



The Leelanau VOTER

January 2016

2015-2016 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.

From the President

The LWVLC calendar year is from June 1st through May 31st so we are not yet at year's end, but we have accomplished so much in the first seven months.

- 3 Redistricting Forums
- Consensus meeting on Constitutional Amendments
- Early Childhood Advocacy at the BOC and the Health Dept.
- Sponsor for two showings of "Raising of America" on WCMU
- Monthly op-eds in the Record Eagle
- Supported adoption of P.A.C.E. (Property Assessed Clean Energy) at the county level
- Continued registration of new voters (nearly 50 and counting!)
- 2 Meet and Greets with prospective new members
- 18 new LWVLC members since June!

The next five months also hold much promise for raising local awareness on issues of pressing concern. We strive to bring you informed speakers so that you may increase your understanding on important civic topics. The LWVLC also has increased its efforts to impact local public policies. Learn, educate, advocate is the League mantra.

We hope you agree that the League is a place to meet interesting and engaged Leelanau residents. The December Holiday luncheon, the Big Picture shows, the "Meet and Greets" and the April Book Read are relaxed settings to strengthen new and old friendships.

We are also pleased to announce that the League will again host columnist Jack Lessenberry as our speaker at our May 26th Annual Dinner/Meeting at lovely Timberlee Hills. Wishing you all an upcoming year filled with opportunities to "*Learn, Educate and Advocate.*" A heartfelt thank you to the Board and LWVLC members for all you do for democracy. Happy New Year!!

Marian

Reforming Money in Politics

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

12 noon, Government Center

On Wednesday, January 6, 2016, the LWV Leelanau County will host an educational event for members and the public entitled “Reforming Money in Politics.” **The presenter will be Traverse City attorney Dan O’Neil.** O’Neil has been active in advocating for election reform and has been a frequent speaker on campaign finance and voting issues across the state. The public is invited to the presentation. Many people bring a sack lunch.

**Immediately following the presentation by Dan O’Neil,
a CONSENSUS DISCUSSION MEETING FOR LWVLC MEMBERS ONLY
will be held on the issue of Money in Politics.**

At its 2014 national convention, the League of Women Voters established a Money in Politics Committee to update the League’s position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. This study and consensus process will consider:

- (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and
- (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

Marian Kromkowski will facilitate this consensus discussion. Please read the following materials and come prepared to participate.

All Money in Politics study materials can be found at
<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>
Specific consensus questions and materials at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>,

LEELANAU CALENDAR

January 6, 2016 at noon
Money in Politics Forum
Member Consensus to follow
GOVERNMENT CENTER

January 11 at 4 pm
Old Art Building in Leland
Big Picture Movie- *Life Above All*

February 3 at noon
Are you Prepared for an Emergency?
GOVERNMENT CENTER

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Age-Friendly Leelanau
January 13th at 10 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER

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Early Childhood Needs and Services
January 15th at noon
LELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

*

Energy and Natural Resources
January 13th at 10 am
LOWER LEVEL, GOVERNMENT CENTER

*

Farm Labor Task Force
January 11th at 9 am
GOVERNMENT CENTER, Conf. Room #2

**WELCOME OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS!!!**

Jane L. Gale
Jan Rygwelski & Joe DeFors

ALL FROM NORTHPORT

**The LWVLC now has 125
members. Pretty Amazing!!!**

**All LWVLC members should
have received a copy of the new
Member Directory earlier this
month. Please check your infor-
mation to be sure it is correct. If
anything needs to be changed,
send your new information to**

Vina Mikesell.

**A list of corrected addresses,
emails, etc. will be sent
to everyone by mid January.**

**All LWVLC members are encouraged to read the study materials and to
participate in our January 6, 2016 Money In Politics consensus discussion.
The Study Guide for the Money in Politics Consensus as well as other
supporting materials may be found at**
<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus>

REPORT FROM THE FARM LABOR TASK FORCE

2015

1. Completed and distributed the 32 page document, " Report on Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Workers in Leelanau County, 2013-2015."
2. The resulting position statement adopted by LWVLC members.
3. The position is unanimously adopted as a state position by LWV Michigan members at the May state convention.
4. Hosted a public panel with representatives from local migrant and Hispanic education services; Michigan Works!; and a former township supervisor/ migrant worker farm employer.
5. Heard from the following at FLTF committee meetings:
Ginger Bardenhagen , regional migrant housing licensing inspector; Tricia Denton, Director, Samaritan's Closet; Jim Bardenhagen, local farmer; Beatriz Cruz, Title I interpreter for the Suttons Bay Elementary School and TBA-ISD; Sierra Gould, Director, Telemon Migrant HeadStart, Suttons Bay; Father Wayne Dziekan, Director of the Secretariat for Justice and Peace for the Gaylord Catholic Diocese.
6. Composed a letter with suggestions for updates to the state migrant housing inspection rules to the LWVMI advocacy committee for submission to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
7. Sent two oppose/support forms to the LWVMI advocacy committee regarding proposed Michigan House and Senate bills affecting migrant/seasonal agricultural workers and employers.

2016

The FLTF looks forward to hosting a special evening program on April 13, at 7 pm, at the Michigan State University Agricultural Research Station on Center Road. Connee Canfield of Hartford, MI will speak on the development and management of a unique migrant camp, SunRISE apartments, which she has managed for over 29 years. This program is co-hosted with the MSU Research Station.

Co-Chairs: Suzanne Hoff and Christi Bardenhagen
Committee: BJ Christensen, Barbara Krause, Marian Kromkowski,
Heidi Larr, Steve Morse and Don Ramsdell.

*PHOTOS FROM OUR DECEMBER
9TH HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
FOR MEMBERS, GUESTS AND
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS*



Honored Member Ed Reinert preparing to blow out candles on the occasion of his 95th birthday.



Members enjoying lunch with County Commissioner Ty Wessell.



Ann McInnis, LWVLC Board member, playing holiday songs.



**Seated left to right:
Puppeteer JoAnne Schroeder; April Missais, Director of Senior Services; members Peter Wolcott, Sarah Straus and Suzanne Landes.**



The Raising of America will be shown again on WCMU on January 7 at 9pm, followed by a panel discussion at 10pm.

The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee is co-sponsoring this showing with the LWV Grand Traverse Area, the Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission, the Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health, NW MI and 5toONE, a project of the Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay.

*Join us for
The Big Picture*

**Monday, January 11
at the Old Art Building
in Leland
at 4 pm**

Life Above All

Just after the death of her newly born sister, Chanda, 12 years old, learns of a rumor that spreads like wildfire through her small, dust-ridden village near Johannesburg. It destroys her family and forces her mother to flee. Sensing that the gossip stems from prejudice and superstition, Chanda leaves home and school in search of her mother and the truth.



Based on the award winning novel Chanda's Secrets.

THERE IS NO CHARGE BUT DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED.

January 2016 New Year's Eco—Resolutions

shared by the LWVLC Energy & Natural Resources Committeeto help you save money, cut your carbon footprint, decrease your home's waste stream, and improve the quality of the Earth.

1. Never buy bottled water again...make a dent in the 1.5 million barrels off oil used to make plastic water bottles each year (and the micro particles that are water polluters). Use a reusable bottle (like one made of glass, aluminum, stainless steel or BPA-free recycled plastic) and tap water.

2. Brew your own Fair Trade coffee....Carrying your own coffee in an insulated travel mug helps you reduce waste from “K” and cardboard cups and carrying sleeves — which are thrown away at a staggering rate of 58 billion each year. .

3. Remember your reusable bags...With more than 1 million plastic bags ending up in the trash every minute, taking reusable bags to the store is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce your carbon footprint — but remember to take them with you.

4. Cut back on paper towels...invest in a few cotton cloths and some fabric napkins and drop them in the wash when you run a load of laundry. You will help eliminate the 3,000 tons of paper towels that end up in landfills every day.

5. Use a bike for short trips...You can make it work for short trips that don't require hauling a lot of stuff such as picking up milk at the local grocery store, after-dinner ice cream at your favorite dessert spot, your morning yoga class, brunch with friends at the coffee shop. Ride your bike for trips shorter than 2 miles.

6. Order regularly from your local CSA & go to your local farmer's market & and select local products in your regular grocery store. Your reward will be local, tasty, fresh fruits and vegetables and support for local businesses.

7. Become a weekend vegetarian....Cutting meat out of your diet just two days a week can decrease your carbon footprint by about 1/3 of a ton — and coming up with meat-free meals for Saturday and Sunday isn't as hard as it sounds. Try pancakes and fruit for breakfast; fresh salads or roasted vegetable sandwiches for lunch; and veggie pizza, bean soups, and creamy risottos for dinner.

8. Eliminate phantom power.....It takes approximately one second to unplug the charger for your cell phone, mp3 player, e-reader, or iPad — but if you really can't be bothered, then let nifty, energy-efficient gadgets do the work for you. Use power strips to turn off all your appliances at once. You could cut your energy bill by as much as 10 % annually— without lifting a finger.

9. Switch to green power....Switching your home to run on green power such as installing solar panels, geothermal energy, or a tankless hot water heater...lots of help is out there to help you do this.

10. Replace your lightbulbs...Replacing your lightbulbs with compact florescent or LED lights may be the ultimate change for the eco-slacker. They last far longer than traditional bulbs while cutting your energy use by as much as 80 percent.

extracted from: <http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/responsible-living/stories/10-easy-green-new-years-resolutions-for-the-eco-slacker>



At our January meeting, we will be choosing the book League members will read and discuss in April. If you have a suggestion, please send it to Marian at LWVLeelanau@gmail.org by January 3rd.

LWVLC members assisted County Deputy Clerk Laurel Evans as she registered 50 students at Glen Lake, Leland, Northport, and St. Mary Schools in early December. Registration at Suttons Bay will take place in January.



Students at Glen Lake School



Registering Northport students at 8:30 am!!

REPORT FROM Early Childhood Needs and Services.....

Members of our committee were involved in working with WCMU to arrange sponsorship of additional showings of "Raising of America" in December and again on January 7 at 9 p.m. Our League has partnered with the League of Women Voters Grand Traverse Area, 5 to One, Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health, Northwest Chapter and the Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission to help fund these showings. The January showing will feature more information about these organizations. Be sure to tune in if you haven't already had a chance to view this documentary.