



The Leelanau VOTER

April 2018

From the President

April has been an amazing month. Significantly, a snowstorm threatened to cancel our April 4 Forum on Protect the Vote. Our speaker, Sharon Dolente from ACLU came all the way from Detroit so it did not seem right to send her back without hearing from her. Chances of getting her to return this way any time soon seemed pretty small. We went ahead and 27 hearty souls showed up for the forum and monthly meeting. Sharon’s talk on why we need to pass a constitutional amendment to put voting rights in the Constitution was excellent. The changes will only bring Michigan up to speed with over three dozen other states.

Here are other ways League members contributed to fulfilling our goals of 1.) encouraging informed and active participation in government; 2.) working to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and 3.) influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

League members participated in Equal Pay Day at NMC, registering new voters and circulating Promote the Vote petitions. They also registered students at St. Mary’s High School. Two League members were honored at the NMEAC Award Night.

League members attended the May 10th and May 17th Board of Commissioners meetings to support the senior millage. We met for a Book Read discussion at Suzanne and Bill Hoff’s home. We participated in the Line Five Retirement Party and on April 28 will march with Planned Parenthood.

Yours truly,
Christi Bardenhagen

Calendar

May 2018

- 2 Is our Health Care System Broken? Forum 12 noon at Govt Center
- 5 LWVMI Workshop in Grayling
- 23 LWVLC Annual Dinner and Meeting

June 2018

- 6 Forum: Care For the Planet Because Your Health Depends On It 12 noon at Govt Center
- 25 LWVLC Annual Board Retreat
- 28 LWV National Convention Chicago



Find upcoming events, alerts and other announcements on **Facebook** or on our website at LWVLeelanau.org

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.

**Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.**

Is Our Health Care System Broken?

Dr. Barbara Conley, an oncologist and medical consultant, will bring the discussion to a personal and local level and provide insight on how health policy affects health outcomes.

Dr. Edwin G. Dolan, an economist, will present several health policy proposals that represent alternatives to our current system.

Part 2 of our exploration of the health care policy.

**Wednesday
May 2
At 12 noon**

**Leelanau County
Government
Center
Lower Level**

**Many bring a sack lunch.
The Public is Invited.**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LEELANAU COUNTY
LWVLeelanau.org**

On Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 12 noon at the Leelanau County Government Center Lower Level Community Room the League of Women Voters Leelanau County will hold Part Two on the topic “**Is Our Health Care System Broken?**” featuring Barbara Conley, MD and Ed Dolan, PhD.

Dr. Barbara Conley, an oncologist and medical consultant, will bring the discussion to a personal and local level and provide insight on how health policy affects health outcomes. Until July 2017 she was Associate Director, Cancer Diagnosis Program, Division of Cancer Treatment & Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute (NCI). Her work focused on exploring the clinical utility and clinical use of diagnostics for clinical trials. Positions outside NCI included Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Maryland and Chief, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Dr. Conley now serves as a special volunteer/contractor.

Dr. Edwin G. Dolan, an economist, will present several health policy proposals that represent alternatives to our current system. He holds a PhD in economics from Yale University and has taught at Dartmouth College, the University of Chicago, George Mason University and Gettysburg College. Dolan has also taught in Moscow, Russia and several European countries, including at Central European University in Budapest, the University of Economics in Prague, and 15 years of annual courses at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center.

The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will meet on May 18, 2018 in the Munnecke Room of the Leland Township Library.

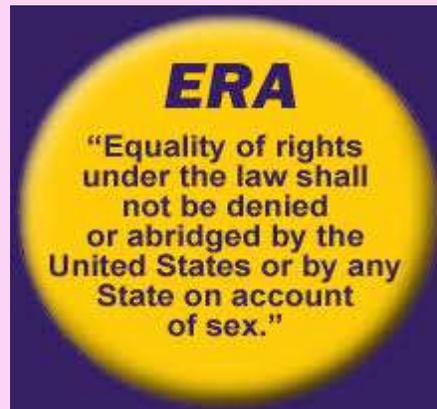
Committee members will be trained (from noon to 2 p.m.) in the “**Darkness to Light Stewards of Children**” program that the Traverse Bay Children’s Advocacy Center offers. This is a highly researched and informative training that discusses techniques for adults to protect children from child abuse, talk with children about abuse, and responsibly report it. It is designed for any adult with children in her/his life, but the Center has also found that even if someone does not have or work with children, the information in this training creates advocates for the work they do. **Non-committee members are also welcome to attend. Please contact Sue Miller (manitoutrail@gmail.com) if you’d like to add your name to the training list.**

The Equal Rights Advocacy Committee (ERA) has been busy.

Last month on March 7, we provided the LWVLC Community Forum for Women's History Month. At this meeting a brief presentation of the history and the current status of ERA ratification was given. This was followed by the audience viewing the newest DVD by Kamala Lopez, "Legalize Equality". The movie is a call to action for continuing the renewed effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to become a US Constitutional Amendment. DVD's were available for purchase at \$5. A helpful group discussion after the film identified at least 13 things people stated they will personally do to support the ratification of the ERA. Michigan is a ratified state.

The LWVLC and LWVMI have been granted the opportunity to present a caucus about the ERA at the national LWVUS convention in Chicago this June. Planning has begun for the caucus. Also, the committee is working on a resolution to be presented at the national convention asking the LWVUS to support the ratification of the ERA by making it a national priority and supporting the elimination of a timeline for this process.

The next meeting of the ERA committee will be May 2nd at 2pm to be held at Dick's Pour House in Lake Leelanau, as one of our committee members will be playing music there at this time. Please join us; this committee is open and welcomes your energy to help us make the ratification of the ERA a completed mission.



Thank you to all the LWVLC members who have responded and generously donated to our 2018 Annual Fund Campaign. Your donations allow us to pursue with vigor the League of Women Voters' increasingly critical goals of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. If you have not contributed and are able to do so, your gift may be made to the LWVLC General Fund, the tax-deductible LWVLC Education Fund and/or the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund, which encourages membership development. Please send checks to Nancy Duck, Treasurer, P.O. Box 992 Leland, MI 49654

Our Voter Services Committee along with the help of County Deputy Clerk Lyn Drzewiecki registered **71 new voters from local high schools during our National Voter Registration Campaign this month!**

Volunteers were able to visit students at all six county schools including Lake Leelanau St Mary's and the Leelanau School in Glen Arbor. In some cases we were able to coordinate presentations to the entire student body and incorporate discussions regarding voting access and voter rights. We even managed to gather more signatures for the Promote the Vote ballot initiative!

We also had a strong presence at Northwestern Michigan College Equal Pay Day event. You guessed it: we registered more voters, gathered more signatures and had rich conversations with student and faculty around pay equity, ERA and other League positions. It was so exciting to engage young people!

Are you new to the LWVLC or otherwise still looking for your niche? Is registering first time voters your passion? Did you know that the age for League of Women Voters membership is now 16? Through partnership with state and national LWV we are now able to offer student memberships for only \$5! Would you like to help with Voters Services or be a part of our newly forming Youth Engagement Committee? Contact Tricia Denton at 231-313-0359. We need you!

Special thanks to our Voter Services Volunteers Tricia Denton, Christi Bardenhagen, Marian Kromkowski, Beth Chiles, Joan Hunault, Sam Getsinger, Jane Packard, Jan Frazee, Suzanne Hoff, Jacquie Johnson, BJ Christensen, Patty Barrons, Chris Palmer, Peter Wolcott and Sharon Golm.



**POWER
TO THE
POLLS**





PROMOTE the VOTE is a proposed constitutional amendment to:

- Make voting more accessible and convenient
- Ensure that everyone's votes are secure and counted
- Ensure that everyone's voice is heard

The **PROMOTE the VOTE** ballot initiative would amend Michigan's Constitution to:

- ✓ Protect the right to vote a secret ballot
- ✓ Ensure military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count
- ✓ Provide voters with the option to vote straight party
- ✓ Automatically register citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines
- ✓ Permit citizens to register to vote by mail or in person until 15 days before an election
- ✓ Allow citizens to register to vote in person with proof of residency within two weeks of and on Election Day
- ✓ Provide all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason
- ✓ Ensure the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results

PROMOTE the VOTE is sponsored by a broad coalition, including League of Women Voters of Michigan, ACLU of Michigan, Michigan League for Public Policy, NAACP Detroit, NAACP Michigan State Conference, and many nonprofits and individuals from across the state.

The **League of Women Voters** of Michigan supports the proposal because we believe that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. We support provisions to increase the security, convenience and accessibility of voting.

PROMOTE the VOTE ballot initiative—League members and others will be collecting signatures with plans to have the proposal on the ballot in November 2018. To change the Constitution, a majority of Michigan voters have to approve the proposed amendment. The Legislature cannot change the Constitution without a vote of the people.

Your action is instrumental to getting our amendment on the 2018 ballot. Go to www.PROMOTETHEVOTEMI.com for more information and to register for updates. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED WITH THE COLLECTION OF BALLOT SIGNATURES. Contact Christi Bardenhagen at c.l.bardenhagen@gmail.com for petitions. Petitions will also be at the May 2 LWVLC Forum

AGRICULTURAL/SEASONAL WORKER POSITION CHANGE ADOPTED

At the April 14, 2018 LWVMI Board meeting, the board voted to update Section 1.B of the Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position to read as follows: "Should allow a person to apply for, secure and renew a driver's license or obtain an identification card regardless of immigration status." Twenty-one local leagues replied to the consensus study.

This past month six of our members, Doug McInnis, Tricia Denton, Kama Ross, Joe Defors, Stephanie Mills and Kate Thornhill were honored with Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, 2018 Environmentalist of the Year nominations.

Doug McInnis was awarded the Special Renewable Energy Award for his tireless dedication to “turn talk into action!” by joining with other volunteers to form the non-profit “Northport Energy”. Together they are making Northport a leader in community action. Northport Energy has come a long way in the past 10 years and is now a model for other communities seeking to reduce environmental impact and transition to renewable energy sources. Thank you, Doug for your humble service and leadership!

Leelanau County author Stephanie Mills won the award for Journalism and Communications. From her beginnings, in 1969 as a young ecology activist through editorships, lectures, and authorship of scores of articles, essays and several books, Stephanie Mills has been applying mind and heart in an effort to inspire a renewed stirring of love for the Earth. Thank you Stephanie for speaking truth to power with the grace of a song bird, inspiring us all.

Congratulations to all our nominees!



**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS
June 6
Forum**

**Care For The Planet Because
Your Health Depends On It!**

Health Impacts of Climate Change
and What We Can Do About Them



Elizabeth Del Buono, MD

Surgical Pathologist, Munson Healthcare Center

Mark Cannon, MD PhD

Infectious Disease Physician, Munson Hospital

Suzanne Albrecht, MD

Department of Psychiatry, Munson Medical Center

Wednesday JUNE 6 At NOON

(Some People Bring A Snack-Lunch)

Leelanau County Gov. Center Community Room, Suttons Bay



LWVLC Annual Dinner and Meeting Wednesday, May 23 at the Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor Send in your RSVP by May 18

The 2019 Proposed Budget, Nominating Committee Report, Local Program Proposal, Proposed Changes to By Laws and our Non Partisan Policy were sent to all members by email on April 24.

At the May 23rd Annual Meeting we will:

- a) adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- b) elect officers, directors and the chair and a member of the nominating committee;
- c) adopt an adequate budget and set dues, with a proposed change to \$5 dues for students;
- d) vote on proposed By Law changes; and
- e) transact such other business as may properly come before us.

Twenty five percent of the voting members constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting of the LWVLC.

RSVPs and Annual Dinner payments are due May 18th. Our speaker will be Peter Payette, Executive Director of Interlochen Public Radio. We expect a good turnout again this year so do not wait till the last minute to send in your reply and payment. Thank you to the Annual Dinner committee and thank you members for your continued support of LWVLC. Non-members are welcome to attend the Annual Dinner and presentation. They do need to RSVP. Only LWVLC members may vote at the Annual Meeting. Clip and send the RSVP below along your check made out to LWVLC to Nancy Duck at PO Box 992, Leland, MI 49654.

**Peter Payette, the Executive Director of Interlochen Public Radio will be our guest speaker.
His topic will be Preserving Quality Journalism and Maintaining a Free Press.**



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
League of Women Voters Leelanau County
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 2018
at The Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor

Our speaker, Peter Payette is the Executive Director of
Interlochen Public Radio. His topic is

Preserving Quality Journalism and Maintaining a Free Press

5:30 pm	Sign in
6:00 pm	Southwest Tex-Mex Buffet/Cash Bar
7:00 pm	Awards and Speaker: Peter Payette
8:15 pm	Annual Meeting to vote on 2018-19 Budget, State of Officers and Directors, Local Program Studies and a Non-partisan Policy

COST: \$30/person for dinner and speaker
\$15/person for speaker only at 7pm

RSVPs required by May 18, 2018.

Please print, fill in and return the attached document,
with your check, to Nancy Duck, Treasurer
P.O. Box 992
Leland, MI 49654

Names _____

will be attending the LWVLC Annual Dinner at
The Homestead Resort on Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

Cost: \$30/person
Speaker Only - \$15/person
Enclosed is a check for \$_____

First Call for 2018-2019 Dues
if you joined after February 1st, 2018
you do not owe dues at this time.

\$60.00/person
\$90.00/ household
\$5/student
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

To obtain an application from the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund for
financial assistance for dues, contact Barb Marsh at
blmarsh@hotmail.com

Send your check made out to LWVLC by May 18th to

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

Line 5 Retirement Party

Too many of our members to count made it out to this great event! Did you miss it? Check out the link below for the livestream recording. Be inspired and compelled, get up to date information and instructions for concrete action steps you can take to help force the long overdue retirement of Line 5! Keep doing what we do best educate, advocate and promote the vote! www.Oilandwaterdontmix.org



https://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/line_5_retirement_party?utm_campaign=ret_13_rsvps&utm_medium=email&utm_source=oilandwaterdontmix

THE FARM LABOR TASK FORCE recently met to discuss local immigration enforcement. We sat down with a seasonal worker agricultural employer, a county commissioner and an ACLU attorney. The employer shared his and his workers concerns over recent detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) and word of a potential arrest by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents here in Leelanau County. Such detentions have increased in the last 12 months.

FLTF will continue to meet with those who have boots on the ground: Father Wayne Dziekan, school administrators and family liaisons, local employers, and the like.

We are exploring a meeting with I.C.E./CPB representatives, Farmworker Legal Services, Michigan Immigration Rights Center and others. Also, a number of possible public program ideas have been discussed: A film depicting the experience of detained individuals and their families; a panel program on "Immigration Reform: A Community Discussion" with all attendees encouraged to read the bi-partisan immigration bill proposed and defeated several years ago as a base for a thoughtful ideas, questions and discussion.

As emotions flare and rumors circulate over immigration issues, we share the following message from Father Wayne Dziekan, with additional text by FLTF member Barbara Krause.

"Given our feelings of frustration and/or anger over recent immigration detentions in our area, in the future we are best advised to help quietly, whatever we do. In most situations, petitions do little if any good at all in the legal process. In those situations where they may be helpful they must be crafted and handled with extreme care. Also, when one family gets lots of support and attention other families observe and think "well, no one did that for us."

The noisier we are the more we trigger responses that hurt the ones we want to help. Instead, write to Rep. Bergman and Senators Stabenow and Peters and ask about the constitutionality of local law enforcement aiding federal immigration authorities to enforce federal law. Point out that Comprehensive Immigration Reform is critical to our local agricultural economy and to peace in our communities. Tell them that well-meaning but misguided citizens are turning in their law-abiding neighbors who are respected local workers and business owners, creating an atmosphere of fear and suspicion in our community. Tell them that the work force we depend on will stay away harming our local economy if this keeps up. Tell them that families are split apart because of immigration law that does not match with the reality of our times. Tell them to call off I.C.E. and CBP, Customs and Border Protection, the agency that has lately been active in Leelanau County and throughout northern Michigan, until a way is found for our law abiding undocumented community to achieve legal status as most of them now cannot. Urge the local media to investigate and shed light on the multiple aspects of this fraught situation.

Some in our community will point out, legitimately, that those without documents are here illegally and that the law is the law. They hold that, until we change the law they must go. This is not an easy situation. We don't want it to divide the community even further. Tread carefully folks. Our feelings may be exploding over this but we need to be sure that whatever we do helps the folks living in fear and uncertainty instead of doing harm."

**HAVE A CONCERN? WANT TO SAY THANKS?
WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION?
CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

President Trump

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

Senator Gary Peter

724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-6221
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

Senator Debbie Stabenow

731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4822
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact>

US Representative Jack Bergman

414 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-4735
<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

Governor Rick Snyder

P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517)-373-3400
(517)-335-7858 - Constituent Services
FAX: 517-335-6863

State Senator Darwin Booher

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-1725
Fax (517) 373-0741
SenDBooher@senate.michigan.gov

State Representative Curt Vanderwall

S-1385 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-0825
CurtVanderWall@house.mi.gov

Attorney General Bill Schuette

G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, MI 48909
Phone (517)-373-1110
miag@michigan.gov

Contacts for All Elected County Officials at
www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**Nancy Gallagher
Kevin Weber
Nicholas Sica
Cindy Deane
Karen Chase
Vicky Oltersdorf
Kevin Seitz
Kathleen Wong Seitz**

This brings our membership to 179

LWVLC Membership Form at
LWVLEELANAU.org/join_form.html

Send checks to

**Nancy Duck, Treasurer
P.O. Box 992 Leland, MI 49654
Single Membership is \$60.
Student Membership \$5
Household Membership is \$90.
Make your check out to LWVLC.
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
DUES FROM THE BARBARA REINERT
MEMORIAL FUND. Contact Barb Marsh for
an application blmarsh@hotmail.com**

LWVLC BOARD 2017-2018

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Tricia Denton
Vice President
Nancy Duck
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Joan Hunault
Secretary

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Chris Palmer
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Beth Chiles
Sue Miller
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



Leelanau County

**P.O. Box 519
Suttons Bay, MI 49682**

LWVLeelanau@gmail.com