



The Leelanau VOTER

July 2015

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Marian Kromkowski
CHAIR

Judy Hoeffler
VICE-CHAIR

Jacque Johnson
SECRETARY

Nancy Duck
TREASURER

Vina Mikesell
EDITOR

DIRECTORS

Christi Bardenhagen

Betty Bushey

BJ Christensen

Tricia Denton

Judy Hoeffler

Suzanne Hoff

Ann McInnis

Vina Mikesell

Jane Packard

Chris Palmer

Peter Wolcott

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.

Celebrating our Past and Embracing the Future

I joined the League in 2010 after attending several of its meetings that year. I was impressed with the quality of the programs but also by the intelligence and civility of member discussions that followed. Working on the Farm Labor Task Force at the local level, joining the LWVLC board in 2012, attending the LWVMI state conventions in 2013 and 2015 and the LWVUS national convention in 2014 continue to solidify my commitment to the League's mission. With your help I will do my best to keep the LWVLC relevant and strong.

The theme from a recent League Council of state and national League officers was "Celebrating our Past and Embracing the Future." The League was founded 95 years ago to educate and activate the 23 million newly enfranchised women voters. To this day the League encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

At our LWVLC Board Retreat on June 22 we discussed many intriguing ideas for monthly forums for 2015-2016. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2. However, the League will not be idle in July and August. Our committees will continue to meet. We will have voter registration tables at the Farmers' Markets. We will continue to prepare for the review of the League's positions on Money in Politics, Redistricting and Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. We will be speaking at the Board of Commissioners' meeting at 7PM on July 21st regarding early childhood needs and services in the county.

The League has had historic successes. The challenges we face are great, but not insurmountable. Elisabeth MacNamara, LWV President, encouraged us in a recent League Update: "*If we keep the mission of increasing participation by informing voters and reforming the system always before us, what we are learning is that the people we need will come, the work we do will get done, and, more importantly, democracy will work for everyone.*"

Have a great summer, talk up the League and be an active, engaged citizen!

Marian

2015 LEELANAU SUMMER CALENDAR

Thursday, July 16 at 10:00 am

PUBLIC MEETING

Krista Grimm

Vice President League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

MUNNECKE ROOM, LELAND LIBRARY



Monday, July 20

VOLUNTEERING AT THE STATE THEATER



Thursday, July 21 at 7 pm

LEELANAU COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Comments by the Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee

GOVERNMENT CENTER



Monday, August 17

VOLUNTEERING AT THE STATE THEATER



**League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region
48th Annual Meeting and Conference**

September 25-16, 2015

Wyndham Suites Hotel in Glenview, IL

Speakers: Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, Conservation Ecologist for The Field Museum and Molly Flanagan, Policy Director for the Alliance for the Great Lakes. Other events include field trips, workshops, nature hikes and more.

Our League is a member of LWVLMR. We are allowed two delegates, but any one may attend. Please let Marian or Vina know if you are interested.

More information may be found at LWVLMR.org.

From the Farm Labor Task Force

With the LWVMI member concurrence with our League position on the agricultural migrant/ seasonal worker, our first communication with Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI President, and VP of Advocacy, Linda Hoff, was to send them background information on the current update of Part 124 of Public Health Code 368 of 1978. This update relates directly to the three LWVLC/MI position recommendations under IV. Housing Quantity and Quality, C. State Government.

The LWVMI Advocacy Committee reviews action possibilities and makes recommendations to the State Board. The State Board then makes final decisions on whether nor not to take action on that recommendation. LWVMI does not take action on every position it holds.

It is exciting to finally be at this stage on the study/consensus/adopted position journey. However small a role they may have played, community programs and well-researched reports by the Farm Labor Task Force aimed to improve support for area agricultural employers as well as relations with the agricultural worker community. We haven't seen positive movement on a federal guest worker visa, but local reports of fair treatment by law enforcement in challenging situations, stronger relations within Suttons Bay Public School and families of Hispanic origin, and a Laundry Project fully funded to serve agricultural worker families through the summer, provide encouragement to migrant workers to work in Leelanau County. The media coverage of the challenges faced by agricultural employers and migrant workers through the last few years, has also validated the hard work of the Farm Labor Task Force members past and present. The FLTF encourages League members and community residents with a special interest in migrant/ agricultural issues to join our committee.

Christi Bardenhagen and Suzanne Hoff,
CoChairs

LEAGUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 27.....
Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will meet at 12:30 pm in the Munnecke Room at the Leland Township Public Library.

August 5
Energy and Natural Resources Study Committee meets at 9:30 am at the Government Center.

August 10
Farm Labor Task Force meets at 10 am at the Government Center in Conference Room #2.

August 19
Opportunities and Challenges of Leelanau Committee will meet at 9 am at the Government Center in Conference Room #1. April Missais, Director of Senior Services Leelanau County, will meet with the group.

August 28
Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will meet at 12:30 pm in the Munnecke Room at the Leland Township Public Library.

The Voter Service Committee will have booths at many of the Leelanau Farmers' Markets in July and August and at *Leelanau Uncaged* in Northport on September 26th. We will have voter registration information and forms.

If you would like to help, contact Marian Kromkowski.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**Jennie Berkson and David Edelstein from Leland
Greg Nobles from Northport**

A new membership list will be sent to everyone in the fall.

THREATS to LAKE MICHIGAN

Join us on Thursday morning, July 16th at 10 am when we host Krista Grimm, Vice President of the LWV Lake Michigan Region. Krista is from La Grange, IL and also serves as the Water Issues Specialist on the LWV Illinois State Board. The meeting will be in the Muennecke Room of the Leland Public Library.

Krista will speak about the problems facing Lake Michigan and will tell us more about the LWVLMR which consists of the 48 Leagues surrounding the Lake.

An urban planning consultant, Krista's interest in water policy matters grew after her first trip to Washington DC to advocate for the Great Lakes in 2005. Grimm also serves as chair of the Sustain-ability Commission in her community and co-chairs the Water Committee of the Sierra Club Chicago Group.

She will be vacationing in Leelanau County with her family but has graciously agreed to take a little time away from "eating cherries and other things people do in Leelanau in mid July" to speak with us. We have also invited our two neighboring Leagues to join us.

Please bring friends

ON-GOING LWVLC STUDY COMMITTEE PLANS

The **Farm Labor Task Force** will meet at the Government Center at 10:00 AM on Monday August 10. This summer we will continue to explore ways to advocate for the newly adopted LWVMI position on Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Workers. We will continue to monitor obstacles these workers may face in our community.

Suzanne Hoff and Christi Bardenhagen are the co-chairs of the committee.

The **LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee** is meeting at 12:30 in the Munnecke Rm. at the Leland Public Library on July 27 and August 28. The Committee is involved in preparing a presentation on the need for local political support for comprehensive and integrated early childhood services before the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, July 21 at 7:00 P.M. All LWVLC members are encouraged to attend. Additionally, the committee is preparing a forum for the LWVLC on how adverse childhood experiences impact young children and manifest themselves later in life.

Sue Miller is the chair.

The **LWVLC Energy and Natural Resources Committee** will meet at the Government Center at 9:30 AM on Wednesdays July 1 and August 5. This summer our committee will begin to put together plans and suggestions for how our local communities can either voluntarily (or involuntarily later) transition to low consumptive, low energy lifestyles. As climate warming intensifies, high quality and easy to extract oil and fossil fuels increasingly deplete (creating inevitable economic downturn), biological diversity plummets while human population mushrooms, we feel it is essential that planning for our local communities' futures is a critical area of study. Our committee will take advantage of the many transition initiative studies in which some our members have already been engaged. In addition, our committee will continue to daily monitor energy issues along with those issues related to our region's water, land, mineral , air resources.

Ann and Doug McInnis, are the co-chairs of the committee.

The **LWVLC Challenges of a Changing Leelanau** will meet with April Missias, Director, Leelanau County Senior Services, on Wednesday, August 19, at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 1 of the Government Center. A goal of the study group in the year ahead is to identify those areas in the United States with the most innovative and helpful services for aging populations. The Committee continues gathering information on the characteristics that make Leelanau a place you would want to live.

Judy Hoeffler and Phil Mikesell are the co-chairs of the committee.



Jo Walker and Martha Shaver, retiring Board members, greeting people at the LWVLC Annual Meeting. Jo will continue to help us with Facebook , the website and VOTE411. Martha will continue working on the Membership Committee.

Thank you both for your service to the League.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT STUDY

MONEY IN POLITICS REVIEW

At the LWVUS Convention 2014, delegates chose Key Structures of Democracy as the program for the League of Women Voters for the 2014-2016 biennium.

Three committees have been selected to collect and disseminate information on: money in politics; the process of amending the Constitution; and redistricting in the states. This ambitious undertaking will end by June 2016. As the LWVUS committees go about their work, there are things that our League can do to inform ourselves and our community about these topics that are critical for our democracy.

Information on the [Money in Politics Review](#) and the [Constitutional Amendment Study](#), including scope of work, suggested readings and timelines can be found on the League Management website and will be updated periodically in the weekly *League Update*. Our League can begin gathering information at the local (state) level about laws governing campaign finance and the constitutional amendment process. This is also a good time to form a local study committee or committees and begin to identify local scholars and other experts to work with the League in developing forums for community education. The key structures of democracy operate at all levels of democracy and reform is needed everywhere, not just in Washington D.C.

In addition to including background information, the League Management website includes a Money in Politics forum where members can discuss the many issues raised by money in politics. Forums on the process of Constitutional Amendments and Redistricting will also be available in the next few months. To stay up to date on the latest information, subscribe to the weekly *League Update*. In order to make the studies successful and reflective of the views of all Leaguers, we need to get prepared to participate in these all-important activities.



**Our condolences to the family of Helen Wells.
Helen and her husband, Bill, joined our
League before it became independent and
have been strong supporters of the group.**

**New League President, Marian
Kromkowski, addressing members at
the Annual Meeting on May 28th at the
Leland Lodge.**