



The Leelanau VOTER

January 2014

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

Thursday, January 23

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION - 6:30 pm

sponsored by the League and
conducted by the Center for Michigan

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, February 5

ENERGY COMMITTEE - 10:00 am

VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE - 10:30 am

COMMUNITY ROOM, GOVERNMENT CENTER

LEAGUE MEETING: Panel - 12 noon

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

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Thursday, February 6

BUDGET and FUND RAISING Committee Meetings



Monday, February 10 - 3:00 pm

THE BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

“Who Killed the Electric Car?”

OLD ART BUILDING IN LELAND



Tuesday, February 25

LEAGUE BOARD MEETING - 9:30 am

GOVERNMENT CENTER

MINI ENERGY FAIR - 6 pm;

FORUM at 7 pm

“Community Energy Resilience -
How Do We Achieve It?”

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Meetings

Wednesday, February 5 at noon

The Farm Labor Task Force is hosting a panel program on “The Agricultural Migrant Worker in Leelanau County: Issues and Challenges, 2013-14.” As we have learned, securing reliable, skilled seasonal farm and processing labor continues to challenge our local agricultural employers. The panelists include a long time county farm employer, representatives from migrant housing and education, and a seasonal worker who is currently a student at NMC. Suzanne Hoff will moderate.

This presentation follows a new study by the Task Force on this vital aspect of our area's second most important economy next to tourism. Should the proposed Federal immigration law pass, it may provide a more efficient farm labor visa, the “blue” card. However, as agricultural employers learned in the devastating crop season of 2013, how can employers attract skilled, reliable workers to northern Michigan, the end of the migrant worker stream, when they can work elsewhere?



Tuesday, February 25

On Tuesday evening, February 25th, the Energy Committee is hosting a special program for members and the public. Two events are scheduled. From 6-7 pm, the group will feature a “Mini Energy Fair” complete with exhibits and brochures on solar energy, efficiency, conservation, energy audits, composting, recycling, a survey of accomplishments of local schools, churches, businesses and volunteer organizations and more.

At 7 pm the program, “Community Energy Resilience - How Do We Achieve It?,” will be introduced by Energy Committee Chairs Ann and Doug McInnis. Brian Beauchamp, MI Land Use Institute Energy Program Director, and Heatherlyn Reamer, Policy Chair for NW Michigan County Farm Bureau, will address the issues of “Low Hanging Energy Fruit...Energy Efficiency and Conservation.” Steve Smiley of Smiley Engineering Services and Leelanau Solar, LLC, will speak about “Renewable Energy - Solar and Wind,” and Stephanie Mills, Post Carbon Institute Fellow and internationally known writer and teacher will talk about “Simple, If Not Easy -Voluntary Simplicity.”

Questions and answers will follow the speakers.

INVITE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO BOTH EVENTS.

VOTERS SERVICE

The Voters Service Committee will meet before the League Meeting at 10:30 am on February 5th in the Community Room. All League members are invited.

We will be discussing plans for implementing the grant we received from the LWVUS Ed Fund to register local high school students this spring. BJ and Vina participated in webinars with other recipients of the grant money. Thirty-four Leagues in 15 states were awarded grants. Michelle Crocker, County Clerk will be assisting us at the six schools.

Working on this project will help us learn how to encourage other voters in our area to register before the spring and fall elections.

If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to participate, please contact either Vina or BJ.

Join a League Study Committee.

Changing Leelanau County

Chairs: Judy Hoeffler and Phil Mikesell
Betty Bushey, Barbara Reinert, Barbara Schneider and Ty Wessell

Early Childhood Development

Chair: Patricia Soutas-Little
Patty DeYoung, Nancy Duck, Fran Eckerson, Marian Kromkowski, Sue Miller, Jennifer Murray, Mary Tonneberger, and Ty Wessell

Energy Committee

Chairs: Ann and Doug McInnis
Bob Marshall, Jane and Russ Packard, Mary Tonneberger, Jo Walker, Susan Wheadon and Peter Wolcott

Farm Labor Task Force

Chair: Suzanne Hoff
Christi Bardenhagen, Betsy Beachnau, BJ Christensen, Fran Eckerson, Jay Johnson, Barbara Krause, Marian Kromkowski, Steve Morse and Carla Wojtal

Contact the Committee Chair to join.

The **CHANGING LEELANAU COMMITTEE** is inquiring into the character of Leelanau County -- how it has developed in recent years and where it seems to be heading. Having identified key trends in demography, economy and society, League members -- and other citizens -- will better be able to discuss the issues of public policy those trends suggest.

Elements of the study include:

- (1) What are key trends in the demography, economy and social structure?
- (2) What is the significance of these trends, as analyzed by those knowledgeable about the county?
- (3) What policy issues (options) do the trends raise, in general, and for the county, townships and villages?

Absentee Voting by BJ Christensen

Have you heard about the voter suppression of college students and African- Americans in North Carolina, and the voter restrictions for Texas women? The Brennan Center for Justice found 82 bills to restrict voter access were introduced in 31 states from January-April 2013.* In this day of voter suppression it is all the more important that you vote in every election. Protect your right to vote! Register now with your township, city or county clerk.

Don't know if you are registered or where? Visit www.michigan.gov/VOTE. Enter your name, birth date and zip, or driver's license number to learn if you're registered. Locate a map to your voting precinct, a sample ballot, local clerk contact information, absentee voting, etc. If you moved or changed your name, re-register within 60 days.

Absentee Ballots**

Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections for voters unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:

- age 60 years old or older
- unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- expecting to be out of town on election day
- in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

A person who registers to vote by mail or at a Secretary of State office, or a **first-time voter** in Michigan must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, handicapped or voters who are 60 and older. To avoid this restriction, register or request an absentee ballot **in person** from your City or Township clerk. Requests to have an absentee voter ballot mailed to you must be received **by your city or township clerk no later than 2 p.m.** the Saturday before the election. After receiving your absentee voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. Absentee ballots are counted on Election Day along with all ballots voted at the polls.

*www.sojo.net, September-October 2013

**www.michigan.gov/VOTE

Big Picture Society Continues February 10

LWVLC will host its third film "Who Killed the Electric Car?" at the Old Art Building at 111 Main Street in Leland on Monday, February 10, 2014, at 3:00 PM. All subsequent films will also be shown on the 2nd Monday of the month at 3:00 PM. The monthly Big Picture Society features films on issues of public interest - current environmental, political or social justice topics.

The documentary by Chris Paine chronicles the life and mysterious death of the electric car developed in the mid-90s. The EV1 was among the fastest, most efficient cars ever built. The lucky ones who drove it never wanted to give it up. So why did General Motors crush its fleet of EV1 cars in the Arizona desert? The 90-minute film is a well-tuned documentary that simultaneously entertains and enrages the viewer while providing thought provoking explanations for this mystery.

You may bring refreshments to share.
No alcohol allowed



SPRING WILL ARRIVE!!
Attend the League's February 5th meeting to learn more about the concerns facing Leelanau County's agricultural community.

UPDATE from LWV Lake Michigan Region

STATE REPORTS!

What's going on with and into our Lake...

Illinois: Stormwater discharge permits up for renewal - EPA has new standards for this...

Indiana: Beach closures; how to monitor Enbridge pipeline in Lake County; BP expansion and new IDEM rules; and safety standards for oil-carrying railroad cars...

Michigan: Beach water quality funding levels; oil drilling & water withdrawal; tar sands pipeline safety - are the risks worth it?

Wisconsin: Tar sands, oil spill prevention & response; iron ore mining; factory farms; CAFO's; and beach closings. Possibility of networking with Indian tribes regarding water issues.

We share your League's sorrow at the passing of League member, Barbara Ort-Smith.

She made many contributions to the League as well as to the education community.

Sue Smith, President, LWVMI

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.

submitted by Ann McInnis

When thinking of new purchases or parting with some of your old treasured stuff...what are the 3 most important questions to ask yourself?

1, Do I really need this? ...or is it just a “want?”
(Will it enrich my life in meaningful, lasting ways, or just give me temporary pleasure?)

2. If I’ve lived without this until now, can I continue to do so? or If I’m not using this item now, do I really need to keep it around? (More stuff means additional social and environmental impacts such as energy spent to organize and store things along with a large investment in energy (carbon footprint) used for its manufacture, transportation, and eventual disposal.)

3. Is this item the most long-lasting (physically and stylistically) and greenest option available?
Your items ought to be “beautiful, well-made, styled in such a way that after years of ownership, they never look dated” and are made of “durable materials, environmentally safe,” and hopefully, “produced by someone making a fair wage for doing so while in healthy working conditions.”

Why care about living smaller? In every item....new or reused...there is huge amount of **embodied energy** which had been used in its manufacture, transportation, and eventual disposal.....along with the extraction and use of **diminishing limited material** resources. For seven plus billion people, along with our fellow wildlife Earth travelers, to live sustainably would require more than 3 Earths. No wonder we are losing about 200 species a day in this the 6th Great Extinction

Partially taken from Mother Nature Network.. <http://www.mnn.com/>

Author: Mat McDermott written for the sharing site: <https://yerdle.com/>)

Visit our website
LWVleelanau.org

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LEELANAU COUNTY

SOME DATA ON CHILDREN IN LEELANAU COUNTY

(from "Kids Count" -based on data from the Michigan League for Public Policy)

| Year | 2007 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Measure | | | | | |
| 1. Pop'n 0 - 17 | 4,364 | 4,194 | 4,239 | 4,240 | 3,970 |
| STATEWIDE | 2,446,856 | | | | 2,295,812 |
| 2. Median Household income | \$55,219 | \$56,056 | \$54,853 | \$55,149 | \$51,126 |
| FOR THE STATE | \$47,931 | | | | \$45,931 |
| 3. Poverty - all ages (SAIPE) | 7.5% | 8.5% | 9.7% | 9.3% | 11.9% |
| STATEWIDE | 13.9% | | | | 17.5% |
| 4. Students eligible for free or reduced price lunch | | 30.6% | 35.9% | 37.2% | 41.2% |
| STATEWIDE | 41.3% | | | | 48.2% |

ADVOCACY FROM LWVUS

Voting Rights Act Fix Introduced in Congress! Representatives James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), John Conyers (D-MI), Bobby Scott (D-VA), John Lewis (D-GA), and Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduced common sense legislation that would repair and restore the Voting Rights Act. This bipartisan effort to fix the damage done by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby v. Holder* is necessary to restore and protect the rights of voters across the country. [Please urge your elected officials to support this important legislation and encourage them to act swiftly to move toward final passage.](#)

Support EPA's Limits on Carbon Pollution. Last week, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a first-ever federal carbon pollution standard for every new power plant built in America. This is a game changer for the climate – especially because power plants are our single largest source of carbon pollution. [Submit a public comment to the EPA in support of the standard and your voice will be part of the official record.](#)

League Urges Senate to Oppose H.R. 2019. The League signed on to a letter that asks the U.S. Senate to oppose H.R. 2019. The bill contains a section that would repeal the presidential public financing system. The League believes that the presidential public financing system is necessary to protect citizens against government corruption and to provide presidential candidates with an alternative, citizen-based means to finance their campaign.

The **seasonal farmworker**: "An individual whose principal employment is in agriculture on a seasonal basis, who has been so employed within the last twenty-four months."

A **migrant farmworker** meets the same definition but "establishes for the purposes of such employment a temporary abode."

(U.S. Code, Public Health Services Act.)

| Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers | |
|--|-----------------|
| <u>Leelanau County</u> | <u>Michigan</u> |
| Migrant Workers - 1,084 | 31,909 |
| Seasonal Workers - 501 | 16,601 |
| Non-farmworkers in household (family members, others) - 1,458 | 44,457 |
| Total | 92,967 |

From "Michigan Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study 2013"

Please consider making 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 a check to
Jo Walker, Treasurer
LWVLC, P.O. Box 132,
Leland, MI 49654.**

BULLETIN BOARD

March 5 Member Meeting

Our March meeting for members only will focus on coming to consensus on the new LWVUS Agricultural Position. Documents to be read beforehand are on our website under Member Resources. You may also access them on the LWVUS .org site.

April 2 Meeting

The Energy Committee has arranged a very special program for the April 2nd noon League meeting. Traverse City attorney James Olson, Chair and founder of *Flow*, and Liz Kirkwood, Executive director of *Flow*, will speak on

**"DO ENERGY AND WATER MIX?"
Invite your friends to this exciting event.**

April 9 Book Club

Nancy Duck will host our book group on Wednesday, April 9th at 3 pm. The book we chose is The Woman Behind the New Deal by Kirsten Downey.

WE'RE KEEPING TRACK !!! Want to know how your state representative or state senator voted on key issues in 2013? Judy Karandjeff, VP of Advocacy for the state League, has been keeping track of the roll call votes on many issues that are important to the League: campaign finance, reproductive rights, indigent defense, education, environmental concerns and Medicaid funding. A record of votes cast by our legislators in the past year is now on the LWVMI website. Visit and see if your representative voted the way you hoped he/she would.

from the **VOTER**, League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County