive copies of all these items one month ahead of time.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION A SUCCESS

Twenty-five people braved difficult weather to participate in the conversation hosted by the League and facilitated by the Center for Michigan on January 23rd at the County Government Center. Added to the other 200 conversations held throughout the state, responses will be shared with state legislators as they prepare for elections this year.



SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY to visit Cuba and learn about this island nation and its relation with the United States, a place beloved for centuries by explorers, pirates and artists, which for over half a century has been forbidden to American visitors.

This May 3-9, join the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund on a *Sisters Across the Straits* delegation visit, a project designed to provide League members with a unique opportunity to learn about the nation's history, culture and developing political scene. The trip offers delegation members with ways to engage in people-to-people interactions with women at different levels, academics at the University of Havana, civic organizations and members of the Federation of Cuban Women.

Delegation members will meet with counterparts and participate in honest dialogue in order to learn about the role of Cuban women in society and explore differences as well as similarities. The aim is to end decades of isolation by building trust and improving relations among people. The project is the brainchild of League Director and former state representative Annie Betancourt, who has led 12 delegations since 2011.

For questions and registration info, please contact LWVF Office & Events Manager Heather Hernandez at [\(850\) 224-2545](tel:850-224-2545) or LWVFOffice@gmail.com

"If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned, or removed from production."

Peter Seeger (American folk singer and activist who died at the age of 94 on Jan. 27)