



The Leelanau VOTER

September 2015

2015-2016 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.

From the President

Recently the Leelanau Enterprise expressed its surprise that the LWVLC would engage in advocacy. The LWVLC Board wrote a response to the editor explaining that study, education and advocacy have been the mission of the League of Women Voters since its inception 95 years ago. What perhaps is new is that Sue Miller, chair of our Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee, and I recently appeared at two local Board of Commissioners meetings and the Leelanau/Benzie Health Department to publicly advocate for the need to address early childhood needs in our county. The National League explains:

“League advocacy is based on member study and agreement on selected issues and involves concerted efforts to achieve public policies consistent with League positions.”

Each of our on-going LWVLC committees has been tasked with identifying issues currently being discussed or that should be brought to a local governmental body’s attention. We do not anticipate that the League will appear and comment at each and every government meeting held in Leelanau, but we will when our voice may be effective.

We encourage members to join a committee and engage in the formulation of these efforts. We are always looking for additional help with Voter Services at the local high schools, NMC and other public events. For volunteer opportunities, email me at LWVLeelanau@gmail.com.

League members are also encouraged as individuals to contact legislators regarding League priority issues and are always free to take action on any topic, as long as it is clear that you are speaking as an individual, and not for the League (i.e., you should not mention that you are a League member in your communications). For clarity of message and pursuant to League guidelines, it is only the League president who may speak in the name of the League.

We look forward to seeing you on October 7th. Many people bring a sack lunch. LWVLC business meeting follows the presentation on protecting Great Lakes water.

Marian

2015 LEELANAU CALENDAR

October 7 at noon

Forum on the Mackinac Straits Pipeline and Other Water Priorities with Liz Kirkwood of For Love of Our Water (F.L.O.W.)

October 12 at 5 pm

Gathering for new and prospective members at Marian Kromkowski's home. Tell your friends.

October 19 at 4 pm

Big Picture Society Movie – *Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot* at the Old Art Building in Leland. No charge but donations appreciated. Bring a snack to share.

October 26 at 9:30 am

LWVLC Board Meeting at the Government Center in Conference Room #2

November 4 at noon

Understanding Constitutional Amendments with attorneys Al and Brenda Quick. Membership Consensus Discussion to follow at 1:30 regarding LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study

November 9 at 4 pm

Big Picture Society Movie at the Old Art Building in Leland

November 16 at 5 pm

Gathering for new and prospective members at Betty Bushey's home. Tell your friends.

November 23 at 9:30 am

LWVLC Board Meeting at the Government Center in Conference Room #2

December 9 at noon

Annual Holiday Potluck with special guest, Puppeteer Joanne Schroeder from the LWV Manistee County. She will entertain with her historic characters and her witty comments.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR THE LEAGUE

Our current membership stands at 114, with the goal for 2015-2016 set at 120 active members. Two recruiting events this fall are on October 12 and November 16.

Please email Martha Shaver, Membership Chair, with names of possible members.



Nearly 70 people attended the opening League meeting on September 9th at the Leelanau County Government Center. Judy Karandjeff, President of the LWVMI, presented the first of many programs created by the State League on “Redistricting: The Problems, The Solutions.”

Pictured with Judy are the LWVLC Officers: Christi Bardenhagen – Vice President; Jacquie Johnson – Secretary; Judy; Marian Kromkowski – President; and Nancy Duck – Treasurer.

November Meeting to create a consensus on Amending the Constitution

At the 2014 National Convention the LWV agreed to form the **LWV Constitutional Amendment Committee and study the process of amending the U.S. Constitution.** This has now been more than a year-long process with many hours put in by the committee members. All Leagues are being asked to hold a consensus discussion and submit results to the National League by December 1st.

Our local educational forum and consensus discussion on this topic will be held at noon on Wednesday November 4 at the Leelanau County Government Center. Our presenters are attorneys Al and Brenda Quick. They are experts in the area of constitutional law, have taught and held dean positions at law school.

To prepare for this discussion we request that members begin reviewing the materials provided by the LWV Constitutional Amendment Committee. There is a lot to review so we encourage you to start reading NOW. LWVLC Board members Jacquie Johnson, Suzanne Hoff, BJ Christenson and Marian Kromkowski will be responsible for being familiar with the materials, but this is a membership consensus. True to the League mission, we ask that you start reading and be ready for an informed discussion. All materials are found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>. We ask that you especially read the materials contained in the **Constitutional Amendment Study Guide** and the **Constitutional Amendment Consensus Questions**. The primary question of the consensus is under what circumstances would the League support a constitutional amendment.

The Fate of Our Water: Are We Sunk?

Wednesday October 7, 2015 at noon

in the lower level of the Government Center.

In the heart of the Great Lakes, twin 62-year-old pipelines pump nearly 23 million gallons of oil and other petroleum products a day through the Straits of Mackinac. An oil spill in the world's largest freshwater basin would be disastrous. Liz Kirkwood will address concerns regarding the Line 5 pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac, as well as other risks to clean, fresh water and how communities and citizens can petition their state and provincial governments to exercise their public trust duties and ensure the protection of our common public waters for current and future generations.



Liz Kirkwood is the Executive Director at For Love of Water (F.L.O.W.) She has been a leading force in shaping the *Oil & Water Don't Mix Campaign* and regularly presents at conferences on Great Lakes issues. Prior to working for FLOW, Liz was an environmental litigator at Farella, Braun & Martel in San Francisco where she represented clients on natural resource and energy matters. She has also worked for USAID in Thailand as an environmental attorney to implement a regional environmental governance and water program in Southeast Asia. She graduated from Williams College with a degree in Environmental Studies and History, and received her J.D. and Environmental Certificate from Lewis & Clark Law School.

10 Things You Should Know about Water *from the Circle of Blue*

<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2009/world/infographic-ten-things-you-should-know-about-water/>

1. **One drop of oil can make up to 6.6 gallons of water undrinkable.**
2. **70% of the world's water is used for agriculture, 22% for industry and 8% for domestic use.**
3. **A person is able to survive one month without food but only five to seven days without water.**
4. **Of all the Earth's water, 97.5% is salt and 2.5% is fresh. Of that water, under 1% (.007 %) is readily accessible for human use.**
5. **The water footprint (amount of water used in the production and/or growth of a product) for 2.2 lbs of beef is 4,226.8 gallons; for one sheet of paper, 2.6 gallons; for one cup of tea, 9.2 gallons; for one microchip, 8.5 gallons.**
6. **It takes 25-50 gallons of water to take a one-minute shower; 2-7 gallons to flush a toilet; 2 gallons to brush one's teeth; and 20 gallons to hand wash dishes.**
7. **6,000 children die each day from preventable water-related diseases.**
8. **1.1 billion people lack adequate drinking water access. 2.6 billion people lack basic water sanitation.**
9. **The average American uses about 151.9 gallons of water per day, with about 60% of that being used out-of-doors (watering lawns, washing cars, etc.)....Yet 1.1 billion people lack adequate water access, using less than 5 gallons per day.**
10. **The average American uses 30.3 times more water than a person who lacks adequate water access.**



A REPORT FROM SUZANNE HOFF
Co-Chair of the Farm Labor Task Force

Apples are ready but many migrant farm workers left Leelanau early after the August storm damaged orchards and vineyards. The Farm Labor Task Force continues to monitor the challenges of our agricultural employers in finding sufficient farm labor from April to November. Each year has presented a unique challenge -- workers not coming at all or leaving early because of crop damage early or late in the season or migrant workers deterred by travelling through unfriendly states on the way to Michigan.

In early September, my husband and I drove through much of Oceana, Newago (Fremont is home to Gerber Baby Foods) and Muskegon Counties. These are three counties with densely cultivated farmland and visible migrant housing of varying quality. This trip confirmed for us that Leelanau County has some tough competition with Michigan's western counties in attracting enough seasonal farm and vineyard labor to come north. Housing has been and continues to be an issue.

The Farm Labor Task Force has been working in conjunction with the LWVMI to address certain aspects of migrant housing needs. We are formulating a letter that will be sent by the LWVMI to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) regarding their proposed update of the MI Public Act 368, Part 124 of 1978. Our advocacy is focused on the three housing position points from the recently adopted LWVMI Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Worker Position.

1. Re-establishment of adequate matching public funds for building or refurbishing agricultural labor housing;
2. Elimination of licensing conflicts with other state and federal agencies;
3. Expansion of licensing to include agricultural labor housing with four or fewer migrant/seasonal workers.

The Farm Labor Task Force is also collaborating with the NW Michigan Horticultural Station to co-host a forum on migrant/seasonal worker housing needs in early 2016. This forum will be open to the public but with a special emphasis on encouraging the attendance of growers, township and county officials and other members of the business community.

Have you read a GREAT book recently? Would you like to recommend it for the League's Book Discussion Group next April? We will be choosing the book to read soon. Please let Marian know the title and author at our next meeting.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Katherine Franciosi from Suttons Bay

Sarah Straus from Northport

Ruth Winter from Traverse City

LWVLC MEMBERS ATTEND LAKE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Ann and Doug McInnis and Vina and Phil Mikesell attended the 48th Annual Conference and Annual Meeting of the LWV Lake Michigan Region on September 25-26 in Glenview, IL. More than 120 men and women attended this year's event. The Michigan delegation consisted of League members from Leelanau, Kalamazoo, Grand Traverse, Berrien-Cass, Holland and Flint.

The keynote speaker on Friday night was Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, a Climate Ecologist at the Field Museum and Co-Chair of the Chicago Wilderness Climate Action Committee. She spoke about working on initiatives that contribute to sustainable management and environmental policy in a meaningful way.

Participants attended two panel sessions on Saturday morning. The first addressed targeting Civic Engagement for Maximum Impact. Speakers were from Moms Clean Air Force; the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group; and the executive director of the Illinois Environmental Council. The second panel, Not Your Usual Partners, featured women from Faith in Place, the Delta Institute and LakeDance. Innovative and inclusive water-related projects were discussed.

The final speaker was Molly Flanagan, Vice-President of Policy at the Alliance for the Great Lakes. She shared the many threats faced by Lake Michigan and its sister lakes.

The conference ended with the LWVLMR annual meeting when the budget was passed, new officers elected, and the interLeague's mission was reaffirmed.

The group's annual meeting rotates among its four state members. In 2016, the group will meet in Indiana. All Leagues in the states surrounding Lake Michigan are members. Vina Mikesell was recently appointed to the LWVLMR Board by the LWVMI Board. She is one of two delegates representing Michigan.



Representing LWV Leelanau at the LWVLMR Conference are Vina and Phil Mikesell and Ann and Doug McInnis.

The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will meet on October 16th at noon in the Munnecke Room of the Leland Public Library Building. Parenting Communities representatives will present an overview of their organization at this meeting. On September 24th, the committee's advocacy work continued with a presentation by Marian Kromkowski and Sue Miller to the Leelanau-Benzie Board of Health in support of funding for early childhood programs.



*Join us for
The Big Picture*

**Monday, October 19th
at the Old Art Building in Leland at 4
pm**

Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot

is the true story of the forgotten heroes of the fight for voting rights-the courageous enough students and teachers of Selma, Alabama, who stood up against injustice despite facing intimidation, arrests and violence. By organizing and marching bravely, these change makers achieved one of the most significant victories of the civil rights era. This film is a crucial reminder that each of us has the ability to bring about powerful social change and will inspire millions of young people to vote, take action, and make their communities and our country stronger.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. NO CHARGE BUT DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

The next Big Picture Show will be on Monday, November 9th, same time, same place.

**LEAGUE BOOTH AT LEELANAU
UNCAGED**

On a beautiful Saturday in Northport, League members enjoyed staffing a booth at Leelanau UnCaged.

In addition to handing out information about registering to vote, we answered questions on League programs and membership. New names were also added to our list of friends.

Helping at the booth were Betty and Dennis Bushey, Fran Eckerson, Bill and Suzanne Hoff, Marian Kromkowski, Chris Palmer, Matt Posner and Martha Shaver.

Our information table will be set up at other events this fall. Please contact Marian if you would like to volunteer.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Opportunities and Challenges
of a Changing Leelanau**
October 14 at 10 am
County Government Center

Early Childhood Needs and Services
October 16 at noon
Munnecke Room, Leland Library

Farm Labor Task Force
October 12 at 9 am
County Government Center
Conference Room #2

Energy and Natural Resources
October 7 at 10 am
County Government Center