



The Leelanau VOTER

September 2016

**2016-2017
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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.....

October is going to be one of our busiest months ever. There is something for everyone.

Burnt out from political discussions that seem to go nowhere? Get some tips at our October 5th forum: **Civility in Government: How to Talk with People with Whom You Disagree.**

We will continue with Candidate Forums and Voter Registration efforts. We are still hopeful that all the candidates will appear at the forums. The forum for County Prosecutor, County Treasurer and 101st State Representative drew a crowd of just over 100 residents. We had more questions for the candidates than time allowed. All the candidates arrived early and stayed late to interact with voters. This is an opportunity not to be missed by the candidates or the voters.

On October 24, we will co-host a showing of *Equal Means Equal* at the Bay Theater. It is troubling that women and men still do not have equal rights under federal law in the United States. It is more troubling that most people do not know this and that it is not front and center in civic discussions. An important film to bring for the younger generation to see. This film won the Audience Award at the Film Festival this year.

We close the month by co-hosting with NMEAC a talk by Peter Sinclair on Climate Change. If you have not heard Peter before, do not miss the October 26 event at the Traverse Area District Library. Even if you have heard him before, he comes prepared with up-to-date information on and response to earth's changes.

Remember, voting is a civic responsibility. Offer your friends and neighbors a ride to the polls. Request an absentee ballot if you will not be here on November 8th. Our goal: to make our democracy strong.

*Best regards,
Marian*



CIVILITY IN GOVERNMENT:

How to Talk with People with Whom You Disagree

PANEL DISCUSSION

H. Lynn Jondahl

Retired legislator with 22 years of experience

Charles Judson

Statewide recognized mediator, business facilitator and arbitrator

Rebecca Garland Rogan

Executive Director of Conflict Resolution Service

Wednesday, October 5 at 12 noon

Lower Level, Leelanau County Government Center



JO WALKER

former Treasurer and current LWVLC webmaster. Jo is also responsible for entering all the information from local candidates on the League's VOTE411 site.

Thank you Jo!!!

Tiny Bits of Plastic in the Great Lakes

Researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey tested 29 Great Lakes tributary rivers for bits of plastic. In a telling signal of our times, they [found plastic in all samples](#). The most common plastics found were fibers, which come from diapers, cigarette butts, and synthetic materials used in clothing. The highest concentrations were found in the Huron River, near Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Total plastic concentrations are even higher than the study indicates. The researchers looked only for particles larger than 0.3 millimeters, roughly the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen. Most microplastics in water are one-third that size, notes Austin Baldwin, the study's lead author.

from: [Circle of Blue](#) 9/19

LEELANAU CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 am BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONF. ROOM 2

OCTOBER 5

Noon MEMBER MEETING
Civility in Government
LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT CENTER

OCTOBER 14-15

LWV LAKE MICHIGAN REGION Conference
PORTER, INDIANA

OCTOBER 24

9:30 am BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONF. ROOM 2

NOVEMBER 4

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

NOVEMBER 28

9:30 am BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONF. ROOM 2

CANDIDATE FORUMS

SEPTEMBER 29

Board of Commissioners
Districts 1, 6, and 7
7 pm - Elmwood Fire Hall

OCTOBER 4

Board of Commissioners
Districts 4 and 5
7 pm - Leelanau Township Fire Hall

OCTOBER 6

Board of Commissioners
Districts 2 and 3
7 pm - Suttons Bay Fire Hall

OCTOBER 10

Congressional Candidates
7 pm – Lars Hockstad Auditorium
Traverse City

OCTOBER 17

Northport Board of Education
7 pm – Leelanau Township Fire Hall

*Celebration of
Kathy Turner's Life
Saturday, October 15th at 2 pm
at Saving Birds Thru Habitat*

DUES ARE DUE now.

If you joined after February 1, 2016, you do not owe dues.

Dues are \$60/individual or \$90/household.

Checks should be made out to League of Women Voters Leelanau County (LWVLC) and sent to Treasurer, Nancy Duck, P. O. Box 992, Leland, MI 49654.

Or, you may pay at the meeting on October 5th.

Candidate Forum Packed – More Than 100 People Attend

The League's first forum of 2016 attracted a huge crowd at the Government Center on Wednesday evening, September 21st. The evening began with the candidates for Leelanau County Prosecutor and Treasurer. Following them were the candidates for the 101st District for the MI House of Representatives. Time ran out before the questions did. All unasked questions will be sent to the candidates so they can see the voters' concerns. Judge Michael Stepka moderated the event.

The Leelanau Horticultural Society joined the League as a co-sponsor.



Candidate for County Prosecutor answering questions posed by the audience.



Question Screeners L to R: Gary Bardenhagen, Vina Mikesell, Peter Wolcott and Joan Hunaultv

You are invited ...



to attend a viewing and discussion of *Equal Means Equal*, a film about the Equal Rights Amendment guaranteeing equality for women and men. Directed by Kamala Lopez, the film is sponsored by the Bay Theater, LWVLC, Womenable, the Women's Lawyers Association, the Women's Circle and other contributors.

Equal Means Equal is an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. By following both real life stories and precedent setting legal cases, director Lopez discovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace matters to domestic violence, from rape and sexual assault to the foster care system and from the healthcare system and the legal system. Along the way the film reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24 AT 6:30PM.

DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW at The Bay Theater in Suttons Bay. More details to follow.

LWVLC Committee meetings

- **Age Friendly Leelanau**
Monday, October 3 – 10 am
Government Center
- **Energy and Natural Resources**
Wednesday, October 5– 10am
Conf. Room 1, Government Center
- **Early Childhood Needs and Services**
Friday October 21 at noon
Munnecke Room, Leland Library
- **Farm Labor Task Force**
Monday, October 17 at 9:30am
Law Library, Government Center

The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee has been planning the Nov. 2 LWVLC Forum on "Early Childhood Intervention, Resiliency and Good Health." They have been interviewing local leaders in the early childhood field to learn of barriers interfering with the universal implementation of early childhood services and solutions to overcome them.

PIPELINE UPDATE

On Monday night, September 19th, the Bingham Township Board decided to wait until October to make a decision about signing a resolution against the pipeline. In the mean time, they want to review the exact language of the League's proposed resolution and compare it to the re-write by Suttons Bay and the earlier Empire resolution.

The Board listened to a short verbal presentation from an Enbridge spokesperson from the St. Ignace office. There was discussion between the public and the board and then they moved on to other business.

In early December, members will receive a current Directory with a calendar of dates and contact information for members. Until then, here are the monthly programs planned for 2016-2017

October 5 *Civility in Government: How to Talk with People with Whom You Disagree*

November 2 *Early Childhood Intervention, Resiliency and Good Health*

December 14 *Holiday Luncheon*

January 4 *Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail*

February 1 *LWVMI Tax Consensus Meeting and Presentation*

March 1 *Changing Ethnic Demographics/Refugees*

April 5 *Farm Labor Task Force*

May 3 *Age Friendly Leelanau*

June 7 *Energy and Natural Resources*

The Energy & Natural Resources Committee is currently planning a Solar Harvest Tour for October 30 from 1:00-4:30 pm with information and docents at various Leelanau County solar sites. The committee continues to focus on important natural resource issues impacting Leelanau County as well as doing independent and group investigations on selected issues. Our goal is to share that information in various ways during 2016-17 well as at the June 7th LWVLC general membership program.

New committee members are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26
Traverse Area District Library at 6:30pm.

Very Current Updates on Climate Chaos with Peter Sinclair

sponsored by NMEAC and LWVLC

Peter is a nationally known video photographer specializing in issues related to Climate Change and renewable energy solutions. Peter produces the video series "This is Not Cool" for Yale Climate Connections as well as hundreds of videos in the series "Climate Denial Crock of the Week." Peter's presentations are always up-to-the-minute as well as inspirational with positive things folks can do.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
Haggerty Center from 8:30am – 3pm

Freshwater Summit

This is an annual conference of environmental professionals and concerned citizens focusing on current issues facing the Great Lakes region. Topics: Aquatic Invasive Species; Agriculture Sustainability and Impacts on Water Quality; Local research and restoration projects (stormwater management, groundwater evaluations, Schoolship monitoring, and the Boardman River Dams Ecosystem Restoration Project) and more! Cost: \$35/person, \$15 for students. Includes lunch. The Freshwater Summit is a product of the Freshwater Roundtable and is organized by The Watershed Center, NMC's Water Studies Institute, Michigan Sea Grant Extension, Great Lakes Environmental Center, Inland Seas Education Association, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, and Grand Traverse Conservation District. <http://www.tray.org/our-programs/freshwater-summit/>



Ann McInnis and Jane Packard will represent our League at the 2016 Annual Conference and Meeting of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region on October 14-15th. This meeting hosts speakers and workshops on issues affecting Lake Michigan. Each year a different state sponsors the event. This year it is in Porter, IN.

The theme of this year's meeting is "The Art and Craft of Saving Lake Michigan."



REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Nancy Duck and Vina Mikesell were determined to make the most of the National League Convention they attended in June. Following is a sample of the workshops and caucuses they attended.

Vina's first caucus was **Immigration: Unlawful Re-entry and Criminal Activity** presented by the New Mexican League. Apparently each state handles immigrant re-entries differently. In New Mexico, someone who was deported and is caught returning is sentenced to 20 years in jail. The conditions are abysmal. Nancy attended **Missing Links in Gerrymandering Solutions** with Representative David Moon, from the Maryland House of Delegates. He introduced her to the concept of multi-member districts that allow for more representation and is used in the MD House of Delegates. This is currently not permitted by law for Federal elections. Some organizations are working to change that law in the interest of fairness.

Awaking at 6 am on Friday for 7:30 caucuses, Vina went to **Toward a More Uniform Criminal Justice System** presented by the LWV PA. More people are awaiting trial than are in federal prisons. Nancy went to **Youth Voter Registration: Learn Winning Tactics**. The presenters spoke about producing films for young potential voters, using college students and other youth as researchers, writers and actors. Young people are reached more easily by digital media. Vina's evening caucus was **Behavioral Health Concurrence: Integrated Care for the Whole Person**. Excellent speakers emphasized the need for testing at the early age of 5 – for all children. If mental disease is caught early, the brain can heal. If we wait too long nothing can help. Exacerbating this problem is the lack of professionals who can make a difference.

On Saturday, Nancy chose to attend **From the Grassroots: Bringing Gun Safety to America**. Leagues are forming coalitions to work towards common sense gun legislation. People are encouraged to get to know their legislators and let them know they represent the voters. Responsible gun ownership is a public safety issue not a 2nd amendment issue. Vina attended **Local Action for Global Concerns: The Water/Climate Nexus**. The room was filled to overflowing to hear Lynn Scarlett, the Nature Conservancy's Global Policy Director. Nancy also explored **501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4): Which to Be or Both?** Over the past 5 years, 3 state Leagues and more than 50 local Leagues have converted to being totally 501(c)(3). In Michigan all local Leagues are under the State League so local Leagues cannot act to become all 501(c)(3).

In addition, there were roundtable discussions at lunch and lots of informal gatherings.

**Both Nancy and Vina were happy to return to Leelanau
to share their information and to rest!**

The 2016 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE is closed but we continue to welcome contributions.
Since June, we have received donations from the following:

GENERAL FUND	Members	Betty and Dennis Bushey Karen Wachs *****
	Friends	Anita and Porter Abbott
ED FUND	Members	Anne Harper Judy Hoeffler Bonnie Spanier and Stephen Brown *****
	Friends	Anita and Porter Abbott Larry Coppard and Susan Ager

Are there micro-plastics in terrestrial ecosystems and in the soil?

“We live in a “plastic age” with tons and tons of plastic used annually, the majority of which is for disposable use. Due to limited recovery of discarded materials and its durability, plastic debris is accumulating in the environment. These micro-plastics present a new set of issues. They are small enough to be taken up by biota, thus accumulating in the food chain. They can absorb pollutants on their surfaces, thus enriching them on these particles.”

Little research has been done in studying micro-plastics in terrestrial systems, soil, compost, and even in the air because it is even more difficult to study them in these environments than in aquatic ones. “Once in the soil, these micro particles may persist, accumulate, and eventually reach levels that can affect the functioning and biodiversity of the soil and terrestrial ecosystems.” (from *Microplastic in Terrestrial Ecosystems and the Soil?*, Matthias C. Rillig, Environmental Science and Technology.)

What might be the health implications for living organisms....(that includes humans)?

What can we do for now?

1. Keep plastic (and plastic coated products) out of the soil and your compost bins (examples: paper plates, cups, juice and milk boxes, plastic utensils etc.). Recycle them.
2. Check the labels. Compostable products don't contain any petroleum-based plastics. Look for words beginning with “poly.....”
3. When possible, choose items not made with plastic or which do not contain a portion of the products made of plastic.
4. Always carry a reusable bag with you...pick up discarded plastic and junk items for proper disposal later in a recycling container.
5. Hold the packaging industry accountable for such claims as “earth friendly” and “biodegradable” products which in fact may not be.

contributed by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee