



The Leelanau VOTER

October 2014

2014-2015

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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.....

Thank you to all who helped with the 4 candidate forums we hosted last week. More than 200 people attended the Benishek/Cannon/Boal event in Traverse City; 110 people attended the October 22nd forum for Districts 4 and 5 in the Government Center; 60 voters heard the candidates for Districts 2, 6 and 7 on October 23rd; and 75 residents packed the Leelanau Township Fire Hall in Northport on October 26th to listen to the Northport Village President and Trustee candidates.

Even though we have been doing this for years, we had some excellent suggestions for future forums. 1) Hold them earlier so people voting by absentee ballots have a chance to hear the candidates; 2) Limit answers, after prepared remarks, to 1 minute to allow more questions from the audience; and 3) find a location in the southern part of the county for the voters in that area.

With the election season behind us, we can look ahead to our outstanding November 5th meeting on "Public Education: The Future;" our Big Picture Society movie "War Dance" on November 10th; and the showing of "Are we Crazy About our Kids?" on November 24th. Please invite friends and neighbors to these events.

Before our November 5th meeting, we will have a new member orientation in the Government Center's Community Room at 11 am. Even if you are not new to the League, you are welcome to attend. We will talk about how the League is organized and much more.

Vina

LEELANAU FALL CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 4

ELECTION DAY



Wednesday, November 5

Orientation for New (and not so new) Members at 11 am

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER COMMUNITY ROOM

Member Meeting at 12 noon

“Public Education: The Future”

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Monday, November 10

The Big Picture Society- *War Dance*

4:00 pm

OLD ART BUILDING, Leland



Monday, November 17

LWVLC Board Meeting at 9 am

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

Volunteering at the State Theater



Monday, November 24

Gathering at 6:30 pm, Movie at 7pm

Are We Crazy About Our Kids? The Cost/Benefit Equation

SUTTONS BAY AUDITORIUM



Wednesday, December 4

Holiday Luncheon for Members and Government Officials at noon

Program: Bruce Borschardt

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

RSVP required

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

PUBLIC EDUCATION: THE FUTURE

'Poverty, Achievement Gaps & Measuring the Impact of Teachers & Principals on Student Achievement'

This is a follow-up to the October LWVLC program on education. Beginning with a quick review of the regional achievement data reported by TBAISD Superintendent Mike Hill, a summary of local socio-economic achievement gaps will be presented. Following this introduction, Mary Marois and Jim Rowlett (Grand Traverse Region Poverty Reduction Initiative) will provide a picture of poverty and poverty reduction efforts, in Leelanau County and the Grand Traverse Region. Ty Wessell will conclude this portion of the program with a short presentation on what we know about schools that are successful 'high-poverty' schools.

The second half of the program presented by Chris Parker will be on regional efforts to implement Section 380.1249 of the Michigan School Code (Evaluation of Teachers and Administrators).

PRESENTERS:

- 1. Jim Rowlett, Past Chair and current member, Poverty Reduction Initiative**
- 2. Mary Marois, Former Director, Leelanau County/Grand Traverse County Department of Human Services & current board member on a number of human services organizations**
- 3. Chris Parker, Superintendent, Northport Public School**
- 4. Ty Wessell, Retired Educator**

Public education in America has existed for a very long time, and schools, as well as approaches to teaching and learning, have changed a great deal since the first American school opened in the 17th century. Let's briefly review how it has grown since then

- **Boston Latin School was founded in 1635 and is both the first public school and the oldest existing school in the United States.**
- **The first free tax-supported public school was in Dedham, Massachusetts.**
- **All the New England colonies required towns to set up schools (which were not totally free, but were supported by tuition).**
- **By 1840, 3.68 million children between the ages of 5 and 15 (about 55%) attended primary schools.**
- **By 1900, 34 states had compulsory schooling laws**
- **By 1910, 72% of the nation's children attended school**
- **By 1918, every state required students to complete elementary school.**
- **By 1920, 2 million students aged 14-17 were enrolled in secondary schools.**
- **Today, 49.8 million students attend public elementary and secondary schools—35.1 million in K-8 and 14.7 in grades 9-12.**

★ REGISTERING NEW VOTERS ★

National Voter Registration Day was September 23, 2014 and on September 23, 24, and 25 the League of Women Voters Leelanau County and the Grand Traverse Area League of Women Voters organized a successful campaign at Northwestern Michigan College's four campuses to assist with voter registration.

The volunteers from the Leelanau League were: Vina Mikesell, Bette Puschel, Betty Bushey, Jacquie Johnson, Christi Bardenhagan, Barb Schneider, Suzanne Hoff, Mary Tonneberger, Jane Miller, Chris Palmer, Mary Hagen, Nancy Lindeman, and BJ Christensen. We also wish to thank Laurel Evans, deputy county clerk of Leelanau County for her presence on Tuesday, September 23.

Grand Traverse Area League volunteers were: Mary Beeker, Margaret Goeman, Jerry Beasley, Nancy Crandall, Kathi Dean, Becky Somsel, Terry Bard, Donna Hornberger, Joan Sheard, and Inara Kurt. We appreciate the presence of Bonnie Scheele, Grand Traverse County Clerk all day Tuesday from 10-3, and deputy clerks Joan and Jackie on Thursday morning and afternoon.

The total registration on campus was 160 students and 60 inquiries regarding registration status and absentee ballots. Our primary source of information was www.michigan.gov/vote where anyone can enter their name, birth date, and zip code to learn if they are registered, where they vote including a map, and contact information for the clerk. The site also offers information about voter ID, absentee voting, and much more.

We had an information table at the Great Lakes, Aeropark, and University Center campuses in addition to the NMC Library. We gathered each morning at the library for training, picking up supplies, and information. I think each day it became smoother and more effective. Everyone did a fantastic job. We had many people stop by to say thank you for our time and effort in helping students to register and the students were especially appreciative. Special thanks to NMC librarian Mary Beeker, Grand Traverse League representative Inara Kurt, and Leelanau League representative BJ Christensen for their leadership in organizing this event.



October 1, 2014 Meeting

PUBLIC EDUCATION: PAST AND PRESENT

**Presenters: Henrietta Barnes,
Professor Emeritus MSU, and
Michael Hill, Superintendent TBAISD**

*If you were unable to attend, watch
the meeting on our website.*

Applications For Leelanau County Boards and more

18 Eighteen Board, Commissions, Committees or Authorities are seeking citizens who wish to contribute their time to public service. You must be a resident of Leelanau County, be a registered voter and have an application on file on the County Administrator's Office by Saturday, November 1, 2014. Please contact Georgia Robertson, Executive Assistant, for more information. The phone number is 256-9711.

LWV LAKE MICHIGAN
REGION CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 3-5, 2014

Climate Change and
Biodiversity for Lake
Michigan and its
Watersheds.



Leelanau League Delegates at the Park Place Hotel in
Traverse City

... a few highlights.....

Dam Removal on the Boardman River (Nate Winkler, Biologist, Conservation Resource Alliance)...the purpose of which is to restore 3.4 miles of the natural riparian ecosystem and its associated eco-services to the region which also will enhance the quality and diversity of Lake Michigan. After determining that the repair of the dams would never yield a monetary payback if restored to hydropower, plans have begun to carefully remove 3 dams, the fourth one to be repaired and left in place as a buffer to prevent upriver migration of invasive species.

Above Ground Storage Tanks (Jeanette Neagu)...Since above ground storage tanks frequently contain substances that may leak contaminants into watersheds, it is important that they be monitored & regularly inspected, with plans in place to deal with potential problems.

Historical and Projected Future Climate Change Trends in MI and the Great Lakes (Dr. Jeff Andersen, professor, MSU): The evidence is overwhelming that human activity on Earth is changing the chemistry of the planet's atmosphere with serious implications. Evidence clearly shows global climate temperatures trending up...even though the Eastern US last year was one of the few places on Earth with cooler weather. 2014 is on track to beat all global climate temperatures...especially when measured during nighttime. Future predictions are for less ice, warmer winters, more precipitation from water evaporated from the Great Lakes, changing growing seasons, increased insect pests, costly mitigation, erratic unpredictable weather, and much more.

COMMITTEE Meetings

Wednesday, November 5

**Energy and Natural Resources.
10:00 AM - Conference Room #1
County Government Building**

**Changing Leelanau
10:30 am - Conference Room 2
County Government Building**

**Farm Labor Task Force
10:00 am - Community Room
County Government Building**

**Early Childhood Needs and Services
Immediately after the League meeting
on November 5th**

Fighting Chance by Elizabeth Warren

Members chose Fighting Chance as the book for the April 8, 2015 book discussion at Martha Shaver's House.

This "is a political narrative first and an autobiography second. Yes, it tells how a self-described daughter of a "maintenance man" attended college on a debate scholarship, went to law school and, one day while she was home caring for her two young children, received an unexpected call from Rutgers University asking her to teach a law course — immediately. The judge scheduled to teach never showed up; were his identity revealed, he might be the most hated man on Wall Street."

Maura Casey

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING LEELANAU

If you are looking for an opportunity to join a great discussion group on the Challenges of a Changing Leelanau, take a seat with us at 10:30 a.m. Wed., Nov. 5 in conference room 2 of the Government Building, prior to the monthly LWVLC meeting. One of the beauties of the group is that each new member brings richness to the discussion because of a experiences in various aspects of life.

Your chair at the table awaits as we discuss housing, employment, declining school enrollment, an aging population and needed services and other challenges in the Leelanau County community.

Judy Hoeffler, Chair

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

DARLENE DOORLAG
Lake Leelanau

MARY SKROCKI
Suttons Bay

If you missed the Benishek/Cannon/Boal Forum you can catch an online video of the forum at <http://upnorthmedia.org/upnorthtvserlist.asp?pser=Elections%202014>

The audio version from IPR is at <http://interlochenpublicradio.org/post/northern-michigan-candidate-debates-and-forums>

FLTF NOTES Suzanne Hoff



Our Leelanau County agricultural economy seems to face critical economic decisions every year whether it is adjusting to weather and market fluctuations, pest and fungus infestations, or the ever-changing demand and competition to provide fruit and vegetables for the fresh market or for processing and distribution throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The LWVLC Farm Labor Task Force has been compiling information from 43 interviews of agricultural employers, workers and support agencies. The following articles will give you an idea of what our farm economy has faced in terms of securing skilled, reliable workforce. Several League study committee members were quoted the *Northern Express* article.

Where have all the workers gone? Patrick Sullivan, Northern Express Weekly, 9/22/2014

<http://www.northernexpress.com/michigan/article-6568-where-have-all-the-workers-gone.html>

Apples aplenty, but picking crews tight, Lynn Geiger, the Ticker - online Traverse City news source, October 1, 2014

<http://www.traverseticker.com/story/apples-aplenty-but-picking-crews-tight>

Affordable Housing: creative solutions sought, Carol Thompson, Traverse City Record Eagle, September 14, 20014 (first article of a series).

http://www.record-eagle.com/news/business/article_83659f51-f92d-5aec-b72c-64d1471b6ed4.html

For a current information on U.S. immigrants of Mexican origin in the United States this article provides a concise review. Note: a number of area migrant and seasonal workers of Mexican ancestry are native born U.S. citizens.

<http://migrationpolicy.org/article/mexican-immigrants-united-states>



October 23rd Candidates' Forum Screeners Steve Morse and Suzanne Landes from the League and Sally Guzowski from the Chamber of Commerce

Leelanau workers at the October 21st Forum in Traverse City: Marian Kromkowski, Fran Eckerson, Christi Bardenhagen and Jacquie Johnson



The Big Picture Society's Feature Film
War Dance

Monday, October 10th

4 pm in the Old Art Building, Leland

Set in war-ravaged Northern Uganda, the award-winning WAR DANCE will touch your heart with a real-life story about a group of children whose love of music brings joy, excitement and hope back into their poverty-stricken lives. Three children who have suffered horrific brutalities momentarily forget their struggles as they participate in music, song and dance at their school. Invited to compete in a prestigious music festival in their nation's capitol, their historic journey is a stirring tale about the power of the human spirit to triumph against tremendous odds. *The movie is free but donations are welcome.*

On November 24th at the Suttons Bay High School Auditorium, the LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will host a showing of *Are We Crazy About Our Kids?* The film explores how investing in high-quality early childhood services and high quality care pays for itself in many ways and many times over. Studies conclude that high-quality early childhood services and high quality care are among the best investments the nation can make, yielding huge individual – and societal – benefits. Moreover, participants in quality early childhood experiences are more likely to graduate high school and college, get better jobs and contribute more in taxes. They are less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, be unemployed, go to jail or incur other social costs. In short, they are better student and citizens and more responsible contributors to our community, a win-win for the community, schools and business.

The LWVLC will be co-hosting this event with Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Leland Chamber of Commerce, Lake Leelanau Community Association, Northport/Omena Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce, Empire Chamber of Rotary and Leelanau Christian



Chamber of Commerce, Commerce, Lake Leelanau Arbor Chamber of Commerce, Suttons Bay Neighbors.