



The Leelanau VOTER

May 2014

2013-2014 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.

LEELANAU CALENDAR

Friday, May 2

REGISTERING STUDENTS TO VOTE AT LELAND SCHOOL



Saturday, May 3

LWVMI REGIONAL WORKSHOP

10 am - 2 pm

LELAND TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
(registration required)



Wednesday, May 7 - 12 noon

MEMBER MEETING
"A Great Start for All Children"

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

REGISTERING STUDENTS AT GLEN LAKE HIGH SCHOOL



Monday, May 19th - 2:45 pm

USHERING AT THE STATE THEATER



Thursday, May 22 - 5:30 pm
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

"Impressions from My First Term
on the Bench"

Justice Bridget McCormack

LELAND LODGE
Reservations Required - 386-9049
\$30.00/person



Tuesday, May 27th - 9:00 am

LWVLC BOARD MEETING
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



LWVLC Challenges to **Meetings**

Wednesday, May 7 at noon

On May 7 the LWVLC will host "A Great Start for All Children." Mary Manner, the coordinator for the Great Start Traverse Bay/Manistee Collaborative, will discuss the 5 to ONE project, a rural model for an early childhood system of resources across a five-county service area that includes Leelanau County. This presentation is the product of the LWVLC Early Childhood Study Group. It has been looking at opportunities available for children from birth to 3 and their families within Leelanau County. Committee members Marian Kromkowski, Susan Miller and Patricia Soutas-Little will also speak at the meeting.

Mary is employed by the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce through a unique community partnership between the Chamber and the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. This partnership is committed to investing in early childhood as part of a regional plan for sustainable economic prosperity. Her work revolves around community engagement, economic development, and systems change, with the goal of ensuring that all children arrive at the door to kindergarten ready for school and life.

Our meeting begins at noon in the Community Room of the Government Center. Please invite friends and neighbors to this program.



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 5th primary. All but one commissioner will have an opponent. 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 meeting until September.

REMEMBER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE'S ANNUAL FUND.

Attend the Annual Dinner Meeting



Thursday, May 22, 2014
AT THE LELAND LODGE

Cost: \$30 per person

Buffet Dinner includes a Caesar Salad and Bread
Maple Crusted Pork Tenderloin, Herb Roasted Chicken
and Tri-Color Cheese Tortellini with Vegetable Alfredo Sauce
Vegetable Medley and a Bar & Brownie Selection
Coffee Station

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY MAY 15TH.

The evening begins at 5:30 pm. Cash Bar. Dinner is at 6:00 pm.

At 7:00 pm we are honored to host, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack as this year's guest speaker. She will talk about her first 18 months on the bench of the highest court in Michigan.

A League business meeting will follow the speaker. Per our By-Laws, we must vote on the 2014-2015 Slate, By-Laws revisions, the 2014-15 Budget, Local program and our Non-Partisan Policy.

Detach this form and mail with your check, made out to LWVLC, to:
Jo Walker, P.O. Box 132, Leland, MI 49654

Name(s) _____ will be attending the dinner.

Enclosed is a check for _____ dinners at \$30/each.

Total = _____

PLEASE INVITE FRIENDS.

OTHER LEAGUES' ANNUAL MEETINGS

Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 6 pm

Sue Smith, President of LWV Michigan, will speak at the LWV Manistee County Annual Dinner at the Blue Fish Restaurant in Manistee.

Her topic is "The Meaning of League Membership and the Mission and Impact of LWV."

For more information, email Nancy Behring.

Friday, May 16, 2014 at 5:30 pm

Tim Skubick, the longest serving member of the state capitol press corps, will be speaking at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. The cost is \$35. Registration and payment for the dinner and speech must be received by May 8th.

For more information, email Donna Hornberger.

AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS AWARDS

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we have selected **Barbara Reinert and Mary Tonneberger** to receive our first ever awards for "Outstanding Service."

The award is presented to a current League member or members for his or her work with the League. Join us as we honor **Barbara** and **Mary** at our Annual Dinner Meeting.

*Welcome to
Our Newest Members*

*Merry Ball - Leland
Bruce Borchardt - Maple City
Joan and David Brown - Omena
Peg Ramsdell - Northport
Henrietta Barnes - Northport
Philip Thomas - Northport*

THE BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

Thanks to Betty Bushey for her work in creating the League's very successful movie series. Our last film, Wadjda, had our biggest crowd ever. Movies will resume at the Old Art Building next October.

If you have suggestions for future films, please contact Betty.

You may pay your 2014-15 dues and for the Annual Meeting Dinner at our May 7th meeting.

The Early Childhood Development Committee will meet on May 19th at noon at the Leland Public Library

Did You Know?

If you missed these Energy League programs you can access them on our LWVLC website:

<http://www.lwvleelanau.org/>

Click on "video links" for

- **Sept. 4, 2013** program with **Dave Barrons** (climate instability—heat balance).
- **Feb. 25, 2014** **Energy Forum** with **Brian Beauchamp** (Energy Efficiency and Conservation); **Steve Smiley** (solar and wind); **Heatherlyn J. Reamer** (agricultural efficiency); and **Stephanie Mills** (voluntary simplicity).
- **April 2, 2014** program with **Dr. Christopher Grobbel** (fracking for oil and gas).

Click on "studies" for

- ppt of **Steve Smiley**
- ppt. of **Dr. Christopher Grobbel**
- **AND** our LWV program by **Skip Pruss**....on YouTube, **October 3, 2012** (renewable energy portfolio standards).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBEdKMacWvc>

From VOTERS SERVICE

Did you know that fewer than 50% of young adults 18-24 actually vote? That is a terrible turnout considering that every issue important to you and future generations will be decided by the next elected legislators. Laws last a really long time and their impact is enormous!

During April and May members of the Voter Services Committee will be visiting our six Leelanau high schools along with the county clerk or her representative to register students to vote. Our 15-minute classroom visit will begin with an interactive activity to demonstrate why it is so important to vote. Each student will receive a packet of information including **Michigan Voter Rights and Responsibilities**, a brochure from the LWVUS titled **VOTE**, and a new voter checklist. We will also include a handout explaining acceptable forms of voter ID and absentee voting, especially as it applies to 18 year olds who may be leaving home for college, a job or the military. This information is also available in Spanish. We will follow up with our newly registered voters to remind them to vote.

Following the high schools we also plan to visit the Baby Pantry, Laundry Project, Food Pantries, and Parent groups to encourage people to register and vote. Please check with all your family members to emphasize how important it is for them to register and VOTE! If they don't know or are not sure if they are registered, or to gather more information about elections, go to

www.michigan.gov/VOTE.



ENERGY FORUM AND FAIR February 25, 2014 at the Government Center

Ann McInnis and Suzanne Hoff speaking with Stephanie Mills, a panelist, to the right.

Stephanie, on behalf of the Post Carbon Institute, presented five copies of **ENERGY Overdevelopment and the Illusion of Endless Growth** to our League. We gave a copy to each of the county libraries and have a copy for our members.

I WAS HUNGRY

For three years my husband and I have volunteered at the Kino Border Initiative, a bi-national ministry on the U.S. Mexico border run by Jesuit priests and Mexican nuns. The ministry's mission is to help make humane, just, workable migration between the U.S. and Mexico a reality in "a spirit of bi-national solidarity." We live in Tucson, just over an hour from Nogales, Mexico, and our awareness of border issues is much more acute here than in Michigan where we spend our summers.

We travel monthly to Nogales. Our contributions are minimal: serviceable clothing collected from our community, financial support and help serving meals to deportees and to those attempting to cross to find work in the U.S. It is a complex situation. Some have asked if we are afraid to go to the border; others question anyone helping deportees. Much of my impulse comes from my faith, which reminds me "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was naked and you clothed me." People are deported with what they are wearing. One man arrived with just a hospital gown and slippers.

"There are criminal elements along the border and yes, we have to address those criminal elements," said Bishop Kicanas of Tucson, "but we also have to find a way for economic migrants to contribute to our society." The dining hall where we volunteer offers food twice a day for five days to anyone, Hondurans, Salvadorans, Mexicans. There I have met and spoken with dozens of people. "Coyotes" or guides take thousands of dollars from migrants, promising safe crossings. Often migrants are brutalized instead. Many young women attempt to get to California to pick strawberries. They usually carry condoms with them and take birth control measures as they expect to be raped as part of the journey. They do not want to raise children of their rapists. Two thousand people have died since 2001, many of them children, trying to cross a stretch of the remote Sonoran desert into Arizona. The border is lined with unmarked graves.

Women at the Comedor, the dining hall, sit together, awaiting the beans and rice cooked miraculously in the tiny kitchen by one paid cook and several volunteers. Some days there are as many as 140 people, served two meals a day. The women are dressed in dark clothing, huddled sometimes in the cold; they look afraid, depressed and lost. Their stories differ, but a recurring theme is: their children and sometimes a husband are in the U.S. After years of working in restaurants or hotels or as domestics, a loved one, usually a parent, becomes ill in Mexico. They return to care for the parent. Now they wait in Nogales unable to return to the U.S. The Kino Initiative has a women's' shelter, but migrants are allowed only a short respite. I have sat among them in that humble place and heard their stories and prayers. Always it is the same prayer: "reunite me with my loved ones por favor Dios, and help me find work." They invoke Guadalupe to guide them on their journey.

I met a deported mother at the bus station reunited with her children on December 12th the Festival of Guadalupe Day. There was such joy among them I thought it was a permanent reunion, but no. A friend with papers had helped the children, U.S. citizens, cross to meet her. She would return them in two weeks to cross back to the U.S. where they are being raised by a relative. I slipped her some money and hugged her, turned and saw in that desolate place, shining from her brown radiant face, Guadalupe, the Mother of us all.

So what takes me to Nogales month after month I ask myself? Is it to be witness, to serve in a small way, to reach out in solidarity? Yes. But even more it is the gift I receive: observing their tenacity to find a better life, their hope in what is yet to come, and their faith amidst the suffering.

Nancy Fitzgerald
April 2014



Nancy Fitzgerald with deportees in Nogales, MX

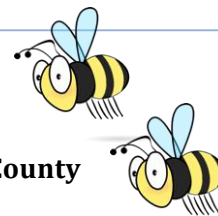
Senate Bill 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, passed in the U.S. Senate in June 2013.

However, the contentiousness surrounding immigration legislation has held up the passing of a new immigration bill in the U.S. House. Our local agricultural employers don't foresee any relief in securing an adequate number of skilled seasonal workers through a new streamlined seasonal worker visa in the near future. The LWVUS stays abreast of this legislation, and encourages our individual participation in this discussion with our district representative. You will find an easy path to sending your thoughts to Representative Benishek through this LWVUS web link:

<http://lww.org/issues/reforming-immigration>

The Challenges of Leelanau Committee meets at 11 am on Wed., May 7 in the Government Building's Community Room, in preparation for its June 4 presentation to the membership. All interviews by committee members should be completed by the May 7 meeting.

WE'VE BEEN BUSY!!!



In April the LWV Leelanau County

- Hosted Dr. Christopher Grobbell's program to a standing-room only crowd
- Donated a book on energy to each of the county libraries
- Showed the film, Wadjda, to our largest audience this year
- Held our Book Discussion at Nancy Duck's home on a biography of Frances Perkins
- Created and translated into Spanish two documents for new voters
- Began our first Annual Fund Drive

from the Farm Labor Task Force.....

What has attracted skilled workers, single and with families, to come all the way to Northern Michigan? They have told members of the Farm Labor Task Force that good housing, access to health care, childcare and educational opportunity, a fair wage and fair treatment by employers, the community, and law enforcement brings them back year after year. When that isn't in place, they will find work elsewhere.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 27 -- at 11:00 am in the Government Center. After a year of gathering information, the group is preparing for the October meeting where League members will be given an update and will be asked to participate in a consensus for forming our local position on Farm Labor.

Suzanne Hoff, Chair

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014 AT 4:00 PM – Leelanau School Administration Building Dining Area

WITH GLEN ARBOR, EMPIRE, AND KASSON TOWNSHIPS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPTIC INSPECTION ORDINANCES, the time is right for some input from one local community with experience – the Village of Empire. Zoning Administrator, William Fuller, will discuss lessons learned and some developing best practices based on over two years of experience with this ordinance in place. As the Zoning Administrator for the Village, Mr. Fuller has been involved in the process of development and implementation since 2010.

Mark your calendar and bring a friend. This event is free and open to the public & is sponsored by Leelanau Independent Women for democratic action (LIWdA). For more information call 231-642-1391.

F R A C K I N G

September 10, 2012 To: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
From: Elisabeth MacNamara, President LWVUS

Re: Comments of the League of Women Voters of the United States on the Proposed Rule: Oil and Gas: Well Stimulation, Including Hydraulic Fracturing, on Federal and Indian Lands

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), with its long tradition of advocacy for natural resources, is grateful for the opportunity to provide input to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding proposed rules related to oil and gas – specifically those involving well stimulation, including hydraulic fracturing, on Federal and Indian Lands.

At its 2010 National Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia, LWVUS unanimously adopted a resolution to support safe drilling and mining practices. We support the significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening includes the elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment.

.... Disclosure

Because transparency is a LWVUS core belief essential for good government, disclosure is critical – particularly on public lands and in processes that impact public health. We would encourage you to maintain the proposed language while adding the requirement to disclose chemicals after, as well as before, fracking. Such information is essential for testing water sources in the vicinity of extraction sites. Given the unpredictable upwelling and migration of liquids through evolving geological formations, the use of tracers in the injected chemicals should be considered as a way to track chemicals and determine sources of contamination.

Confidential “trade secret” information must be made available immediately to emergency responders and medical professionals. This is critical to treating patients and responding to unanticipated consequences. Such data is also essential for vital research related to epidemiological studies essential to

the protection of public health.

.... **Well Integrity**

Given existing and projected data on the short- and long-term failure rate of well casings, the proposed rules are a step in the right direction. However, they are not based on the best available practices or current technology. To protect water sources, requirements should be extended to include language to address the depth below the usable water that the surface casing must be set and the design and use of intermediate and production casing. While the existing language speaks to the surface casing, additional provisions should address cement logs on intermediate and production casing to ensure proper isolation of hydrocarbon-bearing zones. It would be prudent to establish different standards of well integrity based on the seismic character of the geological formations involved in the extraction process.

Toxic Waste Management

The disposal of wastes from fracking and other fossil fuel extractive processes is problematic. Both today and in the past, disposal has created serious and permanent damage to the environment and public health. To reduce these problems, the BLM proposal should require best practices that continue to evolve with technology. This includes the use of closed loop systems to capture waste in tanks rather than open pits. To protect clean air, requirements, consistent with federal rules to be implemented in 2014, should be put in place immediately to require the capturing of toxic air contaminants and global warming pollutants. Both of these changes, related to waste disposal, are of benefit to both the well-being of the public and the bottom line of the industry. Because of the inclusion of heavy metals, toxic chemicals, and even radioactive substances in some fracking waste, it is essential that wastes from the oil and gas industry be appropriately classified and treated as hazardous.

The proposed regulations need to be more comprehensive in addressing the governing of hydraulic fracturing. To extend the ruling, LWVUS recommends that BLM rules should:

- outlaw the use of diesel and similar petroleum distillates in fracking operations on lands under federal leases;
- prohibit the use of selected lands completely from oil and gas exploration based on their environmental sensitivity, proposed or present wilderness designation, or their critical location in support of water sources;
- establish safe setbacks from life-supporting ecological areas and from homes, schools, and other areas, as appropriate, to protect the public health and natural environment.
- safeguard our water sources, gather pre- and post- test data on water sources over time relative to natural gas operations, and disclose all water quality and quantity findings to the public, impacted landowners, and federal agencies, including the BLM.

In closing, because of the evolving nature of the industry and the growing bank of information relative to its consequences, LWVUS encourages you to provide language in the rules that require periodic updates of the regulations. One way to do this is to have the BLM proposal be automatically updated to reflect the most stringent rules adopted by any state within our nation. In this way, the BLM will be able to ensure that public health, our lands, our air, our water, and our wildlife are protected today and for generations yet to come.

LWVUS appreciates the opportunity to public comment on this matter of high priority to many of Leagues throughout the nation. Thank you for your kind consideration.