



The Leelanau VOTER

September 2013

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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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.

LEELANAU CALENDAR

Thursday, September 26, 2013

VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE

9:30 am

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Wednesday, October 2, 2013

PANEL on ABUSE

Nancy Turner, Area Agency on Aging

Liz Pine, Conflict Resolution Services

Cathy Anthofer, Women's Resource Center

12 noon

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10:30 am Energy

11:00 am Observers

Challenges of Leelanau

2:00 pm Early Childhood

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Monday, October 14, 2013

FARM LABOR TASK FORCE

10:00 a.m.

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



Tuesday, October 15

LEAGUE FUNDRAISER

Retired MI Supreme Court Justice

Marilyn Kelly

7 p.m.

OLD ART BUILDING IN LELAND

ABUSE

JOIN US

12 noon on Wednesday, October 2nd, for a panel discussion on "Abuse."

PANELISTS

NANCY TURNER is the Long Term Care Ombudsman in northwest Michigan. She provides advocacy services for residents in nursing homes, adult foster care homes and homes for the aged for the past 18 years in ten counties. She currently serves on the Crime Victims with Disabilities Community Team and the MPRO Dementia Care Advisory Panel. Nancy also facilitates the regional Elder Rights Coalition.

ELIZABETH PINE has been a state-certified volunteer mediator with Conflict Resolution Services since 2009. In 2011, she joined the office staff as grant writer, marketer, community outreach, event planner, and trainer. In the summer of 2012, she became an Olweus Bullying Prevention Program trainer for CRS and is now offering this program to our community's schools. Working with CRS compliments Elizabeth's diverse background in Dialogue and Peace Studies.

CATHY ANTHOFER has been working with the Women's Resource Center since January, 2013. She returned to Northern Michigan from Miami, FL. Cathy is currently the Leelanau County representative for the Women's Resource Center, as well as the court advocate for Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties. She is a criminal justice PhD candidate at Capella University where her research has focused on security awareness, a topic which has direct applications in her working with victims and survivors of domestic violence.

OBSERVERS AND INTERESTED MEMBERS MEETING!

Experienced observers and members who want to know more about observing will meet at 11:00 am, on Wednesday October 2nd before our League in Conference Room 1, on the main floor of the Government Center.

Georgia Robertson, executive assistant to Chet Janik, the County Administrator, will briefly review the orientation materials each new county commissioner is given - with particular attention to rules of order and procedures (a good introduction to what every municipal representative should know).

We'll also share some of the challenges and insights people experience in observing. This will be a short meeting before our October 2 program.

Please call Suzanne Hoff to confirm your attendance. See you there!

Suzanne Hoff
LWVLC Vice President

NEXT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION for Leelanau County Households

Saturday, October 12th
at PESHAWBESTOWN

Call 256-9812 for an appointment.

.....*FROM the President, Vina Mikesell*

We are well into the League year. October is full of committee meetings, a fund raising event and of course, our meeting on October 2nd. Thanks to BJ Christensen for arranging the panelists on "Abuse."

On Monday, September 16th the LWVLC Board and the Farm Labor Task Force met with Sue Smith, President LWVMI; Christine Schlitt, Vice-president and Membership Chair LWVMI; and Fran Hamburg, Program Chair LWVMI at a luncheon hosted by the group at Suzanne Hoff's home. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the status of the Agricultural Visa Position and to ask other questions about being a new League. Sue helped us understand what the Task Force may do in creating a new position. It was a pleasure and honor to have these women in Leelanau County. We were made to feel very comfortable about contacting state board members if we have any questions or concerns in the future. The Farm Labor Task Force will be working closely with Ms. Hamburg to ensure that our new position will meet all the requirements for becoming a state position, if we so wish.

Please be sure to tell everyone you know about our October 15th Fundraising Event at the Old Art Building in Leland. Retired MI Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly will be talking about "Improvements Needed in Our Courts: How the LWV Has Pointed the Way." Kelly joined with U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Jim Ryan to co-author a report that "urged lawmakers to change the finance law, as well as how justices are nominated and backed by the major political parties." The talk begins shortly after 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The suggested donation is \$10.

And, last but not least, we now have 91 members. Of this number, both partners have joined in 20 households. The state is very excited about our numbers, our enthusiasm and our activities. Let's make sure we live up to its expectations.

"Improvements Needed in Our Courts: How the LWV Has Led the Way"

retired MI Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly



**Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m.
The Old Art Building in Leland**

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

Did You Know?

After the great presentation by Dave Barrons at our September meeting, what can we do to buy some time for our kids and grandkids as they have to deal with the unpleasant future predicted for them due to society's profligate consumption and wastefulness in using Earth's limited fossil fuel resources?

What we can do right now is to make a serious effort to cut back in every way imaginable on our use of carbon-generated energy (oil, gas, coal) and to avoid over consumption of manufactured products made from oil and natural gas feedstock. **THE BEST FOSSIL FUELS ARE FOSSIL FUELS NOT USED.**

Becoming less wasteful means using less and being more efficient. How efficient is your house? Do your own energy audit. A simple do-it-yourself walk-through can pinpoint where energy is being wasted. This will help you set up your energy priorities.

Check out

<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>.

**FARM LABOR TASK FORCE MEETS
TO BEGIN WORK ON A NEW STUDY SCOPE ON
AGRICULTURAL MIGRANT WORKERS**

Monday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 1, Government Center

Visit our website:
LWVleelanau.org

Follow us on **facebook** at
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LEELANAU COUNTY**

JOIN A LEAGUE COMMITTEE
Contact the chair to offer help.

FARM LABOR TASK FORCE
Chair: Suzanne Hoff

ENERGY COMMITTEE
Co-chairs: Ann & Doug McInnis

CHALLENGES OF LEELANAU
Co-Chairs: Judy Hoeffler &
Phil Mikesell

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
Chair: Patricia Soutas-Little

VOTERS SERVICE
Chair: Vina Mikesell

EVENTS
Co-Chairs: Jo Walker & Sharon Golm

MEMBERSHIP:
Chair: Martha Shaver

September 19, 2013

To: Members of the U.S. Senate

From: Elisabeth MacNamara, President LWVUS

Re: Repair and Restore the Voting Rights Act

The League of Women Voters believes that Congress must act to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act to its full effectiveness following the recent Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder. This decision erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have been critical in protecting our democracy. The League was very disappointed in the Shelby decision and we believe that Congress needs to move swiftly to overcome this decision and repair and restore the full effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act.

The League has long supported the Voting Rights Act (VRA). As an organization whose mission encourages informed and active participation in government, we believe that we need to keep our elections free, fair and accessible. League members worked closely with members of Congress to reauthorize the VRA in 1982 and as recently as 2006. We believe that the Voting Rights Act and its enforcement over the past four decades is largely responsible for the progress we have made eliminating discrimination in voting.

Therefore, we are concerned that the Shelby decision weakened the Voting Rights Act as a mechanism to fight discrimination by striking down Section 4, which determines the states and jurisdictions that must secure federal approval before changing election laws. The League believes that the Supreme Court decision is ill founded. While we have made progress in voting rights, the fact that the Department of Justice blocked over 700 voting changes they found to be discriminatory from 1982 through the VRA's 2006 reauthorization speaks for itself.

The League believes that we need the VRA to combat these 'second-generation barriers' and the pernicious discrimination that is less visible than what occurred decades ago but no less harmful to the right to vote. We ask you to fix this issue and restore the Voting Rights Act to its full effectiveness.

We are encouraged that both chambers of Congress have already held hearings on the Voting Rights Act and that legislators from both sides of the aisle recognized that discrimination in our elections remains a problem. The Voting Rights Act is a critical component to stopping this discrimination.

The League will continue to pursue all avenues to fight for voters' rights, but we need strong action by Congress now to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act protections that have helped us prevent racial and language discrimination in our elections for decades. Solutions for voters are required on an issue as fundamental as the voting rights of all Americans.

Thank you for your leadership and we ask you to act quickly to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens.

**VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE TO MEET TO PLAN FOR
THE COMING YEAR**

**Join us Thursday, September 26th at 9:30 a.m.
in the Community Room of the Government Center.**

At our meeting on October 2nd, members will choose the book they would like to read for our discussion group on April 9th, 2014. Below are the possible selections and short descriptions of each.

Genesis by Thomas Beckett

What does it mean to be human?" The answer lies within Genesis. Set in a post-apocalyptic future, the novel takes the form of an examination undergone by young Anaximander as she prepares to enter The Academy. For her subject she has chosen the life of a long-dead hero. It is through Anax's presentation and her answers that we learn the history of her island along with the rules and beliefs of their society. At the completion of the examination, when everything has been laid bare, Anax must confront the Republic's last great secret.

Judicial Deceit: Tyranny and Unnecessary Secrecy at the Michigan Supreme Court

by Elizabeth A. Weaver and David B. Schock

The book reveals much that has hitherto been hidden from public knowledge. Told through court documents, internal communications, and detailed interviews, and media accounts, the book puts the history of the Court in context. Through it all is the narrative of Justice Weaver who, at great personal cost, led the struggle to let the people of Michigan know what had been going on.

The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins

by Kirstin Downey

Frances Perkins is the most important liberal you never heard of. On March 25, 1911 the notorious Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire occurred in New York City. Perkins happened to stumble upon the horrific scene. The factory employed hundreds of workers, mostly young and impoverished women. As a result of poor safety regulations such as faulty fire escapes and locked doors, the workers could not escape. One by one desperate women jumped to their deaths from the upper floors of the factory. 146 workers died that day. That incident changed Frances Perkins from an upper class, well-educated woman to the most influential woman in the world at that time.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

by Michelle Alexander

Alexander argues that by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control - relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. The book has appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than a year.

....continued on page 7....

Jubilee by Margaret Walker

This is a story that Walker heard as a child from her grandmother. Weaving her family's oral history with thirty years of research, Walker has written about the true and everyday experiences of slaves from the South's brutal ante-bellum days to wartime ruin and the promise of Reconstruction. Published in 1966, much of Alex Haley's ROOTS was based on this book.

The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mosin Hamid is a daring, fast-paced monologue of a young Pakistani man telling his life story to a mysterious American stranger. It's a controversial look at the dark side of the American Dream, exploring the aftermath of 9/11, international unease and the dangerous pull of nostalgia.

Prague Winter by Madeline Albright

A riveting tale of her family's experience during WWII-1937-48, the book is based upon her own and her parents reflections of what happened. "No one who lived through 1937-48 was a stranger to profound sadness....We have a duty to learn all that we can about what happened and why."

Silent spring by Rachel Carson

Written from 1958-1962, the book took a hard look at the effects of insecticides and pesticides on songbird populations throughout the United States. The publication of her impeccably reported text helped set off a wave of environmental legislation and galvanized the nascent ecological movement. It is justly considered a classic, and it is well worth rereading today.



LEAGUE BOARD AND FARM LABOR TASK FORCE MEETS WITH STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Front Row: BJ Christensen, Christine Schllitt LWVMI Membership Chair, Suzanne Hoff

Second Row: Barbara Reinert, Christi Bardenhagen, Fran Hamburg LWVMI Program Chair, Fran Eckerson, Mary Tonneberger, Sue Smith, President LWVMI, Ann McInnis

Third Row: Betsy Beachnau, Vina Mikesell, Sharon Golm, Jay Johnson, Jo Walker and Marian Kromkowski

