



The Leelanau VOTER

May 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.

From the President.....

On April 12 I went before the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners and spoke in favor of the adoption of a resolution that would amplify county residents' concerns regarding the potential for an oil spill from Enbridge, Inc.'s Line 5. These are the 63 year-old, 20-inch-diameter oil pipelines running through the water along the bottomlands of the Straits of Mackinac. Sadly, but not unexpectedly, the resolution did not pass.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan continues to speak out on this issue and "supports policies that address the potential for pollution, with an emphasis on prevention." Our Commissioners' failure to sign onto resolutions now passed by over 30 local government bodies throughout Michigan should not deter our efforts to have Leelanau's voice heard in Lansing. The LWV Leelanau County is planning to approach township and village councils and ask that they pass resolutions demanding Lansing take action on this looming disaster. We will be asking for your attendance at these meetings as they are scheduled.

We have some ability to manage and forestall man-made disasters, especially those, of which we are warned or, with due diligence, should have seen coming. We all must be wise stewards of water for generations to come. This is our public responsibility.

If we learn anything from Flint, let it be that protection of Michigan's water supplies and resources is best accomplished by prevention rather than an after the fact clean up. This is a message that can be sent to Lansing for only the cost of a postage stamp but could save Leelanau County many tourism dollars. Express your individual concerns on this important issue by writing Governor Snyder at P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909. Learn more at OilandWaterDontMix.org and at FlowForWater.org.

Best regards,
Marian

Towards an Age Friendly Leelanau

A panel discussion of the issues facing an aging population

Panelists include Phillip Mikesell, April Missais, Chris Palmer, Mary Tonneberger and Ty Wessell

**Wednesday, May 4th
at 12 noon**

**Leelanau County Government Center
Lower Level**

Bring Friends!!!

Members to Attend State League Meeting

On Saturday, April 30th, 7 LWVLC members will travel to Lansing to take part in a state-wide workshop, **Defending Democracy by Making Democracy**. This event is open to all League members and will focus on the League's advocacy work on voter rights, voter protection, money in politics and redistricting. Former Michigan Senator Gretchen Whitmer will be one of the speakers.

Members attending from Leelanau are Christi Bardenhagen, BJ Christensen, Kathy Frerichs, Joan Hunault, Marian Kromkowski, Vina Mikesell and Chris Palmer

Pipeline 5 Committee Begins Work

At the March Board meeting, a vote was taken to establish a committee to create a resolution to shut down Enbridge Pipeline 5. After the resolution is crafted and obtains approval by the Board, League members will present the document to the various township and village governmental units in Leelanau County. Thus far, more than 30 counties and townships in Michigan have signed and submitted a similar resolution to the Governor and Attorney-General.

The next Pipeline Committee meeting is Tuesday, April 26th at the Little Traverse Inn 149 E. Harbor Hwy, Maple City at 10 am. If you are interested in attending, please let Betty or Vina know.

LEELANAU CALENDAR

April 25 at 9:30 am
LWVLC BOARD MEETING
SUTTONS BAY LIBRARY

April 26 at 10 am
PIPELINE COMMITTEE MEETING
LITTLE TRAVERSE INN

April 30 at 9:30 am
LWVMI WORKSHOP
LANSING, MI

May 4 at noon
MEMBER MEETING
Towards An Age Friendly Leelanau
GOVERNMENT CENTER

MAY 23 at 10 am
LWVLC BOARD MEETING
GOVERNMENT CENTER

MAY 26 at 5:30 pm
ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING
TIMBERLEE HILLS
Speaker: Jack Lessenberry
Cost for dinner and speaker: \$30
Reservations required

JUNE 1 at 12 noon
MEMBER MEETING
Climate Change Affects Agriculture
and Gardening
GOVERNMENT CENTER

LAST BIG PICTURE MOVIE

On Monday April 11, the last movie was shown to a small but dedicated audience at the Old Art Building in Leland. Begun three years ago with donations from Josh and Alix Mikesell, the movies drew smaller and smaller audiences. Even with donations from viewers, the expenses of rental and the projectionist were not covered.

A special thanks to Betty Bushey who chose the films and to Dennis Bushey who was our faithful set-up crew.



Ginger Bardenhagen and Nikki Rothwell

Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture

About 60 fruit growers, township zoning officials and concerned individuals came together on April 13 at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station to hear Connee Canfield, site manager for SunRISE migrant worker apartments in Hartford, MI.

Other presenters were Majed Ghussaini, manager for the Migrant Labor Housing Inspection and Licensing Division, MDARD, and Ginger Bardenhagen, MDARD regional migrant housing inspector.

LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee members met after the April Forum to debrief and begin to plan for next year's Forum that will focus on the economics of early childhood services. The TED talk that was not shown in its entirety due to technical problems in April is available on the League's FB page. The Committee is beginning to review and analyze the League of Women Voter's position statements on early childhood to determine if updates or revisions are needed to address more recent research and developments in the area. A subcommittee will be working on this effort beginning in May.

Our next Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 20 at noon in the Munnecke Room at the Leland Twp. Library.



DUES ARE DUE

Dues are payable now and are requested by the end of our fiscal year, May 31st. If you joined after February 1, 2016, you do not owe dues.

Dues are \$60/individual or \$90/household.

You may send in your dues with your Annual Dinner reservation.

Checks should be made out to League of Women Voters Leelanau County (LWVLC).

Send to the Treasurer,
Nancy Duck, P. O. Box 992,
Leland, MI 49654.

BOOK GROUP MET ON APRIL 20TH

Sixteen League members met at Martha and Tom Shavers' home to discuss Sisters-In-Law, How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World by Linda Hirshman. Attendees included a lawyer, teachers, farmers, social workers, nurses, politicians, doctors, and artists among others. Everyone enjoyed the book and learned much more than expected about the Supreme Court, how it functions and how Justices are chosen.

Each fall the League members vote on a book to be discussed in the spring. Please send suggestions to Marian.

Pictured below, left to right, are Linda Shirkey, Sharon Golm, Vina Mikesell, Nancy Duck, and Nancy Frerichs.



Welcome to our newest member,
Beth Chiles, from Cedar.

What can YOU do right now to reduce your carbon footprint and become part of the effort to curb climate change?

1. **Vote with Your Wallet.** Make climate-friendly choices (choose fresh, unprocessed organic foods with little to no packaging... and more.
2. **Eat Local.** This supports the local economy, encourages biodiversity, soil stewardship, reduces dependence on chemicals, shrinks your carbon footprint, and enhances your health. You know the farmer.
3. **Power to the People (Electric Power that Is!).** Support solar and wind electrical generation along with energy efficiency.
4. **Look Down the Food Chain.** Find out how the food you choose to eat is produced, processed, packaged, transported, and disposed. Global food systems contribute between 44-57% of greenhouse gas emissions.
5. **Feed the Soil.** Put carbon back into the soil by composting, using cover crops and no artificial fertilizers, and rebuilding the soil...The additional benefits are improved yields, better water filtration, less erosion and carbon capture.
6. **Know Your Carbon Footprint.** How many of your daily activities and habits contribute to global warming? Try the Nature Conservancy's Free Carbon Footprint Calculator. <http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/>
7. **Be an Influencer.** Demonstrate by your example some of the things your neighbors and community can do.
8. **Get to Know Your Neighbors.** Make connections, share resources and information, support one another, initiate swaps and tool sharing, get group pricing on things like solar panels, build a community garden, have block parties, etc.
9. **Celebrate Your Wins!** Set goals you can achieve.
10. **Slow Down.** Cook from scratch, ride your bike to the farmer's market, be more intentional in your daily life,
11. **Pick One (and Start!)** Pick one thing to do regularly and add as you go i.e. choose more carefully what you buy, where you shop, how you get around, your energy use, etc.

Condensed from "*11 Things YOU Can Do RIGHT NOW to Curb Climate Change*" by Kelle Walsh. published as a blog. <http://theshiftnetwork.com>. March 30, 2016



Energy and Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 4th before the Member Meeting
at 10:00AM
Conference room #1 Government Building.

Thank You for Contributing to the Annual Fund Drive

Thank you very much if you have donated to the Annual Fund. We appreciate your generosity. If you haven't donated to the Annual Fund, we hope to be able to list your name next month. Gifts may be made to the General Fund (non-tax-deductible), the Education Fund (tax-deductible) and/or the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund (non-tax-deductible). Our League cannot continue its important work without your support beyond our dues. Gifts of any size are welcome. Please use the donor card and envelope that came with your Annual Fund letter.

Dinner and Speaker-\$30

Speaker Only \$15

Send in your reservation form for the
LEAGUE'S ANNUAL DINNER
Thursday, May 26th at Timberlee Hills.

Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and speaker Jack Lessenberry,
Michigan syndicated columnist, who spoke at our
first Annual Meeting in 2013.

Watch for Your Emailed Invitation & Annual Meeting Information on April 26.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Age Friendly Leelanau
Wednesday, April 27th at 9:30 a.m.
Government Center

Farm Labor Task Force
Monday, May 16th at 9 am
Government Center

LWVUS Announces Money in Politics Position Support for FEC Reform

On April 14th the League of Women Voters announced its new Money in Politics position and its support for legislation to reform the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

The positions were based on consensus reached by 336 local Leagues from 47 states and Inter-League organizations who participated in the Money in Politics study. In addition to the traditional reason for campaign finance regulation – preventing corruption and undue influence in government – the League now supports several other goals including:

- enhancing political equality for all citizens
- protecting representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns
- providing voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices
- ensuring transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections and
- enabling candidates to compete equitably for public office.

The full position can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/lwvus-position-money-politics>



LEAGUE MEMBERS ON THE GO

The LWVLC is happy to announce that Board members Vina Mikesell and Nancy Duck will be attending the LWVUS National Convention on June 16-19 in Washington DC as voting delegates.

We look forward to a full report upon their return.

GET WELL WISHES

to Randy Harmson, Judy Hoeffler, Matt Posner
and Kathy Turner, former member and president of the
Leelanau Unit of the LWV Greater Traverse Area.



**TOP
5**

URGENT REASONS TO SHUT DOWN ENBRIDGE'S "LINE 5" IN THE STRAITS

THE GREAT LAKES ARE A PUBLIC TRUST. WE LOVE OUR LAKES, AND THEY ARE OURS TO DEFEND.

The State of Michigan acts as a trustee on behalf of current and future citizens. If the state is not fulfilling its role as an effective steward of these lakes, it is our duty to demand accountability. The 1953 easement agreement between the State of Michigan and Enbridge is held in public trust.

1. LINE 5 POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK TO THE GREAT LAKES.

- The Straits are the “worst possible place” for a Great Lakes oil spill, potentially impacting over 700 miles of Lakes Michigan and Huron coastline, according to the University of Michigan.
- Enbridge’s data reveals that an on-shore portion of the **63-year old pipeline in the Straits has lost 26 percent of its wall thickness to corrosion.**¹
- Enbridge lacks a credible worst-case scenario emergency response plan to recover oil. Moreover, U.S. Coast Guard officials cannot respond at night or when the lakes are covered with ice or have waves over three feet.

2. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD A CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL IN THE GREAT LAKES.

- The Great Lakes contain **20 percent of the world’s surface fresh water** and are a **drinking water source for 40 million people.**
- **One out of every five jobs in Michigan, or nearly one million Michigan jobs** is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes. Our blue economy is valued at \$60 billion annually for up-north tourism, agriculture, fishing, shipping and related industries.²

3. ENBRIDGE IS OPERATING ILLEGALLY.

- In April 2016, 22 environmental and tribal groups and Patagonia formally requested that Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette shut down “Line 5” oil in the Straits based on Enbridge’s eight known easement violations related to the design and structural integrity of the pipelines themselves.

4. ENBRIDGE HAS A TERRIBLE TRACK RECORD IN MICHIGAN.

- **Enbridge caused the nation’s largest inland oil spill in July 2010 in Kalamazoo** when its Line 6B pipeline burst and dumped nearly a **million gallons of heavy tar sands oil for 17 hours** before detecting the spill and shutting down the line. It has taken five years and over **\$1.2 billion to clean up.** From 1999-2010, Enbridge’s pipeline network had 804 total failures that spilled 6.8 million gallons of oil.

5. LINE 5 IS NOT VITAL TO MICHIGAN’S ENERGY NEEDS AND ALTERNATIVES ALREADY EXIST.

- FLOW’s recent 120-page expert report demonstrates that **the majority of the oil originates in and returns to Canada,** making Line 5 a high-risk shortcut through the Great Lakes. This small loss of oil for Michigan could be met by other large pipelines.

¹ According to Enbridge <http://www.enbridge.com/projects-and-infrastructure/public-awareness/line-5-michigan/safeguarding-the-great-lakes/inspections/inline-inspection-results/results-metal-loss-corrosion> and Michigan Radio on Feb. 5, 2016 <http://michiganradio.org/post/recently-released-enbridge-report-shows-areas-corrosion-along-line-5#stream/0>.

² According to Anderson Economic Group for the University Research Corridor, and the Michigan Economic Center <http://michiganblueeconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Michigan-Blue-Economy-Report.pdf>