



The Leelanau VOTER

May 2015

**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.....

It's not too late to sign up for the Annual Meeting on May 28th. Come for dinner or come just for the speaker and the business meeting. Call Jo Walker by Saturday, May 23rd at 386-9049 to make a reservation.

At the meeting, we will be voting on the Bylaws revisions, the 2015-16 Budget, our Non-partisan Policy, the Agricultural Migrant Worker Position, the Study Committees for next year, and the Slate of Officers and Directors. We need a quorum to pass all of these items so please plan to attend.

After the election of the new Board, I will turn the gavel over to Marian. I have been president for 5 years and while I have enjoyed every minute, it is time for new leadership and new ideas. I am planning to stay on the Board as an appointed member, continuing to edit the newsletter; to do graphics, as needed; and to help with other committees.

It has been a pleasure to work with an exceptional group of talented and engaged women these past years. Whenever help was needed, many volunteered. At the recent State Convention, the League of Women Voters Leelanau County was honored 3 times, had its position adopted and was mentioned many more times.

Thank you all for your support of time, talent and money which has allowed the Leelanau League to flourish and grow beyond our expectations these past two years.

See you on the 28th.

Vina

2015 LEELANAU SPRING CALENDAR

Thursday, May 28 at 5:30 pm

LWVLC ANNUAL MEETING

Author Rev Raphael

by reservation only

LELAND LODGE, LELAND



Wednesday, June 2 at 12 noon

MEMBER MEETING

"How Safe Is Leelanau's Water?"

GOVERNMENT CENTER COMMUNITY ROOM



Monday, June 15

VOLUNTEERING AT THE STATE THEATER



Monday, June 22 at 1 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT



ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Thursday, May 28

at the Leland Lodge

Dinner at 6 pm, Speaker at 7 pm

Business meeting to follow

featuring author, Lev Raphael

"THE MILITARIZATION OF THE POLICE"

based on his recent book, Assault with a Deadly Lie

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Make your reservation by calling 386-9049.



HOW SAFE IS LEELANAU'S WATER?

Why is that important? What can YOU do?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 at 12 noon

LEELANAU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER



ROB KARNER, MS
WATERSHED BIOLOGIST
and WATER QUALITY EDUCATOR
and
SARAH LITCH, MS, WRITER, EDUCATOR
...both with *Leelanau Clean Water*

LEAGUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 3

Energy and Natural Resources Study Committee meets at 10:00 am in Conference Room 2 at the Government Center before the member meeting.

Challenges and Opportunities of a Changing Leelanau meets at 10:30 am in Conference Room 1 at the Government Center before the member meeting.

June 15.....

Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee will meet at 12:30 pm in the Munnecke Room at the Leland Township Public Library.

June 26..... **Farm Labor Task Force** meets at 2:00 pm at the Government Center in a conference room.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Lois Bahle from Suttons Bay & Dennis Bushey from Elmwood Township

Our League now has 116 members!!



“Giving Voice to Democracy” Reports from the LWVMI Convention

Six Leelanau County League members attended the state convention in Kalamazoo last weekend. All of us benefitted from being able to attend. Thank you for sending us.

A repeated question at this year's convention was "How do we adapt to a changing world?" The "We" was not only the League of Women Voters, but also all of us as individuals. One statistic that was mentioned was that the average age of LWV members is believed to be 73. Even if the average age is actually younger, it is clear that in our LWV of Leelanau County the most popular hair color is a lovely silver. What I pondered a number of times this past weekend is how do we recruit younger members to our ranks. (How about 50 year olds?) A number of good suggestions were mentioned. Will we be able to make the changes necessary to reach that "younger crowd?" One speaker opined that older members are loyal to organizations while the younger crowd is committed to issues. A plus for the LWV is that we have the issues that should speak to all ages. An interesting book that was mentioned in one of the workshops was "Who Moved My Cheese" by Spencer Johnson. A cute, if not thought provoking, short video was shown asking how we respond to a need for change. Will we see the handwriting on the wall? Take a look at

[Who moved my cheese? Full Movie YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=16hxCB1Dvd4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16hxCB1Dvd4)

Marian Kromkowski

The most exciting time at the convention was the passage of our Ag Labor Position by unanimous vote. The support of so many League members was so gratifying. But equally memorable was the talk given by LWVMI President Sue Smith on redistricting. Her passion to find a way to change the unfairness of the current system was absolutely electrifying. Pretty strong words for a convention, but true for me.

Christi Bardenhagen



BJ and Christi

Fun, informative and rewarding are my words for state convention. Humor, comraderie and working effectively to accomplish local and state League goals were threaded through every conversation, workshop and event. Vina, our intrepid president, was honored with the Helen Milliken Civic Engagement Award and LWVLC with the second largest increase in local League membership, 10.2%, in Michigan. I received the Belle Ringer award for steadfast leadership on our Migrant/Seasonal Worker Study. Best of all, in recognition of the importance of our Agricultural Migrant Worker Position, the LWVLC convention delegates voted unanimous concurrence allowing local and the state League to advocate from that position.

Suzanne Hoff

At the LWVMI state convention, one of the workshops I attended was a hands-on workshop using social media. LWV highly recommends that local Leagues create and use social media to communicate with their members. Voicemail and e-mail messages are dependent upon the recipients checking them frequently throughout the day. Currently 58% of people use a smart phone where they get instantaneous information and friends are only a click away.

I learned that Facebook has 1 billion users including 87% of 18-29 year olds. Daily FB is used by 757 million people. On FB you can select your privacy settings to target who receives your messages. You can create an event, post photos and videos to accompany your text or you can share what you learned from another FB source. It is recommended that you post and share something every few days to keep interest in your group and ask the members to share with their FB friends to grow your membership and influence. We also learned about Twitter, Linked In, and Instagram, but I am focusing on Facebook since it is the most popular and the one I best understand. There are only so many hours in the day. In this workshop we received a list of LWVMI social media resources. Two I will explore more in depth are Facebook Posting Guide for Local and State Leagues and the Member Resources Website.

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/facebook-posting-guide-for-local-state-leagues>

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/member-resources-website---key-points>

I also plan to join the FB group LWV New Media where I can learn about great tips and articles.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/114269905330219/>

By BJ Christensen



Explaining the Agricultural Position to delegates



Suzanne Hoff with Belle Ringer Award

**DUES are due
for June 2015 - May 2016
Members who joined after
January 31st do not owe dues.**

My first workshop was on fracking put on by FLOW (For the Love of Water). I did not know that the toxic water was injected into wells, and that is what is causing earthquakes. The second part of the environment workshop was about storm sewers, bio swales, and saving our water from flooding, contamination, and erosion. The phrase that hit me was "Rooting for Clean Water". Native plants such as black eyed susans, cone flowers, common ninebark bushes all have long, deep roots which can clean the water and keep the water out of our basements.

My second workshop was about Positions and Advocacy. It explained the alignment we must have from local to state to national on our positions and ability to advocate. The two-fold mission of educating the public and advocating to those in power was pointed out in a way that hit home to me. We are comfortable informing but advocating is not so comfortable, but oh, so important!

The third workshop on Redistricting answered many questions for me. It is a complex problem, but one that league must take on and collaborate with other non-partisan groups. When the actual vote is so different from the party who is elected, things are very wrong. An independent commission is needed to redistrict, and that can only come about with a state constitutional amendment.

Our Agriculture /Seasonal Migrant Worker concurrence position was received extremely well. Vina was given the Helen Milliken Award. We were given a LWVUS award for membership. Suzanne was given a Belle Ringer Award for her work on the migrant/seasonal worker position. Leelanau was the hit of the convention (we think).

We brought home ideas from other leagues as they reported what they have done through the two years. We have lists of books they read. We have ideas for speakers and programs for the coming years. I was a learner at the State Convention.

Jacquie Johnson



**Leelanau League Members at Convention Banquet
(L to R) Jacquie Johnson, BJ Christensen, Suzanne Hoff, Christi Bardenhagen,
Vina Mikesell and Marian Kromkowski**

LOOK OFFICIAL!!

Wear a name badge that identifies you immediately as a League member.

Ideal for candidates' forums and public meetings. The cost is approximately \$10 plus mailing costs (about \$1.50). This is a service provided by the state League. Orders are placed once a year.

Order deadline: July 15, 2015

Send an email to Paula Bowman at paulabowman9000@gmail.com with:

1. Your name as you want it to appear on the badge
2. Your local League
3. Your mailing address



Matt and I have been deeply touched by your show of concern for us and your amazing generosity to our daughter Ellen and the people of Nepal. With support from area friends and family we have sent over \$3,000 to her so she may buy supplies for the rebuilding efforts. On May 18th she began 5 more days of building structures that hopefully will withstand the coming monsoons. We hope to have a gathering when she comes back to Leelanau later this summer so she may share more of her experiences and thank you in person.

Marian Kromkowski and Matt Posner

Ellen writes:

"I have also been deeply moved by the culture of generosity here [in Nepal]. I cannot tell you how many times I have been shown so much generosity by families who have so little here. The Nepali people are incredibly hospitable, and all the times they have invited me into their homes for tea and food with absolutely no expectation of receiving anything in return when they have so little by western standards has left me asking, "How can I be more generous in my life?"-- not just with material items, but with things I consider to be even more meaningful like my time, attention, affection, compassion. So, in a large sense, the changes I was already experiencing within myself due to my exposure to the beautiful, slow-paced, generous, warm-hearted culture of Nepal came forth and really crystallized within my personality following the earthquake-- Now that I've stepped into the role of a relief worker for the past three weeks, I've had nonstop opportunities to practice being 100% present with others in their shock and suffering, especially the children, lending as much support through my caring attention as I'm capable; and, of course, maybe it's karma, but I've had endless opportunities to be generous with my time and resources, which I've been whole-heartedly pursuing through my efforts in building new homes for Nepalis. It's the least I can do after being shown so much love by the people here."