



The Leelanau VOTER

March 2016

2015-2016

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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.

Marian named the recipient of the 2016 Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award



"The award, given by the Traverse City Human Rights Commission, honors individuals who exemplify the ideals of that commission. It is named for Sara Hardy, "a longtime resident (who) through her courageous and determined actions gave birth to the concept of a human rights organization in her community," according to a statement from the Human Rights Commission.

Kromkowski is a northern Michigan lawyer with more than 30 years of combined experience as a lawyer, mediator and collaborative law practitioner. She has also served as a domestic relations referee handling family-related hearings as a judicial officer. Marian "has worked tirelessly to protect human and civil rights...and provides legal representation and advice to immigrants and their families," according to the Human Rights Commission. "(She) has made a positive impact on our community and embodies the spirit of the Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award."

Marian will receive her award from Traverse City Mayor Jim Carruthers on Monday, February 22nd at the city commission's study session that evening. A reception in Marian's honor will be held prior to the presentation.

Congratulations, Marian!!!

Challenges faced by Leelanau County Schools

A PANEL WITH ALL 8 COUNTY SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Glen Lake School Principal, Kim Wright

Leelanau Montessori Board President, Sarah Bordeaux

Leelanau School Headmaster, Matt Ralston

Leland School Superintendent, Jason Stowe

Northport School Teacher, Allison Wodek

Pathfinder Head of School, Robert Hansen

St. Mary School Principal, Megan Glynn

Suttons Bay Superintendent, Christopher Nelson

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016
at 12 noon**

**Leelanau County Government Center
Lower Level**

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE BARBARA REINERT MEMORIAL FUND

Barbara Abbott and Larry Hauser
Nancy and Berkley Duck
Sharon and Norm Golm
Suzanne and Bill Hoff
Jacquie and David Johnson
Marian Kromkowski and Matt Posner
Barbara and Karl Marsh

Kathryn and Mike May
Ann and Doug McInnis
Vina and Phil Mikesell
Christine Palmer
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Checks may be mailed to LWVLC, P.O. Box 519, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.
Please put Barbara Reinert in the memo line. This is not tax-deductible.

LEELANAU CALENDAR

February 22 at 10 am
LWVLC BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER

March 2 at noon
MEMBER MEETING
“Challenges Faced by
Leelanau County Schools”
GOVERNMENT CENTER

March 14 at 3:30 pm
Big Picture: *Citizenfour*
OLD ART BUILDING IN LELAND

April 6 at noon
MEMBER MEETING
“Early Childhood Intervention
Improves Public Health”
GOVERNMENT CENTER

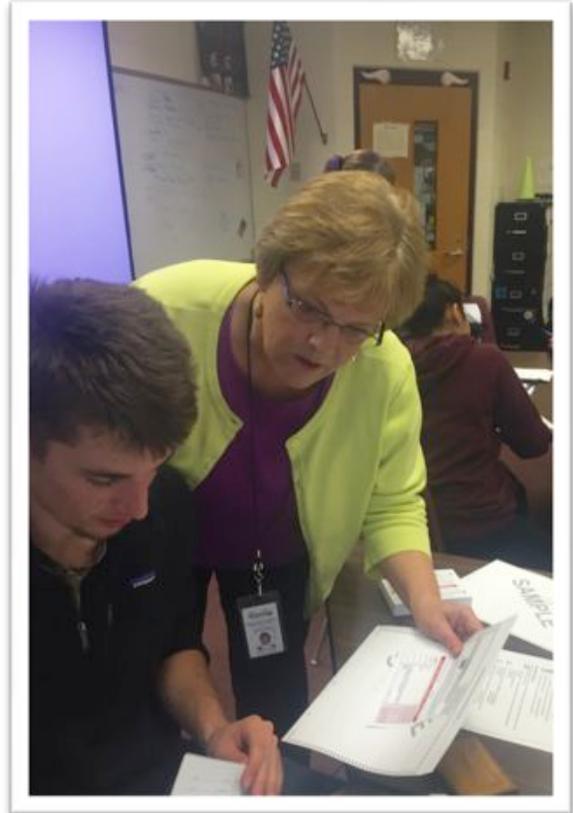
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Age-Friendly Leelanau
March 2 at 10:15 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER, LAW LIBRARY

Early Childhood Needs and Services
March 18 at noon
LELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY – MUNNECKE ROOM

Energy and Natural Resources
March 2 at 10 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER, Conference Room 1

Farm Labor Task Force
March 14 at 9:30 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER, Conference Room 1
Guest: Sharon Vreeland from the
Leelanau County Coordinating Council



League members Marian Kromkowski, Suzanne Hoff and Joan Hunault helped register 18 students at Suttons Bay with the help of County Clerk officials Sherry Nedow and Lyn Drzewiecki.



VOTE MARCH 8th



NEW LEAGUE POSITIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals - *Adopted January 2016*

The League will only support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution if it advances and conforms to an LWVUS position. In addition, the League believes the following should be considered in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted constitutional amendment:

- a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed. Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.
- b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective. Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective, or have unintended consequences may not achieve the policy objective.
- c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. Most adopted amendments have sought to make our system more representative or to protect the rights of minorities.
- d) Whether the public policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment. In order to expend resources wisely, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment.
- e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach. It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.

Position on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - *Adopted 01 2016*

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;
- b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;
- c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;
- d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a “runaway convention” which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;

e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and

f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

THANKS TO ALL THE LWVLC MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN NOVEMBER 2015.

The Big Picture

Monday, March 14th

at 3:30 pm in The Old Art Building



After Laura Poitras received encrypted emails from someone with information on the government's massive covert-surveillance programs, she and reporter Glenn Greenwald flew to Hong Kong to meet the sender, who turned out to be Edward Snowden.

Citizenfour won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2015 Oscars.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**Kelly Hafner
Danielle Percy
FROM NORTHPORT**

The **LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee** will meet on Friday, March 18 at noon in the Munnecke Room of the Leland Township Library. The agenda includes the final planning for the LWVLC April 6 Forum on the relationship between challenging circumstances in young children's lives and health outcomes. This is yet another reason for the need to support quality early childhood programs in our country. The Committee will also continue with longer range planning, outlining further steps to support the state and national League of Women Voter's position statements on early childhood.





February 3rd Meeting on Emergency Preparedness in Leelanau County

Panelists from left to right:

Matt Ansorge, Director of Leelanau County Emergency Management

Jim Reardon, Benzie/Leelanau Health Department

April Missais, Director Leelanau County Senior Services

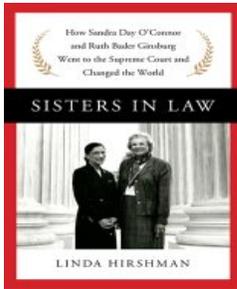
Mike Borkovich, Leelanau County Sheriff

WATCH ON LWVLeelanau.org
on Video Links

LWVLC ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

In compiling a list of Leelanau issues relating to water resources, energy solutions, waste management, land use, and air quality, all within our own County, we have discovered at least **38** issues and counting. Join us as we tackle them. Here are a dozen issues, not including those in the upcoming **June 2016** program, on the impact of **climate change on food and farming**.

1. **Enbridge #5 aging twin pipelines** under the Straits of Mackinac. What would happen if there was a spill or leak? Leelanau County has 151 miles of shoreline. We could add to those concerns the proposed Canadian **nuclear waste dumpsite** on Lake Huron.
2. What are ordinances related to **septic tanks** and problems with leaking and overflowing ones? How can we get safe ordinances and regulations in place in Leelanau?
3. Do we have **toxic algalae (microcystins)** in our big and little lakes? What is the relationship of water quality to agricultural and residential fertilizer run off?
4. **E-coli** contamination on beaches suggests that pathogens are getting into our lakes and streams. Are there also **toxic chemicals and discarded pharmaceuticals**? What can be done?
5. **Microplastics** are in our streams and lakes. What is their impact on living things?
6. **Pollinating insects...especially bees...**are collapsing. Why? Why is this important? How can we save the **Monarch butterfly**?
7. **Land development issues**. What shoreline and woodland area protections are there?
8. How can we promote the generation of electricity from **renewable, sustainable sources** as well as encourage community **energy conservation and efficiency**? Why is this important?
9. **Fracking** with its potential fugitive methane releases and impacts on water quality is a concern in Leelanau and our region. What are the health implications?
10. How can agricultural, residential and institutional **food wastes be diminished & even used**?
11. How could we partner with **other organizations and faith based groups** to foster positive action in tackling the major environmental issues of our times?
12. What **planning for a lower energy, less consumptive, more community oriented future needs to be happening ASAP** ...due to the economical, social, environmental impacts from accelerating resource depletion and climate change coming our way?



LWVLC Book Read

April 20 at 3:30 pm

Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World

by Linda Hirshman

RSVP to Martha Shaver

Book is at local libraries and bookstores. Shop Local!

Things You Need to Know about the Waukesha Lake Michigan Diversion

- 1) Diverting Great Lakes Water is a Last Resort.** The Great Lakes –St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact bans water diversions outside of the Great Lakes basin. Only under the Compact's exception standard can a community apply for a diversion. Anyone applying for a diversion must demonstrate that it has exhausted all available options for getting water. In essence, a diversion must be a last resort.
- 2) Waukesha Failed to Demonstrate that it Needs Great Lakes Water.** The Compact is clear that a need for water must exist in the community for it to be eligible for a diversion. However, the city failed to justify why it needs the water it seeks to divert. According to Jim Nicholas, a scientist and retired director of the U.S. Geological Survey's Michigan Water Science Center, Waukesha's demand for water has been decreasing since the late 1980s. However, in its diversion application, the city projects a much higher demand that is inconsistent with historical trends.
- 3) Waukesha Wants to Divert Great Lakes Water for Towns that Don't Need It and Have Not Requested Water.** The city's application included towns in Waukesha County (Pewaukee and the Towns of Delafield and Waukesha, among others) that may not need water. To date, none of the communities in this "extended service area" has demonstrated that it is without adequate supplies of safe drinking water. In fact, some officials in these areas have indicated that they do not need any water either now or in the foreseeable future. Including these communities in the application is not consistent with the Great Lakes Compact.
- 4) Waukesha has a Feasible Alternative to meet its Water Needs.** In recent years, regional groundwater levels in Southeast Wisconsin have been stabilizing or are rising. Under the Compact, an applicant for a diversion must demonstrate that "There is no reasonable water supply alternative within the basin in which the community is located, including conservation of existing water supplies." A July 2015 report by two independent engineering firms found that Waukesha does in fact have a feasible water supply alternative. The report concluded that Waukesha can use its existing deep and shallow water wells to provide ample clean and healthy water to its residents now and in the future if it invests in additional water treatment infrastructure to ensure the water supply meets state and federal standards going forward. This alternative costs much less than a diversion, secures water independence for Waukesha residents, protects public health, and minimizes adverse resource impacts.
- 5) Waukesha's Plan to Return Water to Great Lakes Raises Concerns.** Waukesha proposes to return its water to the Great Lakes basin via the Root River. The Root River has high levels of phosphorus and is officially designated as an impaired river because of this pollution. Although treated, Waukesha's returned water could add additional phosphorus pollution to the already impaired Root River. In addition, given the amount of water the city needs to return, the plan could result in mixing of Great Lakes Basin water and Mississippi River Basin water – which is inconsistent with the Great Lakes Compact.

February 9, 2016

To: Governor Rick Snyder
From: League of Women Voters of Michigan

Re: Waukesha, Wisconsin water withdrawal request under the Compact rules.

Dear Governor Snyder,

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is fundamentally opposed to the request for Great Lakes water by Waukesha, now under review. Our organization's position dates back to 1974, with additional member ratifications since then. Our primary concern was, and continues to be, similar to the goals of the Compact. We support protections of this resource from inefficient and excessive water uses. We accept that naturally varying levels and flows are part of the ecosystem and we view all the water in the Basin as 'in use'. New or increased withdrawals within the Basin should be carefully regulated. New or increased diversions to a place outside the Basin should be rejected.

We understand that allowances have been made for straddling cities within Basin counties under the rules of the Compact, but guidance from the Compact dictates that these requests be limited and conditional exceptions. Further, the requested amount includes localities unaffected by contamination. This request is tantamount to a blank check with future increases allocated and anticipated. Waukesha has knowingly resisted action on their problems for many years. However, the League of Women Voters of Michigan would not wish to expose the residents of Waukesha to contaminated water because of municipal inaction. For this reason only, any grant of water should be for limited, remedial use.

Studies indicate that alternatives to replacing Waukesha's radium contaminated water do exist, they are simply not as attractive to Waukesha as withdrawing from the Basin. A report commissioned by the International Joint Commission, published in December, 2015 warns of a precautionary approach to protect the Great Lakes from what could become ever-increasing requests.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes this request as a long-term solution. However, the inaction of Waukesha's municipal leaders has put the people's health in jeopardy. As such, we can see value in approving a very limited and specific withdrawal as a means to protect the health of the citizens of Waukesha. If a withdrawal is considered, we encourage the Compact leaders to be very specific that it is **only** to allow the water system sufficient opportunity to recharge and demand that Waukesha employ water conservation strategies that will ensure the long-term integrity of the Waukesha water system.

Thank you for your leadership on the Great Lakes Governor's Commission.

Sincerely,

Judy Karandjeff, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan

**VOTE ON MARCH 8. Visit
VOTE411.org for information
about candidates.**