



The Leelanau VOTER

February 2018

From the President

It is with truly mixed feelings that I tell you that I will not finish my full term as President of the LWV Leelanau County but will be resigning effective March 10, 2018. Christi Bardenhagen, our current Vice-President, will assume the presidency and board member Tricia Denton will be the new Vice-President. I will remain on the board as an appointed member. Elections for President and Vice-President will take place at our Annual Dinner on May 23rd. I am leaving the presidency because I have decided to run for the non-partisan position of Leelanau County Probate Judge. It would be inappropriate for me to continue to lead the League while also campaigning throughout the county. So, I will miss being the "voice of the League" but am excited to enter this new phase of seeking public office. Staying on the board in a lesser role will allow for a smooth transition.

Now, onto other matters... Mark your calendars for our May 23rd Annual Dinner and Meeting at the Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor. As informed voting is the bedrock of the LWV, our guest speaker will be Peter Payette, the Executive Director of Interlochen Public Radio. He will discuss preserving quality journalism. This is an event not to be missed.

Onward,

Marian Kromkowski

Calendar

March 2018

- 7 Legalize Equality Film/Forum
12 noon at Govt Center
- 12 LWVLC Meet and Greet (pg. 6)
- 20 Board of Commissioners Meeting
Senior Services 3:30 pm, Govt Center
- 26 LWVLC Board Meeting, 9:30 am
Lower Level, Govt Center

April 2018

- 4 Protect and Promote the Vote
Forum 12 noon at Govt Cen
- 18 Book Discussion: Born on Third
Base by Chuck Collins
- 26 LWVLC Board Meeting, 9:30 am
Lower Level, Govt Center



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

MEMBER CONSENSUS DISCUSSION MARCH 7

At the 2017 state convention, delegates passed a motion to conduct an updated study of the LWVMI **Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position**. The one statement we are asked to discuss is as follows:

A person should be allowed to apply for or secure and renew a driver's license or obtain an identification card regardless of immigration status.

The choices will be to Agree, Disagree or No Consensus. Our League will hold its consensus discussion on March 7, 2018 at our regular member business meeting following the noon forum. Please plan to attend. The resource materials can be found at [LWVMI.org](http://lwvmi.org/member/documents/Agriculstudyupdate1-18.pdf) under Member Resources, then Studies. <http://lwvmi.org/member/documents/Agriculstudyupdate1-18.pdf>

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.**



WEDNESDAY MARCH 7 NOON
Government Center Community Room

Short Film: *Legalize Equality*
followed by discussion on why
completing ratification of the
Equal Rights Amendment is
critical today, more than ever.

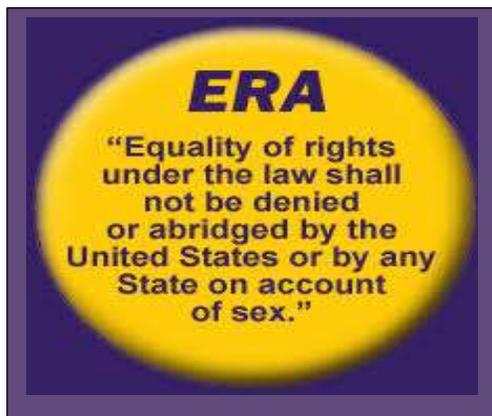
 Everyone Welcome.
Some bring a sack lunch.

March is Women's History month and the LWVLC ERA committee with host the March 7 forum with a showing of the film *Legalize Equality*.

Small group discussion will follow and action items will be provided for us to support the states that are considering ratification of the ERA this legislative session. Please plan on attending and bring a guest. Most people still do not understand what the ERA is and that women still do not have basic civil and human rights guaranteed by the constitution and we need them now more than ever.

Ways an ERA Could Make a Difference

1. The ERA would give Congress the constitutional basis to pass a law that gives women victimized by gender based violence legal recourse in the federal courts for claims of gender-based violence.
2. The ERA could help set more realistic legal standards for sex discrimination at work, so it would be more possible to prove.
3. The ERA could change outcomes which depend on the legislative loop hole of a "factor other than sex" to uphold unequal pay for equal work and perpetuate pay inequity.
4. The ERA would help ensure that women can work safely and continue to earn needed income during their pregnancy.
5. The ERA would help require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant women in the workplace, in the same way they are required to make reasonable accommodations in the workplace for people with disabilities.
6. The ERA would require the Supreme Court to use the higher standard of "strict scrutiny" rather than "intermediate scrutiny" in sex discrimination cases, similar to the standard used in racial and religious discrimination cases.
7. The ERA would establish the US as a global leader on women's rights. We cannot hope for our country to be a true global leader on women's rights when we lack legal recognition of women's equality rights not only in our international legal commitments but also in our own Constitution. The US is one of only seven countries in the world that has not ratified the international bill of rights for women. **Analysis from ERAcoalition.org. LEARN MORE:** Read *Equal Means Equal, Why the Time for the ERA is Now* by Jessica Neuwirth



Legalize Equality is short film about the ERA that makes the strong legal and economic argument for why completing ERA Ratification is critical today, more than ever. Excerpted from the award-winning documentary, *Equal Means Equal*, with new footage and commentary, *Legalize Equality* streamlines the critical information necessary to put in the hands of the uneducated or skeptical. Making the case for ERA in a concise and compelling manner, this film is sure to help raise awareness and galvanize momentum to finish the job once and for all.

IMPORTANT MEETING ON SENIOR SERVICES MARCH 20 AT 3:30 PM

Leelanau County Senior Services' millage will expire at the end of 2018. Senior Services is currently funded with 92% of our budget funded through millage dollars and the remaining 8% funded through voucher sales, expo booth rental, and private donations.

The current millage received an 86% approval rating in 2014 for a millage rate of up to .275 for four years.

Seniors, sixty years of age or older make up 40% of Leelanau County's population. Since 2014 the senior population has increased by 1% each year. Leelanau County has one of the largest percentages of seniors within the state of Michigan and you would be hard pressed to find a larger percentage across the nation.

As a result of the growing population, Senior Services has seen an increase in the number of seniors requesting services.

The Board of Commissioners will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting room, at the Governmental Center to discuss the senior services millage.

Mary Tonneberger has been the League's Age Friendly Leelanau representative, meeting weekly with the Senior Opportunities Committee to help prepare a proposal to the Board of Commissioners regarding needed services for elders in Leelanau County. League members are encouraged to attend this meeting as the commissioners will be discussing the rate and length of a millage to be placed on the ballot this year. Come out on March 20 at 3:30 pm at the Government Center to show support for senior program needs plus potential expansion in the future. **Prevention services and as well ongoing services are essential for an Age Friendly Leelanau.**



Thank you to all the LWVLC 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

LWVLC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Early Childhood Needs and Service is developing a plan for presenting a program on Early Childhood Services, outlining the importance and impact of services to all children, what current resources are found in the County and what we can do to expand/restore services. The power point to be used was developed by Sara Jane Johnson of the Leelanau Children's Center. This will be done in collaboration with the Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission. **The next meeting is March 16, noon, Munnecke Room at Leland Library.**

Farm Labor Task Force: The Task Force is busy preparing for a consensus discussion of the updated study of the Agricultural/Seasonal Worker Position that will be held after the monthly forum on March 7. Also on March 7 Marian Kromkowski, Christi Bardenhagen and Barb Krause will speak on Supporting Agricultural Via Public Education and Advocacy at the annual Ag Labor Day at the NW Michigan Horticultural Station. Suzanne Hoff is our Task Force representative who attends the monthly Migrant Resource Council meetings.

Voter Service Committee: 2018 will be a big election year. Not only we will be working to pass the Redistricting ballot proposal, our League has contributed \$1000 to the LWVMI Ed Fund for the costs of the LWVMI federal law suit against gerrymandering. We have begun gathering signatures for placement of a Promote the Vote ballot question on the state ballot. We are preparing for a forum for April 4 on the new Independent Commission created by the Redistricting Ballot Proposal and Promote the Vote Ballot Proposal. Last but not least we are coordinating with the Leelanau Clerk's Office to conduct voter registration in each high school in the county.

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Announces: [Solar Success Stories](#)
Thursday March 8 at 6:30 pm the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) is hosting a SOLAR SUCCESS STORIES event at the Traverse Area Library. The event will feature Skip Pruss (LWVLC member) and highlight some recent solar projects around the region. Doug McInnis (another LWVLC member) and President of Northport Energy and Leelanau Community Energy will also be giving a presentation. In the past 5 years, NMEAC has hosted several forums to highlight those in our area who have been involved in promoting solar in some way. We have had a variety of individuals, businesses, installers and promoters tell their stories. Yes, it does work in northern Michigan! Please join us. **Energy and Natural Resources next meeting is March 7, 10 am, Conf. room 1, Govt Center.**





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.PROMOTETHEVOTE MI.com for more information and to register for updates.

26 attended our Feb 21 Promote the Vote Kickoff in Suttons Bay.

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 March 7 LWVLC Forum



MEET and GREET

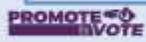
**Come Learn More About
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**Monday, March 12, 2018
5:00 pm**

at Suzanne and Bill Hoff's House
1615 S. Maple Bluffs Court in Suttons Bay
Casual, fun setting, great view of the Bay!
LWVLC Board on hand to answer questions.
Light Refreshments

**RSVP to Martha Shaver, Membership Chair
at mjshaver56@gmail.com**

Directions will be emailed to attendees






**RSVP to Martha at
mjshaver56@gmail.com**



TWO UPCOMING ACTIONS IN TRAVERSE CITY ORGANIZED BY TC FOR GUN REFORM:

Saturday March 3rd Gather at the Workshop at 1:00 (221 Garland St, Traverse City). We will proceed peacefully through downtown Traverse City and then line the Parkway. We will return to the Workshop where we will hear a couple of short speeches and have time to connect, take action and network. **Saturday March 24** at 1 PM downtown Traverse City. Join us in TC as our nation marches with the students of Parkland for gun violence protection. Please attend both events if you can. We must be heard. Our children depend on it.

The League of Women Voters stands for gun violence prevention. For nearly three decades—since 1990—our organization has fought for the sensible use of firearms, and against the increasing use of violent weapons turned against fellow citizens—often children—within our communities. During the coming weeks you will find many opportunities to take a stand for gun violence prevention in your schools, houses of worship, and town-halls. The Michigan League of Women Voters encourages you to join that debate. Raise your voice. Advance sensible arguments that protect our schools. Advocate for change.

League's Position on Gun Control, as Adopted by 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

To learn more background, visit the link to "Impact on Issues 2016-2018" <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/gun-control>



Sad News.... LWVLC Member **Judy Hoeffler** passed away this week. She will be remembered for her wit, her grace her keen organizational skills and her warm welcoming smile. Our condolences to her husband John and son Nick. Judy served on the LWVLC board in 2014-2015 and was the past president of By the Bay Garden Club of Suttons Bay. Truly a woman of many talents. She will be missed

Pipeline 5: Perhaps if they hear it often enough, they'll act.

Michigan's Pipeline Safety Advisory Board, established by Governor Snyder in September 2015, heard Monday from FLOW Executive Director Liz Kirkwood about the state's public trust responsibilities.

It was FLOW that identified these responsibilities as the debate over unsafe Enbridge Line 5 at the Straits of Mackinac intensified several years ago. Simply put, the public owns the lakebed under the Straits that Line 5 crosses – and state government, as the trustee, has the authority and the obligation to assure that any party granted an easement to use the public's lakebed is not compromising the public uses protected by the trust. The Legislature passed a law in 1953 granting Enbridge an easement across the Straits – subject to the public trust.

Enbridge has clearly fallen short of that standard with shoddy maintenance, concealment of damaging information and a track record of failure, culminating in the mammoth spill into the Kalamazoo River watershed in 2010.

FLOW's message Monday – Enbridge can comply with public trust interests and state law only if the state compels it to submit an application for the entire massive overhaul of Line 5 it seeks to undertake, and only with simultaneous consideration of feasible and prudent alternatives – including using other means to deliver the petroleum currently served up by Line 5.

Here are a few of Liz's comments from Monday:

"We are approaching the hour of decision on the fate of Line 5. This process has been an epic example of how not to protect a world-class resource. Transparency, corporate integrity and the rule of law have all been casualties. But there is one last chance to make it right.

"Enbridge has never applied for and DEQ has never comprehensively reviewed, considered, or authorized the new design with 128 screw anchors elevating the Line 5 pipelines off the lakebed. This new design was not contemplated in 1953. Moreover, the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act does not authorize 'activity' permits that actually constitute a new design, permanent structures, and improvements on bottomlands or suspended in water areas above the bottomlands; rather, a new application is required in conformance with the public trust.

"The Great Lakes are held in trust by the State of Michigan as public trustee for the benefit of its citizens. The 1953 easement with Enbridge was issued fully subject to the public trust, and the U.S. Supreme Court has held states have the power to resume the trust whenever the State judges best. The state owes Enbridge nothing. Enbridge owes the people of Michigan the respect they deserve by ending its efforts to skirt statutes and the public trust."

Ask the state candidates where they stand on Pipeline 5.

**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
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(517)-335-7858 - Constituent Services
FAX: 517-335-6863

State Senator Darwin Booher

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State Representative Curt Vanderwall

S-1385 House Office Building
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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



**WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER
Cecilia Denton
Our 1st 16 year old member!!**

**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.
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****

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



Leelanau County

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

LWVLeelanau@gmail.com

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

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!