



# The Leelanau VOTER

May-June 2014

2014-2015  
Board of Directors

Vina Mikesell  
CHAIR and EDITOR

Marian Kromkowski  
VICE-CHAIR

Jacquie Johnson, SECRETARY

Jo Walker, TREASURER

**DIRECTORS**

Christi Bardenhagen

Betty Bushey

BJ Christensen

Nancy Duck

Fran Eckerson

Judy Hoeffler

Suzanne Hoff

Ann McInnis

Martha Shaver

**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

Wednesday, June 4

**MEMBER MEETING**

12 noon

“The Changing Dynamics of Leelanau County: What Are the Opportunities and Challenges in Our Corner of Michigan?”

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



**ALSO FOR MEMBERS**

Wednesday, JUNE 4 - 10 am

The Energy/Natural Resources Committee Meeting is hosting Lisa Del Buono from the Northern Michigan Citizens Climate Lobby for an abbreviated explanation of the revenue-neutral carbon tax proposal.

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



June 6-10

**NATIONAL LWVUS CONVENTION**

Dallas, Texas



Monday, June 16th - 2:45 pm

**USHERING AT THE STATE THEATER**



Monday, June 30

1 - 5 pm

**LWVLC BOARD RETREAT**

Susan and Bill Hoff's home

## Meetings

Wednesday, June 4 at noon

The LWVLC committee studying the "Challenges of a Changing Leelanau" will share the information they have gathered this past year. Judy Hoeffler, Phil Mikesell, Betty Bushey, Barbara Reinert, Barbara Schneider and Ty Wessell have been conducting interviews of local county elected and appointed officials, among others.

After this presentation, we will discuss the various forums we plan to have after the August 5<sup>th</sup> primary. Five commissioners will have opponents. There will also be village elections.

Join us at noon to learn more about your County. Invite friends and neighbors. This will be our last member meeting until September.

 Wednesday, June 4 at 10 am

The Energy and Natural Resources Committee is hosting Lisa Del Buono from the Northern Michigan Citizens Climate Lobby for an abbreviated explanation of the revenue-neutral carbon tax (a tax on carbon at its point of extraction) proposal. The fee collected on the carbon extracted would be returned to the American people, equally on a per person basis, increasing each year for 10 years. The beauty of this proposal is that it would encourage a market based decrease in the use of carbon and give each citizen a choice to curtail his or her carbon use or not. Several states are already proposing this, and, since 2007, it has been a success in British Columbia, cutting carbon use there 7 fold. LWVLC member Dave Barrons and Dr. James Hansen promote this proposal. We expect this will give our committee more ideas for future directions, questions for candidates and elected officials, and options for potential LWVLC speakers, etc.

We will meet in the Community Room of the Government Center where our noon meeting will also take place. All are welcome to come and learn along with our committee about this potentially exciting proposal.

### **DUES ARE DUE!!**

**Individuals - \$60      Household - \$90**

**Send your check to Jo Walker, PO Box 132, Leland, MI 49654  
or bring payment to the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

## Annual Dinner Meeting Big Success

Nearly 100 people came to hear our special speaker, the Hon. Bridget Mary McCormick, Michigan Supreme Court Justice. Escorted to the dinner by Cindy and Dean Robb, Justice McCormick recounted her first 16 months on the Court. Introduced by Marian Kromkowski, the Justice explained her routine and how she and the other Justices work together. She stressed that the group's decisions were mostly unanimous and that each was open to learning from the others in civil discourse. Questions about funding elections for the Court and the current Court's reputation were asked. People also wanted to know how Justice McCormick managed to balance being a mother of four teenagers with the demands of her position.

Barbara Reinert and Mary Tonneberger received Outstanding Member Awards from their good friends, Barbara Marsh and Nana Kennedy. This is the first time our League has given this award.

Following the Justice's speech, the Annual Business meeting was convened. Forty members were present and voted to adopt the slate of officers and directors, By-law changes, the 2014-15 Budget, local studies and a Non-Partisan Policy. Retiring Board members, Barbara Reinert and Sharon Golm were thanked for their years of service and commitment to the League.



Treasurer Jo Walker and Secretary Sharon Golm set up at the Leland Lodge



Guests



Vina Mikesell and Justice McCormick



Outstanding Member Awardees and Friends  
Left to right: Barbara Marsh, Barbara Reinert, Vina Mikesell, Mary Tonneberger and Nana Kennedy

## *Message from the President*

What a great year we have had!! Amazing programs, huge growth and terrific publicity. Much of this is due to the wonderful women who have served on the League Board. Barbara Reinert and Sharon Gorm's terms are up, and we will miss them. Fortunately, both have agreed to serve in other capacities.

May was a particularly good month. Our League hosted the LWVMI Regional Workshop on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Women from as far away as Escanaba and Alpena joined our nine members and others from the Grand Traverse and Manistee Leagues. Susan Smith, State President, and Eva Packard, Voters Service Chair, conducted the sessions.

Our May meeting on Early Childhood Development featured Mary Manner and members of the League's study committee. Voters Service registered 58 students from the four county public high schools. The annual meeting was a huge success with half our members attending and with many other guests from the area.

And finally, our Annual Fund request from members and friends has brought in over \$3,000 for next year's activities. Contributions may still be made.

What's next? In early June, Marian Kromkowski will represent our League at the National Convention in Dallas. At the end of June, new and retiring Board members will meet to plan next year's program. We welcome your ideas.

This is the last VOTER until August. Get ready to help with candidate forums and registering voters in the fall. Have a wonderful summer.

*Vina Mikesell*

**Thanks to Doug McInnis  
for performing the yearly required audit  
of our books.**

## **OBSERVER CORPS**

Throughout the United States, members of the League of Women Voters have representatives who observe the work of various governmental bodies up to and including The United Nations. The Open Meetings Law ensures "the right of all citizens to have advance notice of and to attend all meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon, with certain limited exceptions to protect the public interest and preserve personal privacy." The objective of the Observer Corp is "to monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community/state." (lww.org)

The LWVLC would like to strengthen our Observer Corp. While we have some members who are Observers we would like to have more. I have been an Observer of the Leland Township Board for several years and have found it very interesting. An observer "is the eyes and ears of the League." (lww.org) There are very few members of the public who attend these board meetings from beginning to end. Observers do not speak unless they have permission from the local League's board to speak on an issue that is consistent with LWV positions.

At the June meeting I will have a sign-up sheet. We would like to have Observers at the County Commission, the village Councils and Township Boards. You may check Leelanau County's Website <http://www.leelanau.cc> for the various boards and councils as well as the times that they regularly meet or look on pages 14-16 of the 2014 "Leelanau Pages" phonebook.

Come to the June 4 meeting prepared to sign up.

**Nancy Duck, Observers Chair**



*From Barbara Reinert*

*Many thanks to LWVLC for honoring my years of League involvement. League has been an important part of my life since 1951.*

*The stimulation of study plus action brought my husband, Ed, into the League 40 years ago, as soon as men were invited to join. While he never baked cookies, he served on study committees and worked as a League lobbyist at the Kansas Legislature.*

*As support of League has, so often, been our joint effort, I want to mention Ed's role in the earning of the Outstanding Service Award.*

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Karen Cross - Northport  
Berkley Duck – Leland  
Don Ramsdell – Northport



Christi Bardenhagen at Northport School

### The **VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

applied for and received a \$500 grant from the LWVUS for our Youth Voter Registration project. Committee members visited the four public high schools in Leelanau County with Laurel Evans, Deputy Clerk. We provided a LWVUS VOTE brochure, information about acceptable Voter IDs, Absentee Voting Requirements, especially as they apply to new voters, and a New Voter Checklist. All handouts were translated into Spanish. We registered 11 students at Leland High School, 15 at Suttons Bay, 26 at Glen Lake, and 6 at Northport. Laurel registered 1 student at St. Mary and left our handouts. According to Laurel, 59 is a record number of newly registered voters from our Leelanau high schools.

The documents we created are now available at the County Clerk's Office to give to new voters.



Northport Students Registering to Vote



Leland Students Filling Out Forms

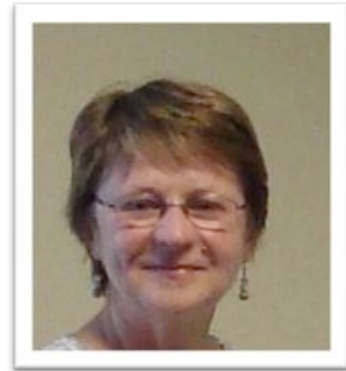
from the Farm Labor Task Force.....

*We welcome new member, Don Ramsdell, to our committee.*

*Early in May, Vina and I met with County Administrator, Chet Janik, to encourage the addition of Google Translation to the County's newly designed website. Mr. Janik was very enthusiastic about our suggestion, and said he would request that the capability to translate the site into other languages be added. The Allegan County website uses this program which is capable of translating into 60 different languages.*

*June 1 is the current launch date for the new Leelanau County website. We are hopeful that there will also be a link to LWVLC*

*Suzanne Hoff, Chair*



## National Convention Highlights

The 51st National Convention of the League of Women Voters will be held June 6–10, 2014, in Dallas, Texas, at the Omni Dallas Downtown Hotel.

Our delegate, LWVLC Vice-president Marian Kromkowski, will join hundreds of national, state and local League leaders from around the country for this lively biennial event. Delegates will hear powerful and informative speakers, learn more about the issues important to the organization and the nation, participate in training sessions and join in the discussion and networking that make the League a strong and vital force in our democracy.

In addition to voting for national officers and directors, delegates will pass a budget, caucus on proposed positions, and meet interesting people from all over the United States.

We look forward to Marian's report in the next VOTER.

## Save the date

**"A Journey to Rwanda:  
Where women entrepreneurs are  
building their country and making a  
real difference."**

**Guest Presenter: Monika Smiley,  
editor and publisher of  
Enterprising Women**

**Monday, August 11 at 10:30 am  
place to be announced**

**If you missed hearing Justice McCormack in person, the program  
has been videotaped and will be available for viewing  
on UpNorth 2 and on our website [LWVleelanau.org](http://LWVleelanau.org).**