



The Leelanau VOTER

June 2016

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Marian Kromkowski
PRESIDENT

Christi Bardenhagen
VICE PRESIDENT

to be appointed
SECRETARY

Nancy Duck
TREASURER

Vina Mikesell
EDITOR

DIRECTORS

Betty Bushey

Tricia Denton

Sharon Golm

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.

From the President.....

As the League calendar for 2015-2016 draws to a close, I hope we can all look back and be proud of the work we did this year. These are our accomplishments:

- 13% increase in membership
- Impressive attendance at monthly forums
- Voter registration in all Leelanau Schools leading to 50+ new voters
- Speaking out at Board of Commissioners and Health Department meetings
- Pipeline resolution efforts
- Seven members attending LWVMI conference
- Two members attending LWVUS conference this June
- 35% of members involved in League committees
- Public face of League expands in newspaper forums

Can we do more? Can we do better? Of course. We all have different skill sets, energy and availability. I trust that you and I joined the League to make a difference through "encouraging informed and active participation in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy."

We head into a very important election season. The Voters Service Committee will be meeting on June 1st at 10:15 AM in the lower level of the Government Center to coordinate fall Candidate Forums and summer Voter Registration efforts. Join us!

It probably goes without saying that the League is non-partisan and I, as president, cannot undertake any action that will cause public identification as supporting or opposing any candidate for office or any political party. What perhaps needs repeating comes from our Non-Partisan Policy: "Non-board members are encouraged to participate fully in partisan activities."

So, enjoy your summer, fully participate in Making Democracy Work and make sure you vote in the August 2 Primary.

*Best regards,
Marian*

How Do we Plan for Food Security in the Face of Ever Increasing Climate Disruption?

Global climate is changing....more rapidly than predicted....and the ramifications of this are serious. While it now appears to be unstoppable, we should do what we can to slow it down. What does this mean for our future? Will we continue to have access to healthy food for our families and communities? Will this affect our local farming and tourism businesses? What can we do now to prepare?

On Wednesday, June 1st, come to the Government Center.

- 11:15 AM** Meet and Greet to learn about local and regional food-related organizations and businesses, with opportunities to learn new skills
- 12 noon** Panel featuring 5 experts on the impact of climate change on food and farming

Then commit to support our local communities' food and farming producers by buying fresh and local! Perhaps also learn how to grow food in your own yard or community garden, preserve and then prepare it. There are many wonderful local folks and organizations happy to help. The dividends might actually be an increase in health & happiness along with a vibrant local and secure food economy.

One Example: *Leelanau Farmers Markets* is a local non-profit organization with a mission to provide locally produced farm and food products for the benefit of the Leelanau Community. "All products and produce sold at our markets are made or grown within 60 miles of the farmers market!!" Buy Fresh, Buy Local!!

Suttons Bay (Saturdays) - May 7 - October 29 9AM to 1PM

Empire (Saturdays) - June 18 - September 10 9AM to 1PM

Lake Leelanau (Sundays) - June 12 - September 4 9AM to 1PM

Glen Arbor (Tuesdays) - June 14 - September 6 9AM to 1PM

Leland (Thursdays) - June 16 - September 1 9AM to 1PM

Northport (Fridays) - June 3 - September 9 9AM to 1PM

Cedar (Fridays) - June 17 - September 9 3PM to 7 PM



LEELANAU CALENDAR

JUNE 1

at 11:15 am

Meet and Greet Demonstrations

at noon

MEMBER MEETING

Food Security

LOWER LEVEL GOVERNMENT CENTER

JUNE 16-19

NATIONAL LWVUS CONVENTION

WASHINGTON D.C.

JUNE 27

1 PM

BOARD RETREAT

JANE AND RUSS PACKARDS' HOME

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JUNE 1

10:00 AM

AGE FRIENDLY LEELANAU

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

10:15 AM

VOTERS SERVICE

All in the Government Center

JUNE 6

9:00 AM

FARM LABOR TASK FORCE

Conference Room 1, Government Center

JUNE 17

12 NOON

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS AND SERVICES

Munnecke Room, Leland Public Library

CLOSE DOWN THE PIPELINE

On Thursday, June 2nd the League's first presentation to shut down Enbridge Pipeline 5 will take place at the Northport Village Council meeting at 7 pm at the Village Hall.

A committee of 15 people has been working for two months to create a packet of information for each member of the township and village boards. League members have also approached some of these elected officials before their respective meetings to gain their support.

As an individual, please attend your township or village meeting to voice your support for shutting down the pipeline. **ONLY ONE PERSON HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO SPEAK FOR THE LEAGUE.**

Bingham Township – June 20 at 7 pm
Bingham Township Hall

Centerville Township – June 8 at 7 pm
Centerville Township Hall

Cleveland Township – June 14 at 7:30 pm
Cleveland Township Hall

Elmwood Township – June 13 at 6:00 pm
Elmwood Township Hall

Empire Township – June 14 at 7:30 pm
Empire Township Hall

Glen Arbor Township – June 21 at 7:30 pm
Glen Arbor Township Hall

Kasson Township – date to be determined
Kasson Township Hall

Leelanau Township – June 14 at 7:00 pm
Leelanau Township Hall

Leland Township – June 13 at 7:30 pm
Leland Library

Solon Township – June 9 at 7 pm
Cedar Fire Hall

Suttons Bay Township – June 8 at 5:15 pm
Suttons Bay Township Hall

Suttons Bay Village – June 20 at 5:30 pm
321 St Joseph Street, Suite D

DUES ARE DUE

Dues are payable now.
If you joined after February
1, 2016, you do not owe
dues.

Dues are \$60/individual
or \$90/household.

Checks should be made out
to League of Women Voters
Leelanau County (LWVLC).

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

THANK YOU!

2016 Annual Meeting

More than 110 people gathered at Timberlee Hills on May 26th to attend the LWVLC Annual Meeting and to hear Jack Lessenberry speak about “Michigan in Crisis: How Did We Get Here and How Do We Fix it?”

Laurel Evans, the new Executive Assistant to the County Administrator, received the League’s 2016 Outstanding Community Member Award for her work with the League in helping register county high school students the past several years.

BJ Christensen, Suzanne Hoff and Ann McInnis were recognized for Outstanding Service to the League of Women Voters Leelanau County. All three are retiring from the LWVLC Board after having served ever since we became independent in 2013.

Elected for 2 year terms are President Marian Kromkowski, Vice President Christi Bardenhagen and Board members Tricia Denton, Sharon Golm and Vina Mikesell.



Above: Jack Lessenberry and Laurel Evans

Below: BJ Christensen, Suzanne Hoff and Ann McInnis



**Welcome to our newest
members!!**

Shawn Denton
from Maple City

Nancy and Terry Flanagan
from Cedar

Joe Farrell
Rodney Groleau
Mary Valpey
from Suttons Bay

THE BARBARA REINERT MEMORIAL FUND

The purpose of the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund is to promote the membership, leadership, and educational goals of the League of Women Voters Leelanau County.

I. Membership Assistance

A. Provide financial assistance with the cost of dues for LWVLC membership to those who are unable to afford the cost. This will --

- 1. Increase diversity in membership**
- 2. Attract younger members**
- 3. Maintain current members unable to afford membership**

II. Leadership and Educational Event Assistance

A. Provide financial assistance for expenses incurred by LWVLC members attending events related to the goals of the League.

III. Implementation:

A. Membership Assistance

- 1. Provide up to 80% of a personal member's dues for one year, subject to annual review by the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund committee for the next year's assistance.**
- 2. Referrals may be made by current members.**
- 3. Application may come from anyone interested in joining LWVLC or maintaining membership.**
- 4. One of the co-chairs will contact the applicant, supply the person with the application form, and set up an interview.**
- 5. The co-chairs will decide on the merit of the application with confidentiality being essential.**

B. Leadership and Educational Event Assistance

- 1. A member may apply to the co-chairs of the BRMF for financial aid to attend an event upon recommendation of the LWVLC Board.**

TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

\$1,945.00

Thank You for Contributing to the Annual Fund Drive

Thank you very much if you have donated to the Annual Fund. We appreciate your generosity. If you haven't donated to the Annual Fund, we hope to be able to list your name next month. Gifts may be made to the General Fund (non-tax-deductible), the Education Fund (tax-deductible) and/or the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund (non-tax-deductible).

General Fund - Members

Lois Bahle
Christi and Gary Bardenhagen
Jennie Berkson and David Edelstein
Ann Bogley
Tricia Denton
Darlene Doorlag
Nancy and Berkley Duck
Jane Gale
Sam Getsinger
Suzanne and Bill Hoff
Jacquie Johnson
Marian Kromkowski and Matt Posner
Nancy Lindeman
Vina and Phil Mikesell
Karen Mulvahill
Joyce Rouse
Karen and Jack Segal
Martha and Tom Shaver
Janet Shroyer

General Fund - Friends

Lee Ann Sterling

Reinert Fund - Members

Tricia Denton
Sharon Golm
Jacquie Johnson
Suzanne and Jim Landes
Barbara and Karl Marsh*
Jane and Russ Packard
Ed Reinert
Janet Shroyer
Tyrus Wessell

Reinert Fund – Friends

Nina and Bill Collins
Sarah Pokempner and Jerry Levine
Carlyle Roberts
Nicholas Sica

Ed Fund – Members

Barbara Abbott and Larry Hauser
Lois Bahle
Christi and Gary Bardenhagen
Colleen Cooper
Tricia Denton
Nancy and Berkley Duck
Jennie Berkson and David Edelstein
Nancy Fitzgerald and Jerry Agnew
Jane Gale
Sharon Golm
Suzanne and Bill Hoff
Joan Hunault
Barbara Krause
Marian Kromkowski and Matt Posner
Ann and Doug McInnis
Sue Miller
Jane and Russ Packard
Christine Palmer
Mary Tonneberger
Jo Walker
Tyrus Wessell

Ed Fund - Friends

Anonymous
Donna and Larry Dodd
Gina and John Erb
Dick Grout
Jane and Chet Janik

*in honor of Suzanne and Jim Landes'
55th Wedding Anniversary



LWVLC MEMBERS ATTENDING LWVMI CONFERENCE IN LANSING ON APRIL 30

From left to right: Kathy Frerichs, Christi Bardenhagen, Marian Kromkowski, BJ Christensen, Chris Palmer and Vina Mikesell. Not pictured: Joan Hunault

Attending the conference I got to see the depth of expertise and commitment of League members across the state. Good presenters demonstrated that change is a powerful force for both moving forward or falling back.

Chris Palmer

I really enjoyed hearing Gretchen Whitmer, former Michigan House of Representatives member and Michigan Senator. She served in the Michigan Congress for eight years (2006 – 2014), with four years as Senate Minority Leader. She said that when she served in the Senate there were 12 women, the most ever. However, we now have just four women Senators. That means that if women are not at the table, they are on the menu.

Christi Bardenhagen

Seeing the LWVMI in action reaffirms my commitment to staying engaged. Nearly all the Leagues were represented. So many are doing so much throughout the state. The League leadership team brought in great speakers to help us understand the voter rights challenges we face and gave us ideas as to how we may better tackle these issues at home.

Marian Kromkowski

Sally Williams informed us of the consequences of downsizing the number of elections resulting in a longer ballot that in turn yields longer lines at polling places; straight party voting elimination results in longer times to fill in ballots yielding longer lines; 2/3% of eligible voters vote and only 1/4 of absentee eligible voters vote. She told how to find info online: locations for voting, sample ballots, international voting, first time voter sign up, etc. Final summary: May we all work towards fair representation in government and equal opportunity for all to vote in a respectful and timely manner.

Kathy Frerichs

I learned the priority advocacy agendas for both the LWVMI and LWVUS are nearly the same. LWVMI will focus on 1) protecting voting rights and make them more accessible; 2) making the redistricting process more transparent and fair with public participation; 3) reducing the influence of money in politics; and 4) promoting impartial courts. The US League will focus on 1) voting protection and mobilization; 2) election reform, and 3) money in politics, a constitutional amend-ment, and redistricting. League members are encouraged to sign up for action alerts and contact your legislators on issues of concern without mentioning the LWV.

BJ Christensen

**CONTINUING GET
WELL WISHES TO**

**Randy Harmson
and
Judy Hoeffler**

**Thank you to retiring Board members
Fran Eckerson and Jacquie Johnson
for your many contributions to the League.**

Farm Labor Task Force

At the June 6th meeting, members will hear from Melva Christunus and Lady Palmer of NWMI Health Services.

Committee members will review respective township and planning commission agendas and minutes for action relevant to the League's Agricultural Farm Worker Position.

Suzanne will deliver to Bea Cruz the League's *New Voter Information* cards and the booklet, "Preparing Your Family for Immigration Enforcement," published by the Michigan Immigration Rights Center. The documents are in English and Spanish.

The MIRC booklet was prepared in response to the most recent executive action by President Obama to return recent Central American immigrants to their home countries.

The FLTF welcomes Nancy Lindeman and Monica Cox, a non-member from Benzie County, to the task force.



Kelly and Danielle, new members



President, Marian Kromkowski



Nancy Duck and Vina Mikesell will be attending the National League Convention in mid-June in Washington D.C.

Watch for their report in the August newsletter.