



The Leelanau VOTER

September 2017

2017-2018

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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.....

Our 2017-2018 season started with an overflow crowd at our forum on the risks septic systems pose to our water and land. Great program put on by the LWVLC Energy and Natural Resources Committee! We hope many of you will also attend the Board of Health meeting at 4 PM on September 28 at the Connie Binsfield Building to speak in favor of directing the Leelanau Board of Commissioners to put into place county wide requirements for improved maintenance and inspections and other protections against septic system failures. After we learn of a problem it is our civic responsibility to seek solutions.

I also want to thank Sam Getsinger, Jacquie Johnson, Chris Palmer, BJ Christensen, Martha Shaver, Beth Chiles and Christi Bardenhagen from the LWVLC Voter Service Committee for helping register voters at NMC on September 26 and 27 on National Voter Registration Day. This was an event coordinated with the LWV Grand Traverse Area. A very special thank you to our County Clerk Michelle Crocker for sending staffer Lyn Drzwiecki to be present on both days.

All of our committees are busy working on their goals for this year. I am grateful to Martha Shaver who has stepped up to chair the LWVLC Membership Committee. Again this year they will host two Meet and Greets for prospective new members. Keep friends and colleagues in mind who you think should join the League.

Busy week ahead with events on both October 4 and 5th. (see page 2) And stop by our table at Leelanau Uncaged in Northport this Saturday!

*Best regards,
Marian*

TWO OCTOBER EVENTS

INVEST

+DEVELOP

+SUSTAIN

= GAIN

First Things First:

Early Childhood in Leelanau —
Supporting Community Resilience

Wednesday

October 4 at 6pm

Government Center, Lower Level

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Pizza and salad while it lasts

Our guest speaker will be long-term Leelanau resident, experienced early childhood specialist, and renowned child care consultant Maggie Sprattmoran. Maggie will speak to what has worked well in our community on the early childhood front and what needs attention. She will also share ideas for a community action plan intended to strengthen our caregiving for Leelanau's youngest children and their families.

League of Women Voters Leelanau County

NOTE THE 6 PM START TIME and 5:30 PM PIZZA

The Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee of the League of Women Voters Leelanau County will host a forum entitled **First Things First: Early Childhood in Leelanau—Supporting Community Resilience** on Wednesday October 4, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Community Room in the lower level of the Government Center.

Our guest speaker will be long-term Leelanau resident, experienced early childhood specialist, and renowned child care consultant Maggie Sprattmoran.

The later start time of this LWVLC monthly forum was chosen to allow working parents and professionals to attend. **The doors open at 5:30 pm and pizza and salad will be served while it lasts. All are invited.**

On Thursday, October 5 at 6 p.m. the documentary film **Equal Means Equal** will be shown at the Milliken Auditorium on the Northwestern Michigan College Campus. The film describes why now is the time for a constitutional Equal Rights Amendment.

Kamala Lopez, the film's director will appear by Skype along with other panelists who will describe the current status of the ERA at the state and national level. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

The LWVLC Equal Rights Advocacy Committee is pleased to co-sponsor with Zonta Club of Traverse City, American Association of University Women of Traverse City, Northwestern Michigan College, Woman2WomanTC, Planned Parenthood, Women's Resource Center, Northwest Chapter of the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health, Reproductive Access Fund, Traverse Area Women Lawyers Association, League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area and Traverse City Human Rights Commission.

◆ FREE FILM & DISCUSSION ◆

Equal Means Equal

Milliken Auditorium

on NMC Campus

Thursday, October 5 @ 6 pm

Doors Open 5:30 - Film 6:00 - Followed by Panel Discussion

There are no more excuses.

EQUAL

MEANS

EQUAL

The Definitive Documentary Film on
the Status of Women in America.

Panel
following film
with updates on
status of achieving
the Equal Rights
Amendment

This event is FREE thanks to the generosity of these sponsors:
League of Women Voters Leelanau County - Zonta Club of Traverse City
American Association of University Women TC - Northwestern Michigan College - Woman2WomanTC - Planned Parenthood - Women's Resource Center - Northwest Chapter of Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health
Reproductive Access Fund - Traverse Area Women Lawyers Association - League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area
Traverse City Human Rights Commission

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Energy and Natural Resources** October 4 at 4 pm,
Conf. room 1 Government Center
 - Age Friendly Leelanau TBD
- **Farm Labor Task Force** October 9 at 9 am
at Christi Bardenhagen's house
- **Early Childhood Needs and Services** October 20 at noon
at Munnecke Room at Leland Library
 - **Voter Services** October 30 at 9:30 am
Conf. room 1 Government Center
- **Equal Rights Advocacy (ERA)** November 6 at 4 pm
Leland Library Munnecke Room

2017-18 DUES ARE DUE

We are still collecting dues for the 2017-18 year.

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

Single Membership is \$60.
Household Membership is \$90.

Make your check out to
LWVLC.

Scholarships are available for dues from the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund Contact Barb Marsh for an application
blmarsh@hotmail.com

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Larry Mawby

Membership in the League of Women Voters, one of the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of 16 years of age or older.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities. Invite your friends to attend a forum and join the LWVLC.



Update on Redistricting from LWVMI September League Links

The LWVMI Board has been asked why we are not working with Voters Not Politicians (VNP). We hope the following information is useful.

Across the country, other state Leagues have been involved in redistricting ballot proposal campaigns. Each successful campaign was supported by a coalition of organizations that represented the diversity of their state.

Therefore, LWVMI worked for many months with representatives from VNP, NAACP, ACLU and Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP) to try and form a coalition that could support a redistricting ballot proposal.

On July 17, 2017 the LWVMI Board approved our joining the proposed coalition.

VNP's Leadership Team has not approved its joining the proposed coalition.

Here's what happened as we tried to form the coalition.

As a part of those meetings, the groups (LWVMI, VNP, NAACP, ACLU and MLPP) negotiated a Memo of Understanding (MOU) that described how the coalition would function. It included criteria for determining which organizations would be represented on the Steering Committee, the responsibilities of the Steering Committee, how decisions would be made, etc.

Each of the groups' representatives agreed to take the MOU back to our respective organizations for approval so that we could each sign it at our next meeting on July 25, 2017.

On July 17, 2017, the LWVMI Board authorized President Judy Karandjeff to sign the Memo of Understanding (MOU) which had been negotiated over many weeks by members of the proposed coalition, including VNP.

On July 25, the groups met to sign the MOU, but VNP didn't have enough votes from their leadership team to sign. At the meeting, Sue Smith and Katie Fahey, President/Treasurer of VNP, agreed to meet on July 28 to discuss what transition steps would need to be taken if the MOU were implemented. It was hoped this transition plan would help to answer some of the VNP Leadership Team's questions.

On July 28, Sue, Katie and others met to develop a transition plan. During the meeting, Katie agreed to send the proposed coalition members a revised MOU that the VNP leadership team could agree to, before the groups' next meeting on August 4.

On August 4, Katie emailed a proposed work plan instead of a revised MOU. The work plan included working on an MOU in the future.

Meanwhile, VNP had submitted six changes to the ballot proposal they had originally submitted to the Secretary of State on June 24. The June 24 proposal had been prepared by volunteer lawyers based on the ideas of many groups including VNP and the League. The other groups in the proposed coalition were not consulted on any of the subsequent changes.

On August 4, the other groups concluded that since VNP was not ready to sign an MOU that it would be best to postpone trying to form a coalition. VNP announced its intention to move forward.

Thus, LWVMI decided to join the proposed coalition, but VNP did not. As Katie stated on the [Off the Record TV program](#), VNP is a "coalition of people."

LWVMI continues to be committed to forming a coalition of organizations that represents the diversity of our state.

In February 2018, after the ballot proposal petitions are certified, the state Board will decide whether to support the proposal.

League Members are free to gather petition signatures, but when doing so you act as individuals. For more information on the petition initiative see VotersNotPoliticians.org

Oil & Water Don't Mix: State has more than enough evidence to shut down Line 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017

CONTACT: Sean McBrearty, Oil & Water Don't Mix, [\(616\) 516-7758](tel:6165167758)

LANSING – **Oil & Water Don't Mix** today reiterated the urgency of the danger posed by Line 5, urging the Pipeline Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) and state officials to decommission the aging pipelines without delay.

“It's never been more clear that Line 5 poses a serious, immediate threat to our Great Lakes, and every day spent conducting a study is another day we risk a catastrophic Line 5 oil spill,” said Sean McBrearty, campaign coordinator for Oil & Water Don't Mix. “The state has all the evidence it needs to shut down Line 5, and it should do so immediately.”

Enbridge Energy recently received backlash from state officials for describing gaps in the pipelines' protective coating as “Band-Aid”-sized patches, when in reality the damaged areas measured more than a foot in diameter in some locations.

“Conducting another study that could take more than half a year is not the answer to the growing threat Line 5 poses to our Great Lakes,” said Liz Kirkwood with For Love of Water (FLOW). “More than two years ago, Attorney General Bill Schuette said oil pipelines do not belong in the Straits of Mackinac, and in light of this startling new evidence he should act now to shut down Line 5.”

The PSAB Monday recommended conducting an additional study to replace the initial Line 5 Risk Analysis study, which was terminated due to conflicts of interest. The PSAB tapped Guy Meadows to lead the new study. Meadows is the director of Michigan Technological University's Great Lakes Research Center (GLRC), a program that Enbridge has funded and hired to do research for the company.

Oil & Water Don't Mix is a broad campaign of organizations, citizens and businesses across Michigan who are working to keep oil out of our Great Lakes by shutting down the dangerous, 64-year-old Line 5 Pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac. The campaign fights for clean water and air, Indigenous rights, reducing pollution, sustainable economies and protecting sporting, tourism and jobs that are dependent on our water and Pure Michigan way of life. Learn more at www.oilandwaterdontmix.org.



LWVLC Board Member Tricia Denton is the LWVMI representative with the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition.

Time for a Reasoned Solution to Septic System Risks

Record Eagle September 11, 2017 by Marian Kromkowski, President, LWV Leelanau County

Leelanau County officials have again been asked to take a look at the county's septic systems. So far, neither the Board of Commissioners nor the Leelanau/Benzie Health Department has taken any action. Some have suggested that it may be up to townships to draft ordinances to monitor risks posed by uninspected septic systems like Glen Arbor Township did in 2014. Others have stuck their head in the sand and are not willing to engage in any critical discussion.

Leelanau County is not alone in Michigan with its lack of inspection regulations for septic systems. However, Michigan is quite unique as the only state in the nation without uniform standards for how on-site septic systems are sited, designed, built, installed and maintained.

Why should we care? Several concerns have been documented from respected sources.

In 2015 a Michigan State study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. MSU scientists using microbial source-tracking tools cautioned that pollution arising from septic system discharges may be much more severe than previously realized. Its results suggest 100% of the rivers studied in the Lower Peninsula contain human fecal contamination.

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council undertook an extensive investigation and in 2016 published "[The Septic Question](#)." Its research found that "reported septic system failures represent only a fraction of the total number of failures statewide, and many go undetected or remain unreported for years. Because this important follow up is non-existent in most places, it creates a potential threat to public health and water resources."

As of 2013, eleven Michigan counties had "point of sale" programs requiring septic systems to be inspected at the time property is sold. Bridge Magazine reported that in those programs hundreds of failed septic systems were discovered. Shockingly, 300 homes in Barry and Eaton counties were found to have no septic system at all and raw sewage was piped into the nearest ditch or waterway. What would comparable research show for Leelanau County?

Failing septic systems produce disease outbreaks, algae blooms, and ecosystem damage. The initial design of a septic system as well as regular maintenance is essential. The current lack of oversight after installation is worthy of further conversation not only in Leelanau but throughout Michigan. Perhaps it is time for citizens to chime in and prompt the development of reasoned solutions.



Over 100 people attended the LWVLC and Leelanau Clean Water forum September entitled #@It Happens, Then What?! Leelanau County Septic System: Water Quality and Public Health Implications on September 13. The panelists were Tom Fountain, Director of Environmental Health at the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department; Nick Fleezanis, President of Lake Leelanau Lake Association; and Joe Williams of Williams and Bay Pumping Service. The event was moderated by LWVLC Energy and Natural Resource Committee member Tricia Denton.

Video of forum may be found at <http://www.lwvleelanau.org/Video.html#s01>

We are putting October 1st Indigenous Peoples Day on our League calendar for 2018 and hope to collaborate with others to host an appropriate and informative event next year. This year we encourage you to visit the Eyaawing Museum (pronounced a-yah-wing) translate as “Who we are” in Anishinaabemowin, the traditional language of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The museum on M22 and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM

**A Resolution to Recognize the First Day of October as Indigenous Peoples Day
(Passed by the Leelanau Board of Commissioners September 20, 2017)**

WHEREAS, the County of Leelanau is situated on a peninsula of unique and unparalleled beauty, which provides a bounty to its residents through fertile land and access to Lake Michigan and the Grand Traverse Bay; and

WHEREAS, the County of Leelanau would not exist nor its residents enjoy its beauty and bounty but for the acquisition of its lands from the homelands of the Anishinabek people, who lived here since time immemorial and to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the County of Leelanau wishes to recognize with gratitude the roots, history, and contributions of the Anishinabek people towards its existence; and

WHEREAS, an international movement began in 1977 to transform Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day by a delegation of native nations to the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous Nations at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to use Columbus Day as an opportunity to educate the public about Indian cultures that pre-existed European contact; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, numerous municipalities throughout the United States have incorporated the principles of the First Continental Conference by voting to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day and to use the day to honor the culture, heritage, and contributions of their native citizens and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Leelanau County wishes to extend recognition to, and appreciation of, its Anishinabek citizens and neighbors, and their shared history, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Leelanau County shall forthwith recognize the First Day of October as Indigenous Peoples Day; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that Indigenous Peoples Day shall be used to celebrate their continued existence and culture; and to honor and appreciate their commitment to protecting and preserving the earth, her resources, and her creatures.

Updates from LWVLC Committees:

The **LWVLC Farm Labor Task Force** continues to work on the revision of the Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position to “allow a person to apply for or secure and renew a driver’s license or obtain an identification card regardless of immigration status.” We will be sending background information and pros and cons for the proposed revision to the state Board for distribution of local leagues for review and consensus discussions. Our goal is to have this project done by the end of October. We have also begun work on our November 1st forum where we will focus on the shortage of workers in the service industry in Leelanau. Chair Christi Bardenhagen.

The **LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee** is prepared for the Oct. 4 League Forum that will feature Maggie Sprattmoran speaking on how our community can best respond to the trauma and long term stress that so many children experience. That Forum is scheduled to be an evening event starting at 6 pm at the Government Center to give parents an opportunity to attend. Pizza and salad will be served at 5:30 pm so dinner will not have to be missed by working attendees. Chair Sue Miller

The **LWVLC ERA Committee** is working diligently on the showing of the film Equal Means Equal and panel discussion at NMC on October 5. It is great to collaborate with so many other local organizations. Kamala Lopez the film director will Skype in for the event. This film won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2016 TC Film Festival. Chairs Jan Frazee and Barb Schneider

The **LWVLC Energy and Natural Resources Committee** packed the house for our season opener with #@IT HAPPENS, THEN WHAT? Leelanau County Septic System: Water Quality and Public Health Implications. The topic will be raised at the September 28 Board of Health Department meeting. The committee is also preparing for a forum on the Health Risks of Climate Change. Chairs Ann and Doug McInnis

The **LWVLC Age Friendly Committee** will be working with the Senior Opportunity Committee, a county working group comprised of BOC members and directors from agencies that currently serve Leelanau’s seniors. It includes Munson Health, Area Agency on Aging, Share Care and Leelanau County’s Senior program. Chair Mary Tonneberger

The **LWVLC Voter Service Committee** was at NMC for National Voter Registration Day on September 26 and will be there again on September 27. This is collaboration with the LWV of the Grand Traverse Area. Thank you to Lyn Drzewiecki from the Clerk’s Office for being with us on both days to assist with voter registration. A Voter Protection forum is still being planned but a firm date has not been set. Chair Marian Kromkowski



1. Leelanau resident Isaac Dedenbach registering to vote.
2. New United States Citizen L. Love registers for the first time.
3. Lyn Drzewiecki of the Leelanau Clerk’s Office and Joan Attwood from the Grand Traverse Clerk’s Office assisting at Voters Registration Day at NMC.