



The Leelanau VOTER

August 2017

2017-2018

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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.....

We face the passing of Vina Mikesell on August 15 with overwhelming sadness. Vina had been ill for a few weeks and died as a result of complications due to colitis. Vina was the bedrock of the League of Women Voters Leelanau County. We were graced with her wisdom, experience and passion for civic engagement and making our community a better, more just place for all. Vina was our first president. She was the editor of our VOTER publication. She recently took on the position of LWVLC Membership Chair and also was just elected as Vice-president of the LWVMI. She will be missed in so many ways: as a mentor, as strategist, as our historian and as our dear, dear friend.



We will devote a special issue of the VOTER on Vina's life and accomplishment in early September. If you have a tribute or photo you would like to share, send them to me by September 1 at mfkrom@gmail.com. A memorial service is planned for September 16 at 11:00 AM at Trinity Church in Northport.

Vina was an active participant at our June 26 Annual Board Retreat. Together, we have planned what we hope will be an informative and action packed year. Our first forum will be **September 13 at noon** at the Government Center. A panel will address **Leelanau County Septic System: Water Quality and Public Health Implications**.

*Best regards,
Marian*

#@IT HAPPENS, THEN WHAT?!

**Leelanau County Septic System:
Water Quality and Public Health Implications**

**Wednesday
September 13
Noon**



**Leelanau County Government Center, Lower Level
Everyone Welcome. Some bring a sack lunch.**

Tom Fountain: Director, Environmental Health, Benzie
Leelanau District Health Department

Nick Fleezanis: President, Lake Leelanau Lake Association

Joe Williams: Williams and Bay Pumping Service



**League of Women Voters Leelanau County LWVLeelanau.org
and LEELANAU CLEAN WATER**

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Equal Rights Advocacy (ERA)** September 6 at 4 pm
Location TBD
- **Energy and Natural Resources** September 13 at 10 am,
Conf. room 1 Government Center
- **Age Friendly Leelanau** September 13 at 10:30 am
Law Library, Government Center
- **Early Childhood Needs and Services** September 15 at noon
at Munnecke Room at Leland Library
- **Farm Labor Task Force** September 18 at 9 am
Conf. room 1 Government Center
- **Voter Services** October 30 at 9:30 am
Conf. room 1 Government Center

2017-18 DUES ARE DUE

We will be collecting dues for the 2017-18 year at the September 13 meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your check to

Nancy Duck, Treasurer
P.O. Box 992
Leland, MI 49654

Single Membership is \$60.
Household Membership is \$90.
Make your check out to LWVLC.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Deb Stannard & Jack Segal
We now have 172 members!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, one of the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country is open to men and women of 16 years of age or older.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities. Invite your friends to attend a forum and join the LWVLC.

Update on Redistricting from LWVMI

As you all know, LWVMI has been involved in redistricting reform since we started working with the MI Redistricting Collaborative in 2010 to make the process more transparent and accountable. Since that time, LWVMI has educated voters at over 100 meetings, providing information on the redistricting process and the need for change. In 2011-2012, LWVMI undertook a state study and arrived at our position, which supports an independent commission.

On February 24, 2017, Voters Not Politicians who also does business as Count MI Vote filed a ballot question committee with Michigan's Secretary of State. Michigan's Campaign Finance Law governs the activities of ballot question committees as well as those organizations that haven't filed a committee.

At the end of June, Count MIVote/Voters Not Politicians (CMV/VNP) submitted petition language to the Bureau of Elections. Since then, CMV/VNP has submitted several changes to the language. The Bureau is continuing to review the constitutional changes proposed by CMV/VNP's petition. Once that review is complete, the Board of State Canvassers will meet to review the form of the petition language. At some point CMV/VNP will print and distribute petitions for its proposal.

The League and others including CMV/VNP have decided this is not the right time to form a coalition.

As of today, LWVMI has not endorsed a ballot proposal, filed a ballot question committee or joined a coalition. Therefore, local Leagues cannot participate in CMV/VNP's activities. League members can participate in CMV/VNP's activities as individuals, but not as League members.

Redistricting reform is an important issue. It can help ensure that every vote Eva Packard, Vice President for Voter Service counts. Along with the ACLU, NAACP and many others, the League has been working for years to increase the transparency, fairness, and independence of how legislative district lines are drawn in our State.

LWVMI is fully committed to a non-partisan approach, which ensures voters are able to make their voices heard in our elections, and we have been and will continue to be instrumental in redistricting reform efforts in the state. The League will continue to educate voters on the need for redistricting reform.

We wish CMV/VNP well. We all share a commitment to ensuring voting in Michigan is fair, honest, and secure.

We will continue to work on this issue on your behalf.

Judy Karandjeff, President

Sue Smith, Director for Redistricting

August 6, 2017

PETITIONS NOW BEING CIRCULATED

League members can participate in CMV/VNP's activities as individuals, but not as League members.

To gather signatures and volunteer with CMV/VNP visit www.VotersNotPoliticians.com

There's really no better way to describe the mess that is the state's process for determining the fate of Enbridge's Line 5 oil pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac than to say it is screwed up beyond all recognition or repair. Or FUBAR if you are familiar with the military's more direct slang for screwed up.

A \$756,000 Line 5 study lies abandoned by state officials who say they were counting on it to make a strong case against Enbridge's claims its 64-year-old pipelines present little risk to the Great Lakes. The risk assessment analysis—child of a state process and midwived with oil industry money and influence—is now orphaned. Its twin sister—a state alternatives study riddled with errors, omissions and bias—is on life support. Recall that we were told a year ago these studies would give the state what it needed to make a decision about Line 5's future. It now appears that any decision about Line 5 may be months if not years away. Meanwhile, concerns grow about the pipeline's condition.

Moreover, since problems with both studies are linked to ties with Enbridge one wonders if it wasn't Enbridge's plan all along to sabotage them. Delay is Enbridge's friend. The Canadian pipeline transport giant's \$1.5 billion in earnings the first six months of this year include many millions from Line 5 oil being carried across the Straits through Michigan to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario. It's no accident that Enbridge's strongest Line 5 support outside the oil industry comes from Canadian energy and government officials.

So how did we get here? The risk assessment died just days before its scheduled release in late June and was near completion when state officials discovered that a key consultant hired to do worst-case oil spill modeling on Line 5 for the state was doing the same thing for Enbridge at the same time. That conflict of interest prompted officials to scuttle the risk assessment entirely, refusing to even take delivery on the final product. They are now sitting on \$756,000 of Enbridge's money intended to pay for the risk assessment and they claim to be trying to figure out what to do next. State officials say whatever worst-case oil spill projections would come from the tainted study likely benefit Enbridge's interests. But the reality is we may never know unless the state takes possession of the study and releases it to the public. And there's at least some evidence from a preliminary assessment presented at a May workshop that the risk assessment may have been on track to determine that a worst-case oil spill could potentially impact up to 500 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. That's closer to what a University of Michigan study concluded and a much bigger spill footprint than in the much-criticized draft alternatives study.

What also raises questions is that a key document requested by the state's contractor, DNV, called a Facilities Response Plan, was heavily redacted by Enbridge. The Facilities Response Plan is Enbridge's detailed oil spill response plan filed with the federal government and generally not made available to the public. It was to be used by DNV in determining the effectiveness of oil spill recovery in a worst-case scenario and essential for figuring out the extent of environmental and economic damage from a big spill. DNV, in an email flagged high priority, told state officials on June 16 the censored Enbridge Facility Response Plan was basically useless. It was four days later on June 20 that the state announced it was cancelling the risk assessment study. Just a coincidence? Again, we may never know.

A second study that examined alternatives to Line 5 didn't bother doing the required worst-case oil spill analysis and even state officials who hired the firm sharply criticized the report's failures. The fact that the lead company that authored the alternatives study has business ties to Enbridge bolstered the case made by Sierra Club and others that it was clearly biased in favor of Enbridge's interests. Pages of errors and omissions in the study were submitted during the state's public comment period that ended Friday, including from the state agencies themselves.

So what happens now? That was a question I posed yesterday during a meeting with Michigan Energy Agency Director Valerie Brader and Department of Environmental Quality Director Heidi Grether. Brader and Grether, who co-chair the governor's Pipeline Safety Advisory Board, are in charge of the Line 5 studies. Neither, it turns out, have a plan for how to complete the study process. And there's no framework or clearly identifiable path to reaching a decision on Line 5. With just 17 months left of a Snyder administration I asked Grether and Brader if there's any urgency to getting the Line 5 job finished before they move on. "We have to do this as quickly as possible," said Brader.

It might seem to some that Snyder and Schuette are running out the clock and hoping that each day that passes isn't one day closer to being accountable for an economic and environmental disaster in the Straits on their watch. It's been two years since Snyder and Schuette's pipeline task force said the state should look at alternatives to the most dangerous oil pipelines in the Great Lakes basin. It's been seven years since another Enbridge pipeline spilled 1.2 million gallons of oil along the Kalamazoo River and attention began focusing on the threat to the Great Lakes from Line 5.

The sole identifiable decision and only legally enforceable action being taken by the state involves whether the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality gives Enbridge a permit to install 22 new anchors along Line 5 in the Straits, several of them in areas where they will shore up a section of the pipeline that is bent and potentially damaged. Local residents and environmental groups want the DEQ to condition the permit on a comprehensive look at Line 5 throughout the nearly 5-mile path it takes in the Straits.

A big reason for the request is that for years—perhaps decades—the pipelines lacked proper supports. Did the massively powerful Straits currents and shifting, eroding lake bottom jar and compromise the pipelines? It seems likely and at least one independent engineer—Dr. Ed Timm—is convinced it has. Timm and others submitted convincing testimony during the July 25 permit hearing in St. Ignace but it isn't clear the DEQ is listening. Most are betting the DEQ will give Enbridge what it wants—a blank check to not only install anchors but ensure they strengthen their claims about Line 5's safety and lay the groundwork for increased oil transport through the Straits.

What many fear is that the state's troubled Line 5 study process will grind on until 2017 becomes the 2018 election year for governor and attorney general and then 2018 turns to 2019 and we have a new governor and attorney general who may want to start the whole process all over again. All of the study problems and the delays benefit Enbridge, of course. They plan to continue pumping oil through their Straits pipelines and making money indefinitely—that is until the pipelines rupture.

More than 22,000 call on AG Schuette to shut down Enbridge Line 5

AUGUST 05, 2017

As the state's official comment period for Line 5 Alternatives Analysis closes, public demands immediate shutdown of oil pipelines in Straits of Mackinac.

LANSING – Oil & Water Don't Mix submitted more than 22,000 comments by a Friday deadline demanding Attorney General Bill Schuette shut down Line 5.

"The Alternatives Analysis downplays the massive risk and catastrophic impact of a Line 5 oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac, and Attorney General Schuette must act now to protect our Great Lakes," said **David Holtz, chair, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter and campaign coordinator for Oil & Water Don't Mix**. "The overwhelming response delivered by more than 22,000 people who care about protecting the Great Lakes sends a clear message: Line 5 must be shut down immediately."

Comment in support of decommissioning Line 5 included 11,229 signed postcards collected by Clean Water Action and other groups as well as 11,000 online comments collected by groups including Clean Water Action, For Love of Water (FLOW), Food & Water Watch, Michigan Environmental Council, Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council and Sierra Club. In addition, businesses supporting the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign called on their customers to submit comment, including Cherry Republic, HopCat and Patagonia. More than 250 businesses support the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign.

Last month, the State of Michigan held public feedback sessions across the state, where hundreds of Michigan residents attended to call for a Line 5 shutdown. Five of Gov. Snyder's appointees to the Pipeline Safety Advisory Board signed a letter in July voicing concerns that the Alternatives Analysis was solely designed to support Enbridge's interests.

"Responsibility for Line 5 falls on our elected leaders, and they must take full responsibility for the health of our Great Lakes by shutting down Line 5," said **Sean McBrearty of Clean Water Action**. "Our Great Lakes are too precious to risk a catastrophic oil spill any longer, and the thousands of comments submitted by Michiganders should serve as a wake-up call to Bill Schuette."

Our Great Lakes are too precious to risk a catastrophic oil spill any longer, and the thousands of comments submitted by Michiganders should serve as a wake-up call to Bill Schuette." - Sean McBrearty of Clean Water Action1

"The Alternatives Analysis was a missed opportunity to reveal to the public the dangers and risks of Line 5," said **Liz Kirkwood, director of FLOW**. "The state should not waste any more time on this flawed alternatives study. Instead, it should conduct a thorough, independent analysis of the condition of Line 5 and immediately shut down the flow of oil through the pipelines in the meantime."



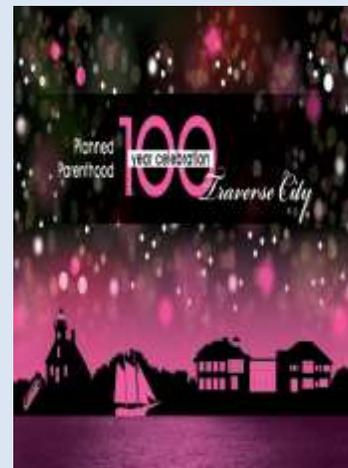
Labor Day Bridge Walk - walk together in solidarity for shutting down Line 5, or help pass out stickers to raise awareness of the risky Line 5 pipeline. RSVP at the OWDM website - let them know if you will be walking (starting at 9:00 am) or helping to pass out "I Walked the Bridge next to the Risky Line 5 Pipeline" stickers (1-hour shifts starting at 8:30 am at the finish line).
RSVP here:
http://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/labor_day_bridge_walk_2017

Sept 13: Planned Parenthood Fundraiser Dinner, 6 pm at the Haggerty Center.

Making a reservation and paying for Planned Parenthood 100 Year Celebration on-line:

1. Go to: <http://www.ppaction.org/site/Calendar?id=131620&view=Detail>
2. Click on: GET RESERVATION DETAILS at the bottom of the page
3. Fill out the first page and then it will let you proceed to the next page
4. Completing each page will allow you to proceed to the next page.

If you would like to sit at a table honoring Vina Mikesell let Barb Marsh know blmarsh@hotmail.com RSVPs due August 25!



League of Women Voters Condemns White Supremacists in Charlottesville

Washington, DC - League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement on August 13, 2017 following the horrific acts by white supremacists in Virginia:

"Yesterday the world watched in horror as white supremacists gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is no place for hatred and violence in our democracy and all leaders must condemn these acts of domestic terrorism. We must send a strong message that while the freedom of speech and the freedom of assembly are some of our most cherished rights and must be protected, those rights do not extend to what we witnessed yesterday. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with the victims of violence in Charlottesville and against white supremacism."

Ideas to Combat the Hateful Demonstration in Charlottesville ★

We continue to grapple with the hateful events that were displayed last weekend in Charlottesville. In that vein the LWVUS would like to offer the following opportunities to act on an individual level with faith and social justice groups from around the country.

1. Call your state legislator and tell them to protect the protesters. Free speech and the right to peaceably assemble are among the cornerstones of our democracy.
2. Share your story at CommunitiesAgainstHate.org If you or someone you know has experienced or witnessed a hate incident, please encourage them to share their story.



Over 300 people attended a Vigil in Traverse City on August 13 to condemn racist violence and against white supremacy. Good see many LWVLC and LWV Grand Traverse Area members in attendance.

LWVLC Annual Fund Drive

Thank you to all who have contributed thus far to our 2017 Annual Fund Drive. The Annual Fund Drive has traditionally been in April and May although gifts come to the League throughout the year. Once the new League Fiscal Year begins on June 1, all donations become a part of the new Fiscal Year's Annual Fund. Below are the donors who have given since the last newsletter and toward the 2018 Annual Fund.

GENERAL FUND – MEMBERS

Lois Bahle

GENERAL FUND-FRIENDS

Marguerite and John Sweet

ED FUND - FRIENDS

Suttons Bay Rotary

(thank you to Mary Tonneberger)

GENERAL FUND - FRIENDS

Marguerite and John Sweet

BARBARA REINERT FUND MEMBER

Theda Connell

ED FUND MEMBERS

Anne Harper

(Thank you to Philip S. Harper Foundation)

BARBARA REINERT FUND FRIENDS

Marguerite and John Sweet

2017 Annual Fund Drive

General Fund

Members: \$1,765.00

Friends: \$ 850.00

Total: \$2,615.00

Education Fund

Members: \$1,235.00

Friends: \$ 700.00

Total: \$1,935.00

Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund

Members: \$491.00

Friends: \$200.00

Total: \$691.00

Grand Total for Annual Fund Drive in 2017: \$5,241.00.

Updates from LWVLC Committees:

10

The **LWVLC Farm Labor Task Force** is busy on the revision of the Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position. We have been asked to do the following by the LWVMI Board. Our goal is to have it submitted by the end of October. 1. Revise Section 1. B. of the LWVMI Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position by deleting the sentence "Should allow a lawfully present, qualifying person to apply for or secure and renew a driver's license or obtain identification card." and substituting the sentence "Should allow a person to apply for or secure and renew a driver's license or obtain an identification card regardless of immigration status." 2. Provide appropriate background information and pros and cons for the proposed revision to the state Board for distribution of local leagues for review and consensus discussions.

The **LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee** is preparing for the Oct. 4 League Forum that will feature Maggie Sprattmoran speaking on how our community can best respond to the trauma and long term stress that so many children experience. That Forum is scheduled to be an evening event starting at 6 pm at the Government Center to give parents an opportunity to attend.

RELATED EVENT:



The Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission is sponsoring a **Dance Party fundraiser for Parenting Communities from 6 - 8:30 on Thursday, Sept. 7 at Aurora Wineries**. "Savage Soul", a Traverse City band, will play music for listeners and dancers. Come and enjoy appetizers made by local restaurants and learn about Parenting Communities, a Leelanau County resource that supports families and their young children through play groups and home visits. Tickets for the event are \$25 and can be purchased @ mynorthtickets.com.

The **LWVLC Voter Services Committee** will be receiving a \$250 grant from The League of Women Voters of Michigan Education Fund (LWVMIEF) "to undertake a program of state-based advocacy that aims to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations such as communities of color, individuals with low incomes and young people." LWVMI President Judy Karandjeff and LWVMI/LWVLC board member will be hosting a Voter Protection Forum at noon at the Government Center on November 15. The committee is also making plans for being at NMC for National Voter Registration Day on September 26 and staffing a table at Leelanau Uncaged on September 30.

The **LWVLC ERA Committee** is planning to host a showing of the film Equal Means Equal and panel discussion at NMC this fall in collaboration with a number of campus student groups and other local organizations. The last showing at the Bay Theater was packed. The committee hopes to engage with younger members of community with this campus showing and discussion.

The **LWVLC Energy and Natural Resources Committee** opens our season with #@IT HAPPENS, THEN WHAT? Leelanau County Septic System: Water Quality and Public Health Implications at noon on September 13. A committee meeting is at 10 am on the same date.

The **LWVLC Age Friendly Committee** will regroup with its first fall meeting on September 13 at 10:30 am. Plans to follow up with other organizations and agencies working on the same issues will be developed.