



The Leelanau VOTER

April 2015

2014-2015
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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.....

The next couple of months will be busy ones for our League. On **April 29**, the Farm Labor Task Force is holding a public meeting to inform us about the current situation of migrant farm-workers in Leelanau County. A panel will cover education, law enforcement, the farm community, the County Planning Department and Parenting Communities in our county.

The **May 6th** meeting will feature Julie Weeks, an expert on the role of women in the business world both in the US and abroad. Bring your lunch and friends.

On **May 15-17**, six Leelanau League members will attend the LWVMI State Convention in Kalamazoo. In addition to learning about what other Leagues do and how to improve our jobs, we will be promoting the adoption of our new Leelanau position on Agricultural Migrant/ Seasonal Workers by all Michigan Leagues. The LWVMI State Board supports the adoption.

May 28th is our Annual Meeting. You will receive a packet of information several weeks ahead. In it will be all the documents for the business meeting plus the form to reserve your place. Jo Walker has once again made the dinner arrangements with the Leland Lodge. Our speaker is Lev Raphael, a well-known author and professor at MSU. He will be speaking about the "Militarization of the Police," the subject of his latest book, *Assault With A Deadly Lie*.

The **Annual Fund Drive** is underway. Each of you should have received a letter requesting a donation . It is due to your support that we are able to make each League year better than the last. Please give generously to ensure the continuation of exciting and relevant programs and events and a growing League.

Vina

2015 LEELANAU SPRING CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 21 at 10 am

Tour of American Waste

280 HUGHES DRIVE, TRAVERSE CITY

sponsored by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee



Monday, April 27 at 9:00 am

LWVLC Board Meeting

GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 pm

The Migrant/Seasonal Worker Community:

Inside Leelanau County

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – COMMUNITY ROOM

sponsored by the Farm Labor Task Force



Wednesday, May 6 at 12 noon

“The State of U.S. Women's Entrepreneurship:

A View From the Frontline”

Speaker: Julie Weeks

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – COMMUNITY ROOM



Friday- Sunday, March 15-17

LWVMI State Convention in Kalamazoo



Monday, May 18

Volunteering at the State Theater



Thursday, May 28 at 5:30 pm

LWVLC ANNUAL MEETING

Author Rev Raphael

by reservation only

LELAND LODGE, LELAND

If you would like to join
the League's tour
of American Waste
on Tuesday, April 21st at 10 am.

contact Ann or Doug McInnis.

The center is located at
280 Hughes Drive in Traverse City.
Wear sturdy shoes.

Have We Lost Our Legacy?
A Look at Leelanau County Government
1863-1920

If you did not have a chance to attend this
presentation in October 2014, Laurel Jeris
will be giving the talk again on Wednesday,
April 29 at 1:00 pm in the Community Room
of the Government Center. This program is
sponsored by the Leelanau County
Department of Senior Services.

Advance Registration is required –
please call (231) 256-8121

NOW COMES ACTION!!!

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, April 29**, 6:30 PM for refreshments, 7 PM for
the program at the Government Center's community room. The date was changed due
to a program conflict at the Government Center on April 23.

In preparation for local advocacy based on the new position statement, the Farm Labor Task
Force is hosting a public presentation with guest panelists from our farm community, the
Michigan Works! Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program, and Parenting Communities.
Panelists will share their experience working with single workers as well as workers who
come north with their families. Of particular interest are housing issues and the challenges of
working with individuals with limited English proficiency. Please read the LWVLC position on
migrant/seasonal agricultural workers and bring your questions with you.

Our League "Report on the Migrant/Seasonal Worker in Leelanau County" has been sent to
Leelanau League members, local elected officials, interested community members, and the
23 local League presidents in Michigan. The latter mailing is in preparation for a delegate
vote to concur with the position at the LWVMI May convention. The study has also been
submitted to the LWVUS online clearinghouse for studies at
<https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/social-policy/immigration>.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Bonnie Spanier and Stephen C. Brown from Traverse City
Tom Patton from Traverse City and Nickolas Fleezanis from Leland

Our League now has 114 members!!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

April 20

Farm Labor Task Force meets at 10:00 am, Conference Room 1, County Government Center. MDARD Migrant Housing Inspector Ginger Bardenhagen will update task force members on current issues and changes in migrant/seasonal agricultural worker housing in Leelanau County.

April 27.....

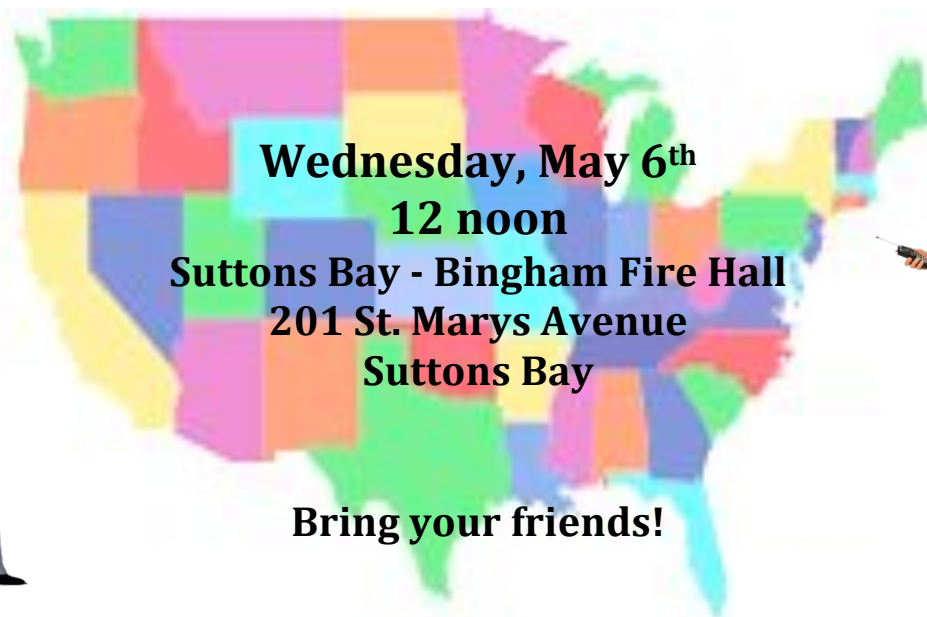
Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will meet at 12:30 in the Munnecke Room in the Leland Public Library.

May 6.....

Energy and Natural Resources Study Committee meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Suttons Bay - Bingham Fire Hall in Suttons Bay before the member meeting.

“The State of U.S. Women's Entrepreneurship: A View From the Frontline”

Presented by **JULIE WEEKS**, President and CEO of **Womenable**, a for-profit social enterprise that works to enable women's entrepreneurship worldwide by improving the laws, policies and programs that support women's enterprise creation and growth. Weeks is one of the world's leading experts in the field of women's enterprise development, with experience in both the private and public sectors in the areas of research, public policy and program management.



Wednesday, May 6th
12 noon
Suttons Bay - Bingham Fire Hall
201 St. Marys Avenue
Suttons Bay



Bring your friends!

VOTERS SERVICE



Hope you had a chance to join us on April 1 for the explanation of the Michigan Proposal 15-1. If not, check out our website under elections or follow this link to the actual ballot language.

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Official15_1_48602_7.pdf

As President Obama said of the 2014 election: "only 36% of registered voters nationwide actually showed up to vote." Non-presidential elections are notorious for low turnouts. Elections like the one coming up in Michigan on May 5, 2015, where no candidates are on the ballot, may be an even lower turnout. That is why every vote counts and carries more weight. Be sure you vote whether by absentee ballot or in person. Call your family members and take your friends to the polls. Share with them the presentation on our website www.LWVLeelanau.org. Imagine what a different world this could be if everyone voted!



An overflow crowd attended the April League meeting on Proposal 15-1. Kathy Ling from the Mt. Pleasant League, took us through the LWVMI PowerPoint presentation she and others created. The LWVMI has taken no position on the proposal to raise the sales tax.

The Money in Politics Committee of the LWVUS

is conducting an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

Educational materials have been posted at <http://lwv.org/>. It is updated regularly. In the fall of 2015 the Money in Politics Committee will publish a study guide and consensus questions. A **consensus meeting** will then be conducted by local Leagues.

The LWVLC has already conducted several forums on this issue. To better familiarize yourself with the questions that may be posed at the consensus meeting, the LWVUS also has a **Forum Discussion Group** dedicated to the discussion of all campaign finance issues. It is entitled **Money in Politics**. To join this LWV members' forum group go to <http://forum.lwv.org/groups>

If you don't have an account for the Forums or for lwv.org, you will be directed on how to create one at <https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp> There are other Forum Discussion groups available on issues of interest to the LWV.

LWVLC Annual Dinner
Thursday, May 28th
6 pm at the Leland Lodge

Speaker: Author Lev Raphael

Lev Raphael wrote in the Huffington Post in February 2015:

“When I started my 25th book *Assault With a Deadly Lie* 4-5 years ago it was because of stories I read online that weren't getting national attention but were very alarming just the same. They were stories of SWAT teams raiding the wrong houses and doing massive property damage, terrifying people, sometimes injuring or even killing them. They were stories of unarmed, frequently mentally disturbed people being shot by police.

As a mystery author and the son of Holocaust survivors, this horrified me and made me do research. I discovered that both the ACLU and the Heritage Foundation were equally alarmed by the post-9/11 radical militarization of our police forces nationwide. They weren't just being given the weapons of an army by the Pentagon, they were being trained like armies, trained to think of citizens as the enemy. Which made them overreact.

I'm a writer, and my response to these outrages was to make the issue visible for my audience by having the ugly tsunami hit the two comfortable middle-class professors in my mystery series. What it would be like if this violence targeted people who had never been in any kind of legal trouble before, and believed themselves safe, believed that kind of encounter could only happen to somebody else?”

A novel of suspense set in the academic world, *Assault with a Deadly Lie* probes the disturbing psychological impact of slander, harassment, stalking, police brutality, and the loss of personal safety. Raphael's talk at our Annual Dinner will cover the timely topic of the “Increased Militarization of Police.”

Assault With A Deadly Lie is available at Horizon Books and at the Annual Dinner. LWVLC receives 20% of local sales. Mr. Raphael will be available to sign his books on May 28th.

All LWV Leelanau League members will be receiving an invitation to the Annual Dinner and a packet of documents to be adopted at that meeting. Dinner will begin at 6 pm, the speaker at 7 pm with a business meeting to follow. In order to pass the following, a quorum must be present. We will be voting on

**THE SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
THE BUDGET, BYLAWS REVISIONS
OUR NON-PARTISAN POLICY
STUDY COMMITTEES/TOPICS FOR 2015-16
THE AGRICULTURAL MIGRANT/SEASONAL WORKER POLICY**

Watch for all these at the end of next week.



ENBRIDGE PIPELINE #5 UNDER THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC

On March 11 several LWVLC members had an opportunity to hear Jim Lively, Program Director for Michigan Land Use Institute, give a detailed update on the aging Enbridge, non-buried, pipeline #5 carrying oil and gas from Alberta, Canada...right under the Straits of Mackinac. In Jim Lively's words, "A ticking time bomb is resting under the Straits of Mackinac. Line 5, a 62 year old oil and gas pipeline, is one leak away from devastating our treasured Great Lakes." The current consensus of the many organizations concerned about this threat is that the pipeline needs to be completely removed.

"Michigan is literally defined by the Great Lakes. One in five jobs is dependent upon their health. They provide drinking water for roughly 35 million people. If Line 5 were to spring a leak, even a small one, all of this would be put in peril. The Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force will decide this spring what to do about Line 5. The currents in the Straits of Mackinac are extremely strong, and every 10 days the currents switch direction. If an oil spill were to occur in the Straits (especially under the winter ice) the currents would spread the oil quickly, making clean-up efforts incredibly difficult. Our Lakes aren't worth the risk." Jim Lively stated.

Contact

Attorney General Bill Schuette's office (866-862-3237), Co Chair of the Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force, and ask him to shut down Line 5.

The Honorable Rick Snyder Office of the Governor P.O. Box 30013 Lansing, Michigan 48909 . 517-335-7858 <https://sombgovweb.state.mi.us/GovRelations/ShareOpinion.aspx>

Sen. Darwin Booher 517- 373-1725 <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/>

101st District Representative Ray Franz 517-373-0825 RayFranz@house.mi.gov

Check out

[Oil and Water Don't Mix](http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/) <http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/> as well as <http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/problem>

[What is the condition of the pipeline?](#)

Nat. Wildlife Fed. videos the pipeline under water: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCMfDDcyRb0>

DUES
for June 2015 - May 2016
are due in May.
Members who joined after
January 31st do not owe dues.

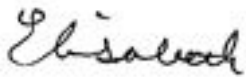
As a League member in Georgia, I was on pins and needles ... as the Georgia General Assembly approached the end of the session at midnight. A bill cutting early voting from 21 days to 12 days with no weekend voting opportunities had failed to cross over from one house to the other just a few weeks before, but naturally had been attached to other legislation in the final days of the session. The [Georgia League](#) was hard at work through the session to protect voting rights for Georgians and in fact received widespread praise from partner organizations for our leadership. The League and its partners rallied at the Capitol on what turned out to be one of the coldest days of the winter and action alerts were regularly dropping into email boxes of members and supporters throughout the session. [But Thursday at midnight the legislature was gavelled out of session and legislators went home without doing further damage to elections in Georgia.](#)

That was not the only good news around the country. [In Virginia](#), Governor Terry McAuliffe honored his promise to citizens of his state and protected voting rights by vetoing a bill that would have imposed voter photo ID requirements on absentee voters. The [Virginia League](#) actively opposed the legislation and sent a letter to the governor urging the veto. [In Ohio](#), Governor John Kasich used his line-item veto to kill a provision that would have required out-of-state college students who registered to vote in Ohio to also obtain an Ohio driver's license and vehicle registration in order to vote. Coming from a governor who has been supportive of other efforts to suppress the vote in Ohio, this veto was a welcome victory for young voters and a sign to other states that are using similar language to limit student voting.

For 95 years, the League has fought for free, fair and accessible elections. Over the past 10 years as the [assault on voting rights](#) has accelerated, the League has been there to meet the challenge. In statehouses and courthouses, we have defeated or delayed numerous efforts to suppress the vote. And in every state, in every election, we work to engage underserved communities by registering voters and providing a trusted source of election information both online and through other media.

The League was founded to finish the fight to protect and empower voters. And although the fight is never finished, battles can and are being won. Thanks to all League leaders, members and supporters who make [these victories](#) possible.

In League,



Elizabeth MacNamara
President, LWVUS



Registering Students at Northport and Glen Lake Schools in March with Laurel Evans, the Deputy Clerk.

League members received a standing ovation at one school.