



# The Leelanau VOTER

## November 2016

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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.....*

Thank you to all who helped on any or all of this year's unprecedented six candidate forums held by our League. We had to turn down two more requests! We also participated in voter registration efforts on five days, going to NMC, Glen Lake, Northport and Leland High Schools. Absentee voting has begun. All await November 8th and the results.

Voting brings us together as Americans and is our opportunity to support our community and have a say in America's future. These elections are about our jobs, our health, our communities, our security and our future, Take control and commit to vote in this election.

Every vote counts and our votes make a difference. Millions of voters will head to the polls to stand up for what matters most in their communities and their lives. Peddling false claims about such an important issue is a direct threat to America's cherished democratic process, and it belittles the real challenges too many American voters have faced in recent years. The decisions our leaders make in office will influence public policy for years to come, and each vote helps decide who represents us.

Together, through our votes, we can take control and determine the outcome of this election.

Stay positive. Stay involved. Vote on November 8th.

*Best regards,  
Marian*



## EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION, RESILIENCY AND GOOD HEALTH

presented by **Mary Beth Hardwicke, M.D**  
named "One of the Best Primary Care Physicians in the Country"  
by *Town and Country Magazine*

**Wednesday, November 2  
12 noon**

**Lower Level Leelanau County Government Center**

The focus of this Forum is how good public policy, as well as our individual efforts, can improve long-term health outcomes for all. Our speaker will address the effects of chronic stress and other adverse experiences in early childhood on mental and physical health in subsequent years. The Forum highlights the importance of both public policy supporting quality early childhood services and individual efforts to assist families in the prevention of long-term health problems. Prevention reduces costs involved in providing mental and physical health treatment to adults and also has far reaching positive consequences for our social service, judicial and educational systems.



**Northport School Board Forum held on October 17<sup>th</sup> moderated by Suzanne Hoff**

## LEELANAU CALENDAR

**NOVEMBER 2**

**Noon MEMBER MEETING**

**Early Childhood Intervention,  
Resiliency and Good Health**  
**LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**NOVEMBER 8**

**VOTE**

**NOVEMBER 14**

**5:00 pm NEW MEMBER EVENT**  
**SUSAN & BILL HOFF'S HOME**

**NOVEMBER 28**

**9:30 am BOARD MEETING**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER – Conf. Room #2**

**DECEMBER 14**

**12 noon HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
**LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**Dishware and drinks provided. Bring a hot  
or cold dish to share.**

## REGISTERING NEW VOTERS at NMC and in LEELANAU

Thank you to Marie Walker, BJ Christensen, Christi Bardenhagen, Chris Palmer, Sam Getsinger, Mary Valpey, Betty Bushey and Mary Hagan who helped register students at two locations at NMC and/or three local high schools.

**28** were registered by Clerks at Osterlin.

**2** absentee ballots were requested.

**14** people asked where to vote and whether or not they were registered.

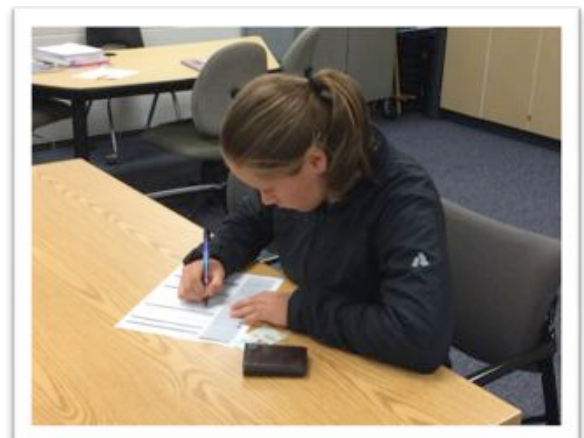
**8** Leelanau County students were registered.

Many high school students are not going to be 18 until after the election. We helped register one student from Leland, one from Northport and one from Glen Lake. We also gave out applications to mail to three additional students and information to eight.

Special thanks to Lyn Drzewiecki from the Leelanau County Clerk's office who went to both locations.



**Kevin Shafer, NMC Flight Instructor,  
registering to vote, with BJ Christensen.**



**Olivia Fellows registering at  
Leland School**



The Bay Theater was filled to capacity on October 24 for the showing of Equal Means Equal. We thank the three panelists Brenda Quick, Mary Sutherland and Barbara Schneider for their insights and

stories. The audience was enthusiastic in support of rejuvenating efforts to pass the ERA and local follow up on the issue.

Thank you also to Denise Sica of the Bay Theater for hosting the film. She is in contact with local high schools for a possible 2nd or 3rd showing in the county. Students from NMC were present and were interested in showing the film on campus.

A bit of history about the ERA from the [ERACoalition.org](http://ERACoalition.org):

“The ERA was introduced in every Congressional session between 1923 and 1972. In 1972, the ERA was passed in the House and the Senate by the required 2/3 majority and sent to the states for ratification. The original seven-year deadline for ratification was extended by three years, but when the June 30, 1982 deadline passed, the ERA fell three states short of ratification. There are efforts to remove the 1982 deadline for ratification and to then pursue approval by three more states.”

The LWV continues to support passage and ratification of the ERA. On the international front, the League of Women Voters supports the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and is on the Steering Committee of the NGO UNICEF Working Group on Girls at the UN, which formed an International Network for Girls, a global advocacy network.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Susan Cocciarelli from Maple City, Penny Concannon from Lake Leelanau,  
Janis Frazee from Cedar and Pamela Smithbell from Suttons Bay

### LWVLC Committee meetings

- **Age Friendly Leelanau**  
Wednesday, November 2 – 10 am  
Government Center
- **Energy and Natural Resources**  
Wednesday, November 2– 10am  
Conf. Room 1, Government Center
- **Early Childhood Needs and Services**  
Friday November 18 at noon  
Munnecke Room, Leland Library
- **Farm Labor Task Force**  
Monday, November 14 at 9:30am  
Law Library, Government Center

**The Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee** has been conducting interviews with local leaders in the early childhood field to learn of barriers that are interfering with the implementation of early childhood services. This information has informed our Committee of the effects of current early childhood policy and provided direction for future study at the state League of Women Voters level.

## SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday,  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

Annual Holiday Luncheon for  
members and government  
officials.



## END THE CONFUSION



Even informed, experienced voters can become confused over the straight ticket, split ticket and mixed ticket voting. Here are the guidelines:

**STRAIGHT TICKET:** Michigan lawmakers tried but failed to eliminate straight-party voting. This year there are six parties from which to choose. You can still vote along a straight party line and all candidates for each office in that party will receive a vote.

**SPLIT TICKET:** In this option, you can vote straight-ticket but still vote for individual candidates under another party's column. Choosing a candidate in another party for any office overrides your straight ticket choice for that office. Each candidate under the party you selected will still receive a vote except where superseded by a direct vote for a candidate in another party. For example, if you choose to vote Republican in the straight party section, you can vote for a Democratic candidate in any given office knowing that this other vote will count.

**MIXED TICKET:** In this option, you select each office individually and vote for any, all or no individual candidates in each office or race.

In any of the above options, however, you will still need to cast an independent vote for all non-partisan races. Non-partisan races include Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, local school boards, village offices and proposals. The non-partisan races are listed separately, generally on the backside of the ballot.

Go to **VOTE411.org** to view information on national, state and local candidates.



## **What are some of the threats to our Lake Michigan waters and what are the actions being taken to address these threats?**

On October 14 and 15 Ann McInnis and Jane Packard attended the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region 49th Annual Conference in Porter, Indiana. LWVLMR is an interLeague of Leagues from the 4 States surrounding Lake

Michigan. During the Conference Ann and Jane learned not only about the many threats to our waters but also about the education, advocacy, and many successes resulting from the partnership of LWVLMR with other organizations sharing similar goals. The Conference also offered opportunities to network and learn from fellow LWV attendees; to engage in field trips to a number of sites illustrating the plans and progress of stream and watershed restoration; and to learn from featured speakers about the importance of mimicking nature and including native plant species in restoration in order to increase biodiversity and enhance water quality. Maintaining a positive and optimistic approach is also important.

Upon arrival at the Conference, Ann and Jane boarded a bus for a Trail Creek Environmental Action tour. At the first stop Jeremy Sobecki (LaPorte County Parks) discussed shoreline stabilization and fish habitat at Creek Ridge County Park. At Winding Creek Cove they learned more about shoreline stabilization from Shannon Easton (Michigan City Parks). At our next stop Mike Ryan and Rich Hedgepeth (NWI Steel-headers) demonstrated their efforts to control invasive sea lamprey. They were given a tour of the MC Sanitary District plant where Sanitary District's Mike Kuss explained their effective methods of ensuring that water downriver from the plant is cleaner than water up river, a result of the Alliance for the Great Lakes partnership project, a follow-up from last year's conference. At Hanson Park Kayak Launch we learned about the Hoosier Riverwatch and about Citizens Water Quality Monitoring from Joe Exl (NIRPC). This is now a much used recreation site and includes an ADA kayak launch. Finally, Tim Frame (Harbormaster MC Port Authority) discussed methods used by the Washington Park Beach/Port Authority ensuring that it is a "green" marina. These six sites provided an excellent example of how various groups have achieved success by working together to rectify years of poor water and land management and to restore diverse habitats, stabilize shoreline and promote recreation and fishing.

Keynote speaker Natalie Johnson spoke about threats to Lake Michigan and the motivational importance of conveying our message in a positive and optimistic way. The evening entertainment was a wonderful documentary movie and conversation with Amy Lucas and Mary Catterlin, two adventure-some young women who paddled and sailed their "homemade" dugout canoe around the entire perimeter of Lake Michigan, except when they had to trailer their canoe across the Straits of Mackinac due to strong wind and currents.

Saturday morning's keynote speaker, Noel Pavlovian, discussed invasive species and the use of appropriate alternatives in landscapes to help protect our waters. That was followed by a resource fair of artists, environmental groups and LWVLMR projects, all of which highlighted and enhanced the connectivity to water and watershed improvement and restoration. Cathy Martin's afternoon presentation again emphasized the importance of crafting partnerships to protect our waters. A field trip to Miller Woods Trail to observe first hand the prairie restoration project underway concluded the Conference.

All LWVLMR attendees left with renewed energy and enthusiasm to implement some of the projects in their own region.

## LISTENING TO HEAR, A CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

by Joan Hunault

Nearly 80 people attended the October 5, 2016 public forum to discuss “Civility: Communicating with Those with Whom We Disagree.” Panelists were former legislator H. Lynn Jondahl; Traverse City attorney, Charles Judson; and Rebecca Rogan, director of the Dispute Mediation Center. All described times they helped to solve public problems, despite disagreements.

Jondahl, a 22-year veteran of the State House began: *We “don’t have civilization without having civility.”* Civil disagreement, he argued, is the keystone of the political process. Absent civil disagreement, truthfulness is clouded. “We citizens,” he said, “create the rules of our civil discourse, and it is we who must insist those standards be followed. “ Nonetheless, he suggested society seems to *expect* incivility, since members of the U.S. Congress have scored extremely low for many decades - as ranked by the annual Gallop ethics poll ranking professionals. Jondahl quipped: Even family conversation lacks civility at times. Indeed, some say “family is God’s way of teaching us how to live with strangers.”

Jondahl argued civility in public conversations rests on three principles: 1) relationships of trust; 2) respecting the institutions we are a part of; and 3) commitment to the common good. He urged we not be “careless with our freedom.” Rather, each citizen must ask: What did I do, today, to improve the life of the community? Civic responsibility, he noted, is beyond the reach of individual men and women. Instead, it concerns the welfare of us all, and is everyone’s business.

Chuck Judson, a 30-years respected attorney in the Traverse City Area, quipped: if members of the U.S. Congress are *near* the bottom in the Gallop ethics poll, lawyers are often rated *at* the

bottom. Judson, a trained civil mediator since 1997, aims for communication that is solution-driven. To accomplish solutions to public problems, a mediator must speak in a way to elicit participation. He noted: Communication is enhanced when you realize that *truly hearing issues from your opponents’ perspective offers you options to solve problems.*

First, he said, mediators *use open-ended questions to gain insights.* This form of inquiry often creates a dialog, even among parties for whom agreeable conversation is anathema. That dialog begins to build a foundation of trust. Judson noted that communication in controlled environments, such as courtrooms, proceeds more easily than does communication in public places. Consequently, civil mediators must undergo conflict coaching. They learn that conflict is a given—it is always there—and that its management is crucial. In conflict situations, Judson suggests one proceed in five steps: 1) identify the conflict; 2) identify your personal objective; 3) create a scenario which resolves the conflict for you; then 4) step back and ask yourself if that resolution is realistic for *all* parties; and finally, 5) ask what scenario works best for them? Judson noted civil mediators seldom eliminate all acrimony in public conversations; however, those with conflicting views can more comfortably approach change with mutual respect and courtesy.

Rebecca Rogan directs the Traverse City Area Conflict Resolution Center, one of 18 statewide centers, funded by the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office, and in operation for 36 years. Its purpose is to promote community-wide conversations.

Rogan observed there are times when it is understandable, even acceptable, to be enraged about events. However, she cautioned, it is *how one acts* upon that rage that matters. She acknowledged, quoting author John Maxwell, there are extreme voices in a community’s debate. And often, it is the majority, who by

definition, claim the “common ground,” and who are quiescent. Rogan noted that *a community’s common ground is its shareable ground that all can live with*. There is, said Rogan, *always* shareable ground in a community.

Rogan spoke about virtual arguments—those conveyed online via computers—and called them frightening. Our arguments—both virtual and real—require what Rogan called *our super power—that of listening*. Rogan asked: how do we get to *listening*? She offered three steps: 1) Listen to hear; 2) Ask clarifying questions to seek the underlying feelings of participants; and 3) give an opportunity to answer. In sum, Rogan advises we must listen twice as much as we speak.



H. Lynn Jondahl speaking at the League meeting on Civility in Government.

**Do you have a book to recommend for the League’s Reading Group?**

**Please send the title and author’s name to Marian or tell a Board member at our November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.**

**VOTE  
NOVEMBER 8th**

**Consider making a year-end gift to the League of Women Voters Leelanau County.**

Gifts to the Education Fund are tax-deductible and help us inform the public. Gifts to the General Fund pay for the day-to-day expenses of the League. Donations to the Barbara Reinert Fund are used to help us supplement those who are unable to pay the entire amount of our dues.

Please indicate where you would like your gift credited and send your check to

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