



# The Leelanau VOTER

October 2013

## 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

Tuesday, October 29

### THE BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

7:00 pm - NORTHPORT



Wednesday, November 6

### UNDERSTANDING COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jim Amrhein, *Public Policy Educator*

MSU Extension's Greening MI Institute

12 noon

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10:30 am Energy

10:30 am Early Childhood

11:00 am Challenges of Leelanau



Thursday, November 7

### THE BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

7:00 pm - LELAND



Wednesday, November 13

### LEELANAU'S FREEDOM RIDERS

7:00 p.m.

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Thursday, November 14

### THE BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

7:00 pm - CEDAR



Monday, November 18

### THE BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

7:00 pm - SUTTONS BAY



Friday, November 22

Agricultural Migrant Workforce Study Committee

10 am - GOVERNMENT CENTER

# November

**Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**

**Understanding County Government: Its Structure and Authority**

presented by **John Amrhein**, a government and public policy educator with Michigan State University Extension’s Greening Michigan Institute. He teaches and consults on topics related to quality governance with local and tribal governments across the state, with a focus on northern lower Michigan, and is located in the Grand Traverse County Extension office. John has been a co-leader of Extension’s governmental education programs since 1998. His prior experience includes County Extension Director, non-profit organization management, agriculture, and broadcasting. He earned his BA and MBA degrees from MSU.

**LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**



**Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Leelanau County High School Students on the Freedom Trail**

Six Leelanau County students joined thirty-one Detroit students for a two-week trip that retraced the steps of the civil rights “Freedom Riders” who traversed the Deep South in the 1960s. Their goal was to secure voting rights for eligible citizens who previously had been denied the right to vote. The trip was sponsored by the Michigan Coalition of Human Rights and was made possible by the work of Dean Robb. Leelanau students Alexander Bennett, Glen Lake; Brennan Deckrow, Leland; Olivia Kinker, Northport; Shayna Sumner, Lake Leelanau St. Mary’s High School; Theo Noffsinger, Suttons Bay; and Jackie Zarzycki, Glen Lake will relate experiences and show photos from the two-week adventure. Robb who also participated in the trip will introduce the students.

The students will arrive at 6:30 pm to meet the audience. Refreshments provided.

**LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**



Board Members  
with Justice Kelly  
at the Old Art  
Building in Leland

Tuesday evening  
October 15, 2013

### New Board Members

As of November, we have three new Board members. Betty Bushey, Nancy Duck and Judy Hoeffler have agreed to join the League Board.

Mary Tonneberger has submitted her resignation from the Board as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mary will continue to be on the Energy and Early Childhood committees.

Fran Eckerson will take Nancy Duck's place on the Nominating Committee.

### BOOK CHOSEN

*The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins* by Kirstin Downey was selected for the League's book group. *Judicial Deceit: Tyranny and Unnecessary Secrecy at the Michigan Supreme Court* by Elizabeth A. Weaver and David B. Schock was a close second. The discussion is on April 9, 2014.

### The BIG PICTURE SOCIETY

7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 29th  
NORTHPORT

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
LELAND

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
CEDAR

Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>  
SUTTONS BAY

## MICHIGAN ELECTION REFORM CONFERENCE REPORT

Several members of LWVLC were among the 100 attendees at the October 11, 2103 Michigan Election Reform Conference held in Traverse City. The event sponsors - Common Cause, Michigan Campaign Finance Network, Michigan Center for Election Law, and the law firm Thompson-O'Neil - brought in 16 speakers, including state lawmakers, union leaders, election specialists, law professors and two former Michigan Supreme Court Justices. LWVLC member retired Justice Elizabeth Weaver was one of the panelists. It was inspiring to hear many of the speakers mention the state and national League as leaders in voter protection and election reform.

Rich Robinson from the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, whom we hosted here in Leelanau, laid out the increasingly dismal state of affairs regarding "dark money" in politics and passionately argued that "disclosure of campaign contributions allows people to evaluate the message presented and overcome the power of money." His report, *A Citizens Guide to Michigan Campaign Finance, Descending into Dark Money*, is worth the read.

Jocelyn Benson, Dean of the Wayne State University Law School proposed a three-part plan:

- Full disclosure of all political donations and spending.
- Improved public financing of elections.
- A constitutional amendment to eliminate corporate money in politics.

She noted optimistically "at the end of the day, money can't vote. People can."

Ian Vandewalker of the Brennan Center for Justice spoke on the success of public financing of elections in New York City where 9 out of 10 candidates elected to participate and received a 6 to 1 match for contributions of \$175 or less. He told how this allowed persons who never before considered running for office to do so.

Two former Michigan Supreme Court Justices, Elizabeth Weaver and Alton Davis, agreed that dark money also impacts the courts. Similar to our recent speaker, retired Justice Marilyn Kelly, Justice Weaver encouraged broad reform of the Michigan Supreme Court, including but not limited to, the elimination of party nominations, 14 year term limits, establishing a qualifications committee for judicial vacancies and public funding for campaigns. Follow the on-going efforts at *Traverse City Conference on Michigan Election Reform* on Facebook.

**Marian Kromkowski**

### **The Voting Wars by Richard L. Hasen**

"Nobody knows more about elections and election law than Rick Hasen, and nobody writes more clearly about their complexities. *The Voting Wars* is a straightforward, clear-headed, unbiased account of our flawed system, the multiple damaging controversies we have incurred as a consequence, the polarization that has both caused the problems and been exacerbated by them, and the risky path ahead."

-- Norman J. Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute.

**If you are serious about “Walking the Talk” for the future of your grandkids, can you....wrest yourself from:**

- a. Clothing made in sweatshops
- b. Factory farmed, commercial food
- c. Flying in airplanes
- d. Big box stores that don't pay living wages
- e. Eating and drinking items that come from thousands of miles away
- f. Driving your car within bicycling/walking distance
- g. Using cell phones that have tracking capabilities
- h. Taking long, hot, daily showers
- i. Leaving lights on when you leave the room
- j. Accruing debt
- k. Buying electronics that were made by out-sourced labor
- l. Being addicted to convenience and comfort.
- m. and much more....

***The Good Life: How to Create a Sustainable and Fulfilling Lifestyle by Sherry Ackerman***



Reserve the date for our December 4<sup>th</sup> holiday luncheon. This is our 2nd annual event when we invite county officials to join us. Please invite prospective members, too.

A special tour of the courtrooms is planned as well as a short program on the county courts.

**REPORT FROM..... Suzanne Hoff**

The agricultural worker study committee is pleased that our new 2013-14 study scope has been approved by LWVMI, and we can begin our research with a clear objective:

**To study the continuing and evolving challenges faced by the Leelanau County agricultural sector to secure and sustain a viable and skilled agricultural workforce.**

Committee members plan to begin interviews in November with Leelanau County and area farmers, workers, processors, workforce agencies, farm extension services and social service agencies that participated in the GTA Leelanau Unit 2012 study, as well as new interview resources.

What we do know is that many of our area agricultural employers have worked with fewer workers, particularly family units, and with more inexperienced workers, to harvest large crop yields from spring crops to the fall apple and grape harvest. Our committee is to determine the factors that brought this and other challenges about, and, from our interviewees, what might be done locally to support this critical component in our county agricultural economy.

**The Changing Leelanau Study Group will meet at 11 a.m. on Wed., Nov. 6. To date, members of the group have done qualitative overviews of their areas (Suttons Bay, Elmwood and Maple City), and members of the LWV were polled on their most urgent needs for change. Next we will look at the statistics for the whole county in 1990, 2000 and 2010.**

**Resources from October 2, 2013 meeting of the  
League of Women Voters Leelanau County**

**ELDER ABUSE**

Abuse & Neglect – Confidential Centralized Intake  
 (“Hotline Number”) [1-855-444-3911](tel:1-855-444-3911)  
 -under the Michigan Department of Human Services

National Center on Elder Abuse

[www.ncea.aoa.gov/](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/)

Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute

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

Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute – Michigan

[http://www.phinational.org/policy/state-activities/  
phimichigan](http://www.phinational.org/policy/state-activities/phimichigan)

Ageless Alliance <http://www.agelessalliance.org/>

World World Elder Abuse DayDay

[http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/elder-abuse-  
wareness-day](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/elder-abuse-wareness-day) & <http://www.inpea.net/>

Native Americans & Elder Abuse resources

<http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/elder.htm>

*Nancy Turner, Long Term Care Ombudsman  
Area Agency on Aging NW MI  
1609 Park Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686  
[231-947-2504](tel:231-947-2504) - [turnern@aanm.org](mailto:turnern@aanm.org)*

**BULLYING**

[Beyondbullyingmi.org](http://Beyondbullyingmi.org)

[CRSmediationTC.org](http://CRSmediationTC.org)

Elizabeth Pine, Conflict Resolution Services -

[empine@hotmail.com](mailto:empine@hotmail.com)

Cell [231-590-5299](tel:231-590-5299)

Office [231-941-5835](tel:231-941-5835)

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

[www.womensresourcecenter.org](http://www.womensresourcecenter.org)

24 hour local hotline: [231-941-1210](tel:231-941-1210)

Cathy Anthofer, Client Advocate

Women’s Resource Center

7401 E. Duck Lake Rd., Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Lake Leelanau Office: [231-256-0234](tel:231-256-0234)

Traverse City Office: [231-941-1210](tel:231-941-1210)

## Article to be printed in La Voz by BJ Christensen

The next election will be November 5, 2013. If you don't know if you are registered or where you should vote, visit the website: [www.michigan.gov/VOTE](http://www.michigan.gov/VOTE). By writing in your name, birth date and zip code or your driver's license number, you can learn if you are registered, and where your voting precinct is located including a map. There is a sample ballot, local clerk contact information, absentee voter information, etc. Take a few minutes to become familiar with this website.

In this day of voter suppression it is all the more important that you vote in every election, even ones you consider unimportant. Many local elections are won by only a few votes and the candidate elected may or may not have your best interest in mind. So voice your opinion by voting in every election. Don't give up your right to vote!

**Questions about voter ID?** Check out the website [www.michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.michigan.gov/Vote)

Voters with picture ID: Voters can satisfy the ID requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or a Michigan personal identification card.

Voters who do not possess either document may show any of the following forms of picture ID as long as it is current:

- Driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state.
- Federal or state government-issued photo ID.
- U.S. passport.
- Military identification card with photo.
- Student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education.
- Tribal identification card with photo.

Voters without picture ID: Michigan election law anticipates that not all voters will have picture ID. Voters who do not have acceptable picture IDs or who forgot to bring acceptable picture ID to the polls can vote like any other voter by signing an affidavit.

Questions regarding the voter identification requirement can be directed to your local city or township clerk's office. For more election related information, visit [www.michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.michigan.gov/Vote).

### Getting a State ID Card

If you do not have a driver's license or other acceptable photo identification, you can get a state identification card at your local Secretary of State branch office for \$10.

State ID cards are free to individuals who are 65 or older or who are blind. Cards are also free to those who have had driving privileges terminated due to a physical or mental disability.

Proof of identity and residency are required when applying for a state ID card. The fee can also be waived for individuals who present other [good cause for a fee waiver](#).

Visit [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos) for details on what forms are acceptable in order to prove [identity and residency](#), or call (888) SOS-MICH (767-6424).

Especially if an elderly person is no longer driving, they may need to get a State ID card. Check with your family, friends and neighbors. Be sure they have the proper ID so they can exercise their right to vote without confusion or embarrassment at the polls. Election officials are required to ask for a photo ID. So know your rights, be prepared, and make every vote count!

October 24, 2013

Dear Supporter,

The government is finally back up and running, and many of you are in the final throes of getting word out in your communities about the elections on November 5. While [reports of record low turnout](#) in New Jersey, Georgia and elsewhere confirm that this is a typical “off year” for elections, I’m nevertheless proud to see that for many Leagues, it is anything but.

With reports still trickling in, we now know that Leagues helped 8,007 voters register or update their registration [on September 24, National Voter Registration Day](#). Whether you helped two people or helped 200, your work has made the difference in the lives of voters—not only for this year, but moving into the important 2014 and 2016 election cycles, when so much will be at stake on the national stage.

And, we’re thrilled that more and more Leagues are embracing resources like [VOTE411.org](#). Compared to the last off-year election, there’s been over 100% growth in League participation and so far this year more than a 30% growth in the number of visitors. Together we’re not only able to reach hundreds of thousands of voters but we’re also providing them with the information they need to overcome barriers and participate in the vast array of elections happening this year. Leagues are already signing up for 2014 and we can’t wait to work together to make 2014 our most successful year yet!

This is the time to send out that [press release](#) and [letter to the editor](#), update your Facebook page, call up your neighbors, and make sure your voters’ guide is available in local grocery stores, schools, lobbies and bus stops. This is what the League does best. But voters only know about our resources if we share them far and wide.

Finally, we know that many of you are already gearing up for vigorous 2014 action. Whether you’re [pushing for cleaner air](#), [supporting citizens’ access to health care](#) or [fighting for better elections](#) in your town and across your state, League leaders will be at the forefront of driving positive change. As always, I’m so proud to stand united with all of you. Let’s get out there and help voters. Then, let’s start planning for even bigger and better things next year.

In League, *Elizabeth MacNamara*, President LWVUS

**As you think about making year-end donations, please consider a gift to the League of Women Voters Leelanau County (LWVLC) Ed Fund. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will be used to educate voters in the upcoming elections.**

**Visit our website: [LWVleelanau.org](http://LWVleelanau.org)**

**If you missed our September or October programs, they are now on the website under videos.**

**Follow us on [facebook](#) at  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LEELANAU COUNTY**