



The Leelanau VOTER

May 2017

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.....

We end April with the People's Climate March at the Open Space in Traverse City this Saturday at noon. There is a lot of enthusiasm in our area for protecting planet Earth. Joining the March on Saturday is just one step along the way to safeguarding our planet from climate change denial, cut backs in funding for the Great Lakes and stripping of smart environmental regulations.

It will be a family friendly event. Bring your children and grandchildren. Come over to the LWVLC table and say "Hello!"

On May 2, Joan Hunault Barb Krause and I will attend LWVMI training on Redistricting Issues. It is highly anticipated that a constitutional amendment for an independent redistricting committee will be on the ballot in 2018. We will bring back what we learn and be ready to provide presentations to League members and other local organizations.

On May 19-21 Vina Mikesell, Joan Hunault, Christi Bardenhagen, Tricia Denton, Sue Miller, Suzanne Hoff, Sam Getsinger and I will attend the LWVMI Convention in Lansing. A big thank you to all who have volunteered to travel and participate in this important biennial meeting. Our own Vina Mikesell and Joan Hunault have been nominated to be on the LWVMI state board!!

Last but not least, we hope to see you all at our LWVLC Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 25th at the Homestead. Reservations are due May 15th. This year-end event again promises to be informative and fun.

Goodbye April showers. Hello May flowers.

*Best regards,
Marian*

CALENDAR

- APRIL 29** **Climate Change March at noon**
Open Space in Traverse City
- MAY 1** **ERA Committee at 4 pm**
Leland Library Munnecke Room
- MAY 2** **VOTE – BATA and Leland School Millages**
- May 3** **Member Meeting at 12 noon**
“Age Friendly Leelanau: How Do we Get There?”
Lower Level, Government Center
- Energy & Natural Resources Committee**
at 10 am, Law Library , Government Center
- May 15** **Farm Labor Task Force at 9:00 am**
Guest, Ginger Bardenhagen
Law Library, Government Center
- Reservation Deadline for Annual Meeting**
- May 19-21** **LWVMI Convention in Lansing**
- May 22** **LWVLC Board Meeting at 9:30 am**
Government Center
- May 25** **Annual Meeting at the Homestead**
- JUNE 7** **Member Meeting at noon**
“Walking In a Good Way”
Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center
- June 26** **Board Retreat at 1 pm**

AGE FRIENDLY

**Wednesday, May 3
12 noon**

LEELANAU

The Age-Friendly Leelanau committee will report on its continuing work on Leelanau County's unique combination of a large senior population and rural character.

Members have investigated four areas that are of great importance to the growing senior population in the county: Transportation, Health Care, Housing and Community Support. They will present some ideas and proposals for policies and programs in each of the areas.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

April 2017

Our League's membership has grown to 162 members since February 1, 2017. Please welcome our newest members.

Cedar - Kama Ross

Empire - Julie Tarr

Leland - Angela VanManen

Maple City - Geradine Simkins

Northport - Judith Fowler, Barbara Holcomb,

Christine and Bob Newell, Cynthia Edmondson,

Stephen Gilbreath and Jan Hunyady

Suttons Bay - Kate Thornhill, Page Kurtz, Patricia

Seiler and Susan Lombardi

Traverse City - Anna Faller, Vickie Gutowski, Anne

Cole, Coleen Durbin-Matrone, Amy Trumbull and

Sara Boys

**Reservation Deadline for the Annual Dinner is May 15.
More information on page 4.**

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2017
at the Homestead in Glen Arbor

Our speaker

Rana Elmir

Deputy Director of the ACLU of Michigan

“Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community”

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| 5:30 pm | Sign In |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner Buffet |
| 7:00 pm | Awards and Speaker: |
| 8:15 pm | Annual Meeting to vote on 2017-2018 Budget, Slate of Officers & Directors and Local Program Studies |

*COST: \$30/person for dinner & speaker
\$15/person for speaker only*

RSVPs required by May 15, 2017.

Buffet includes garden and pasta salads, fried chicken, London broil,
mashed red potatoes, green beans, rolls, apple pie and beverages.

Alcoholic beverages extra.

A check for the Annual Dinner and your 2017-18 dues may be mailed to

**Nancy Duck, Treasurer
P.O. Box 992
Leland, MI 49654**

**Dues are \$60/person or \$90/household.
If you joined after February 1, 2017, you do not owe dues.**

IMMIGRATION CHALLENGES IN LEELANAU COUNTY: WHO WILL HARVEST OUR PRODUCE?

The standing-room-only crowd at our April 5th forum attested to the fact that county residents are concerned about many things: the effect immigration policy has on our growers and workers; how to balance our country's need to protect the borders with our value of compassion; and what, if anything, the average citizen can do.



LWVLC Vice President Christi Bardenhagen began the discussion “I think everyone loves our Leelanau County agricultural economy – cherry blossoms, orchards, dairy farms, rye fields hops, vineyards, and that fabulous sweet corn.” “However,” she noted “the health of our agricultural industry has been tied directly to immigration.” She noted that many seasonal migrant agricultural workers fear arrest, detention, deportation, and the breakup of their families.


Susan Reed, attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, reported big changes in immigration policy, following President Trump’s January Executive Order, and Homeland Security Secretary Kelly’s February implementation orders. Previously, certain priorities were set for detention and deportation of undocumented workers. Law-abiding undocumented workers were “outside priorities,” and generally allowed to work. New policies jettison that priority framework. Now, Reed advised, “no one can say they are ‘outside priorities’ and avoid detention and deportation.” Consequently, increased worksite enforcement actions in west Michigan by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are expected.

Local fruit grower, and former Leelanau County Extension Agricultural Agent, Jim Bardenhagen said “Agriculture supports enforcement at the border,” and observed the “U.S. Attorney General is encouraging cooperation with ICE” or risking the loss of homeland security funding. He observed, “Growers and migrant communities live with uncertainty.” Last season, fewer workers stayed in the fields longer hours each day, harvesting until nightfall. He described the H2A visa program which reduces uncertainty about worker availability, but at a cost—about \$1,400 to \$1,700 per worker. Bardenhagen noted that seasonal and migrant workers now find work more easily in Canada.

Gladys Munoz, co-founder of the Justice and Peace Advocacy Center (JPAC), reported that today “people are afraid.” JPAC distributes information to workers, explaining their rights and helpful contacts, if they encounter law enforcement officials. They also train volunteers to monitor those encounters—rapid response teams whose members do not interfere, but observe, and, if possible, ascertain the detention site when workers are separated from their families.

Joe Hubbell, Leelanau County prosecutor, said “I understand the fear,” but noted his office does not see evidence of racial profiling by local law enforcement. He worries that current immigration policies have a chilling effect on those who need the assistance of law enforcement—for example, in the event of child abuse or domestic assault. Hubbell acknowledged the government’s legitimate concern in “knowing who is here,” and the need to “deport criminals.” But, he asked, “What about their U.S. born kids?” That, he observed, complicates matters. Hubbell re-capped court cases that impose financial liability on municipalities when persons are detained in local jails merely on an ICE detainer rather than an actual warrant issued by a magistrate. As a county prosecutor sworn to enforce state laws, he observed that local law enforcement must grapple with the thorny questions raised by detention when cooperating with agencies entrusted to enforce federal laws.

A video of the forum is available at LWVLeelanau.org.



People's Climate Movement

TRAVERSE CITY MARCH
Saturday, April 29th
Noon at the Open Space

Info at: www.facebook.com/events/870937003048849/

Leagues throughout the nation will be involved in People's Climate Movement Marches on April 29th. Walk with us in solidarity in Traverse City to make sure our elected leaders know that our air, land and water demand protection.

Come to the Open Space at noon. Wear your League buttons. Visit the League table. Bring signs. Family friendly event. Speeches, music and food.

June Meeting Preview

WALKING IN A GOOD WAY

Join us on Wednesday, June 7th at noon at the Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center on North West Bay Shore (M22) in Peshawbestown.

Anishinaabe native Hank Bailey, retired GTB Natural Resources; Jonathan Aylward, current Tribal biologist; and Joanne Cook, GTB Tribal member, will share Anishinaabe History and Culture.

Bailey, author of “Walking-in-a-good way,” states

“One of the first things I think of when reflecting on my life is what we refer to as the Circle of Life. We have many teachings about this that are found in what is known as the Medicine Wheel. The Circle of Life encompasses everything that we know of and many many things that are out of our view. As you picture a circle, think about the fact that the circle does not end. This is my view on life: EVERYTHING has its place in the circle. To keep harmony and balance in the world I must do what I can to help keep the circle intact by not destroying parts of it to the point that they are lost. To achieve this, one must have respect for all things. Sometimes this is not easy.”

<http://naturechange.org/2017/04/12/walking-in-a-good-way>

The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will not meet during its regularly scheduled time in May due to a time conflict with the LWVMI Convention. (Several committee members will be attending.)

Committee members are planning a display at the Annual Meeting, highlighting the many educational and advocacy activities with which the committee has been involved.

2017-18 DUES ARE DUE

Please send your dues check to

**Treasurer Nancy Duck
P.O. Box 992
Leland, MI 49654**

**Single membership is \$60.00.
Household Membership is \$90.00**

You may include your dues with your reservation form for the Annual Dinner on May 25th.

If you joined the League after February 1st, you do not owe dues.