



The Leelanau VOTER

March 2017

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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.....

The LWVLC continues to grow in numbers, issues and outreach. This month we surpassed 150 members. We now have an additional working committee exploring the issue of an Equal Rights Amendment. We hosted an event, Stories from Standing Rock, broadening our ties with our Native American community and learning more about how all water struggles impact all of us.

This month at noon on March 1 we will host Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail with an experienced and innovative panel from the 86th District Court, Leelanau Family Court, the Grand Traverse Band Court and the Leelanau County Jail. This is the event that had to be canceled in January due to the weather.

Did you know that the United States has *only 5 percent of the world's population but we hold 25 percent of the world's prison population?* Our panelists see on a daily basis the clear overlap between substance abuse, mental health and poverty and persons becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The presenters will offer support for the conclusion that rehabilitative programs are more successful, and investing in them is more cost effective than the expanding economic cost to incarceration. For our "snow birds" and working members, our noon monthly forums are taped and later played on UpNorthMedia.org and posted on LWVLeelanau.org.

The LWVLC is also preparing to attend the LWVMI State Convention on May 19-May 21 in Lansing. This year we are entitled to have 8 voting delegates. We have submitted requests to the LWVMI for updates on two studies, one on Early Childhood and another on Agricultural Migrant and Seasonal Workers. We will know more after March 11 if these updated studies will be recommended at the Convention. More in the April issue of the VOTER.

*Best regards,
Marian*

Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail

New innovative efforts offered by local courts to address adult and juvenile behaviors that previously would have meant jail time.

**Hon. Michael Stepka
86th District Court Judge**

**Hon. Michael Long
Grand Traverse Band Associate Judge**

**John Boonstra and Cassidy Fisher
Leelanau Family Court Staff**

**Sherise Shively
Community Corrections Manager**

**Diane Speas
Art Director, Leelanau County Jail**

**Wednesday,
March 1, 2017
at noon**

**LOWER LEVEL
LEELANAU COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

Bring Friends.

January 31, 2017

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to President Trump’s immigration ban:

“The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of noncriminal undocumented immigrants. The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include noncriminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration’s orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders. The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration based on religion. The Trump Administration’s orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations.”

LEELANAU CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 27 – LWVLC Board Meeting at 9:30 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM 2

MARCH 1 – Member Meeting at noon
Rehabilitative Alternatives to Jail
GOVERNMENT CENTER - LOWER LEVEL

MARCH 27 – LWVLC Board Meeting at 9:30 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM 2

APRIL 4 – ERA Meeting at 5:00 pm
MUNNECKE ROOM, LELAND LIBRARY

APRIL 5 – Member Meeting at noon
Immigration Challenges in Leelanau County
Who Will Harvest Our Produce?
GOVERNMENT CENTER - LOWER LEVEL

WELCOME OUR NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

Cedar – Kama Ross

Empire – Julie Tarr

Leland – Angela VanManen

Maple City - Geradine Simkins

Northport

Cynthia Edmondson

Judith J. Fowler

Barbara Holcomb

Chris and Bob Newell

Suttons Bay – Kate Thornhill

Traverse City – Anna Fuller

LWVLC Committee meetings

- **AGE FRIENDLY LEELANAU**
Wednesday, March 1 at 10 am
Law Library, Government Center
- **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
Wednesday, March 1 at 10 am
Conf. Room #1, Government Center
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS AND SERVICES**
Friday, March 17, 2017 at noon
Munnecke Room, Leland Library
- **FARM LABOR TASK FORCE**
Monday, March 20 at 9:30 am
Law Library, Government Center



RESOURCES FROM STORIES FROM STANDING ROCK

We the 7th Part I

<http://video.wgvu.org/video/2365918233/> In the first of a two-part documentary. Mutually Inclusive travels to Standing Rock.

We the 7th Part II

<http://video.wgvu.org/video/2365944802/> In Part 2, Mutually Inclusive looks at the Native American community in West Michigan.

More than a Pipeline

www.morethanapipeline.com/

Honor the Earth Facts Sheets on Pipelines

http://www.honorearth.org/fact_sheets

The Indigenous Environmental Network

<http://www.ienearth.org/category/tar-sands/tar-sands-pipelines/>

Water Protector Legal Collective (WPLC)

waterprotectorlegal.org/

WANTED someone willing to hang posters in Cedar and Maple City to advertise our monthly meetings. It is a rather mundane task, but very important to get out the word. Please contact Christi Bardenhagen 271-0072 for more information.

The LWV and Pipeline Safety

The LWVLC was honored to host Karen Lewis, Holly Bird and Belinda Bardwell, three Northern Michigan women who have been water protectors at the Dakota Access Pipeline actions that began last year. Over 80 area residents attended the presentation at the Bay Theater and listened to their moving stories from Standing Rock, an overview of the DAPL struggle and how all of us are impacted by threats to safe and clean water. Many continued the discussion afterwards at the Bayside Coffee & Tea. Thank you to both of those venues for their generous hosting.

The League is concerned with all pipelines as they invariably pose risks of leaks and potential ground water contamination. The DAPL also impacts the sovereign rights of First Nation people. The League of Women Voters of Michigan is now a part of the Oil and Water Don't Mix Coalition and has grave concerns over the safety of 63 year-old Pipeline 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. The League will continue to be vigilant and maintain water conservation as a high priority. Water is life.



ADDITIONAL MARCHERS on January 21st

**Traverse City - Julie Tarr
Washington DC - Nancy Flanagan,
Kama Ross, Geradine Simkins**

ADVOCATING WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: WHAT CAN YOU DO? Suggestions from the LWV Michigan

1. Join the League

- a. Connect with people who share your democratic values
- b. Share in decision making and work
- c. Know you are a part of bigger coalitions

2. Learn About Issues

- a. Improve your general knowledge of issues – learn from others
- b. Focus on issues important to you – Share your knowledge
- c. View issues from a broader perspective – respect people’s right to different viewpoints

3. Strengthen our Voice & Establish Relationships

- a. Engage
- b. Mentor
- c. Demonstrate
- d. Advocate

4. Be Realistic – build bridges, not walls

- a. Compromise
- b. Non-partisan solutions

5. Stay Positive

- a. Hard work needs positivity – remember to have some fun
- b. Avoid burnout - take time for yourself & your loved ones



IMMIGRATION CHALLENGES IN LEELANAU COUNTY WHO WILL HARVEST OUR PRODUCE?

Be sure to mark your calendars for the LWVLC the April 5 panel program on the impact current immigration issues and legislation are having on area agricultural employers and their workforce. The current administration’s goal of deportation and the elimination of any potential for legal work and/or residency status for non-citizens has our agricultural employers and workers worried. Migrant and seasonal farm workers are the core of our Leelanau County agricultural workforce. Area employers are concerned that they may not have a viable workforce. Workers and their families are fearful of arrest, detention, deportation and the breakup of families.

LWVLC Farm Labor Task Force members attended a recent gathering where ideas for a “rapid response team” to local immigration raids were discussed. The national League has been a strong voice for immigration reform. It appears unlikely that such reform will be forthcoming but a re-read of the LWV position is recommended for those having immigration concerns. See <http://lww.org/content/immigration>



**LWVMI CONVENTION
May 19-21, 2017**

This year's Convention at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing promises to be informative, productive and fun. It is an opportunity to conduct business as well as a chance to learn, participate in workshops and renew friendships.

Delegates will adopt the 2017-19 state program; adopt the LWVMI budgets for the next two years; elect the LWVMI Board and Nominating Committee, and consider Amendments to the LWVMI Bylaws, if proposed.

Our League is allowed 8 delegates but any member may attend.

The Indivisible Guide

has a Congressional Cheat Sheet, which includes contact information (including tips for which contacts work best), calendars, schedules, and voting records.

<https://www.indivisibleguide.com/resources-2/2017/1/20/congressional-cheat-sheet>



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR EQUAL PAY DAY IN MICHIGAN
April 25**

April 4 has been chosen as the national Equal Pay Day for a reason. This date symbolizes how far into the new year a woman must work to earn what a man earned in the previous year. On average a woman earns .77 for every \$1.00 earned by a man.

To make our voices heard and to accommodate the legislative session, the LWVMI has chosen **April 25** to head to Lansing to meet with our representatives to demand pay equity.

Pay equity - evaluating and compensating jobs based on their skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions, not on the people who hold the jobs – is a solution to eliminating wage discrimination and closing the wage gap. More details on the April 25th events will be in the April VOTER and by way of email and FB as they develop.



League Members and guests discuss Equal Means Equal on February 20th in the Muennecke Room at the Leland Public Library.

March 8 is International Women’s Day

www.internationalwomensday.com

The theme for this year’s IWD is **BE BOLD FOR CHANGE** to help forge a better working world – a more inclusive, gender equal world. Some of the actions each of us can do as individuals are:

Challenge bias and Inequality

- challenge stereotypes
- call it out when women are excluded
- question all-male shortlists
- monitor the gender pay gap

Campaign against violence

- educate youth about positive relationships
- challenge those who justify perpetrators and blame victims
- donate to groups fighting abuse
- speak out against the silence of violence

Forge women’s advancement

- decide to buy from companies that support women
- support or back a woman-owned business
- take a junior female colleague to a major meeting or event
- build conducive, flexible work environments

Celebrate women’s achievement

- promote fairer recognition and credit for women’s contributions
- launch even more awards showcasing women’s success
- hail the success of women leaders
- applaud social, economic, cultural and political women role models

Champion women’s education

- launch or fund a women-focused scholarship
- encourage more girls into STEM education and careers
- value diversity for greater educational outcomes
- support women inventors of new products and services

12 WAYS TO LIVE MORE SUSTAINABLY

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/sustainability/live_more_sustainably.html

Every day we make choices in our lives that affect the environment, the climate and other species. From what we eat to how many children we decide to have, there's a lot we can do to "choose wild" and reduce our environmental footprint to leave more room for wild animals and plants.

- 1. Think twice before shopping.** Every product we purchase has an environmental footprint, from the materials used to create it to the pollution emitted during manufacturing to the packaging that ends up in landfills. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- 2. Make sure your big purchases have big environmental benefits.** If you're buying a new refrigerator, washer or dryer, look for the Energy Star label to find the most efficient appliances. Need a new water heater? Consider upgrading to solar.
- 3. Ditch the plastic.** Plastic never goes away. Bring reusable bags when you shop. Ditch one-time use water bottles and avoid products made from or packaged in plastic whenever possible.
- 4. Boycott products that endanger wildlife.** Shop conscientiously and look for products made from sustainable materials and never from endangered wildlife.
- 5. Pay attention to labels.** Choose goods, when possible, to support companies dedicated to sustainable production and paying laborers a fair wage. Buy organic food whenever possible.
- 6. Be water wise.** Skip the bottled water. Conserve water by taking shorter showers, fixing leaky toilets, and choosing low-flow and low-water appliance. Keep pollutants out of your groundwater and watershed.
- 7. Drive less, drive green.** Walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation whenever possible. Combine errands to make fewer trips. Participate in, or start, car-free days in your community. Keep your car in shape with regular tune-ups and tire inflations. Tune-ups can increase fuel efficiency.
- 8. Green your home.** Add adequate insulation and energy-saving windows. Use a programmable thermostat for more efficient heating and cooling, energy-saving light bulbs for more efficient lighting, etc..
- 9. Choose renewable energy.** Also explore the options – and tax credits – for

installing rooftop solar panels or solar water heating in your home, and other ways of adding green energy to the grid.

10. Take extinction off your plate: Eat less meat. Also eat locally sourced fruits and vegetables which lowers the amount of fossil fuels used to transport food over long distances.

11. Choose to have a smaller family. Demands for food, water, land and fossil fuels by over-human-population are pushing other species to extinction.

12. Get politically involved in your community and at the state and national level. Vote for candidates with strong environmental, sustainable platforms.



LAKE MICHIGAN INTERLEAGUE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

When a local League joins the LWV Lake Michigan League, all of its members become members, too. This year marks the 50 year Anniversary of LWVLMR. On May 4, 1966, a meeting was called by LWV of Highland Park, IL at the LWVUS National Convention in Denver to discuss the possibility of forming an inter-League Lake

Michigan Basin Group. With interest expressed by 24 Lake Michigan Leagues, a temporary Chair, Jeanne Bonyngue of Wilmette, IL, was appointed. She contacted the State Boards of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin to ask their cooperation, and to request names of the local Leagues in the Lake Michigan Basin. A Procedural Agreement was adopted in June 1967.

The Inter-League organization is made up of 48 local Leagues within the Lake Michigan watershed and regional planning areas. In addition, the state Leagues of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin pay dues, entitling all of their individual Leagues to receive information and to take part in LWVLMR events. Each state League appoints four representatives who serve on the LWVLMR Board.

LWVLMR is an integral part of and operates under the Natural Resources position of the LWVUS.

The mission of LWVLMR is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues affecting the Lake Michigan watershed.

To help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters, members of LWVLMR and those of the LWV Upper Mississippi Region were challenged to hold 100 public education meetings on water-related topics. Leagues have reported 52 events since the campaign began.

LWV Leelanau County has submitted several, including our presentations to villages and townships about Pipe Line 5.