



The Leelanau VOTER

October 2015

**2015-2016
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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.

2015 LEELANAU CALENDAR

November 3 ELECTION DAY

November 4 at noon
Leelanau County Government Center
Understanding Constitutional Amendments
with attorneys Al and Brenda Quick.

Membership Consensus Discussion on LWVUS
Constitutional Amendment Study to follow presentation.

November 5 at 9 am
Judy Karandjeff, LWVMI President
Forum on Redistricting
Circle/Cracker Barrel Group at the Northport Highlands

November 9 at 4 pm
Old Art Building in Leland
Big Picture Movie "Merchants of Doubt"
The movie is free but donations appreciated.

November 16 at 5 pm
Betty and Dennis Bushey's home
Gathering for new and prospective members.
RSVP to Betty at 231-409-9339

November 23 at 9:30 am
Government Center – Conference Room #2
LWVLC Board Meeting

December 9 at noon
Annual Holiday Potluck
Puppeteer Joanne Schroeder will entertain with
her historic characters and her witty comments.

December 14 at 4 pm
Old Art Building in Leland
Big Picture Movie – TBA

December 28 at 9:30 am
Government Center – Conference Room #2
LWVLC Board Meeting

From the President.....

For those new to the League, **studies** are part of League Program and, in League parlance, **League Program** includes all of the positions the League uses to affect public policy as well as the procedure for adopting these programs. Program is such an integral part of the League that, according to LWV publication *League Basics*, “**Program is the League’s reason for being.**”

Program has three parts: **1) selection of an issue; 2) study of that issue, consensus and formulating a position; and 3) use of that position to influence public policy.**

At its 2014 National Convention, the LWVUS established a **Constitutional Amendment Committee** to study the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. The scope of the LWVUS study was to develop guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals, research important aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention and explore overall balancing questions of when a constitutional amendment should be sought.

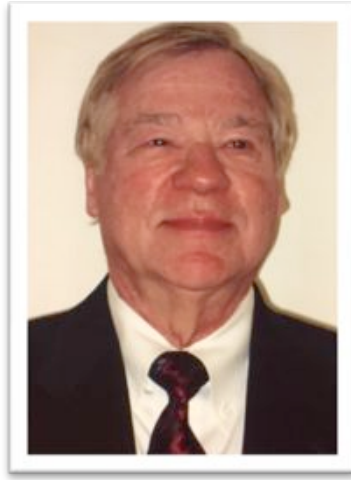
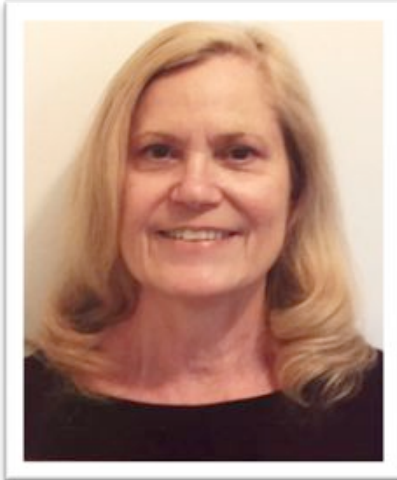
The Constitutional Amendment Committee has now completed its study. Its research may be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>. We strongly encourage you to review these materials prior to November 4th. Further information will be shared on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at noon in the lower level of the Leelanau County Government Center. The League is hosting an educational forum entitled “**The History and Process of Amendments to the United States Constitution.**” Presenters are attorneys Albert T. Quick and Brenda Jones Quick who will cover the “hows and whys” of some of the 27 current amendments to the U.S. Constitution. This presentation is open to members and the public.

A consensus discussion for LWVLC members only will be held directly after the Quicks’ presentation. LWVLC Board members will facilitate. We hope to conclude by 3:00 pm. Coffee and healthy snacks will be on hand. Consensus questions created by the LWVUS committee will provide the structure for the meeting. Consensus is not a simple majority nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group and a judgment about whether member understanding and agreement have been achieved. Members have an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides.

Determining whether a local consensus has been achieved is the responsibility of the LWVLC Board. Consensus reports will then be sent to the National League by December 1st. They are compiled and a draft League position is developed, subject to approval by the LWVUS Board of Directors. Once a League position is adopted, it may then be used to influence public policy.

Admittedly, the amount of study materials is daunting. However, it confirms how seriously the LWVUS views development of its positions. If you only have time to read one document, make it the Constitutional Amendment Study Guide. I bet your interest will be piqued enough to delve deeper so you will want to look at other supporting materials.

Marian



Amending the U.S. Constitution History and Process

Wednesday, November 4
at 12 noon

Leland County
Government Center

Attorneys **BRENDA JONES QUICK** and **ALBERT T. QUICK** will cover the "hows and whys" of some of the 27 current amendments to the United States Constitution. Albert is the current Dean and Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Toledo's College of Law and Of Counsel at Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge in Traverse City. Brenda is Professor Emeritus at the Michigan State University College of Law. Together they have taught at law schools throughout the country for a combined total of 67 years.

After the Quicks' presentation, members are asked to stay to participate in the consensus on the LWWUS study on Amending the Constitution.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR THE LEAGUE

Our current membership stands at 118.
We have one more recruiting event on November 16.

Email Martha Shaver, Membership Chair, with names of potential members:

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!!

Don and Kathy Frerichs from Northport
Patricia McGee and Phil Garrison from Northport

Have you read a GREAT book recently? Recommend it for the League's Book Discussion Group next April. We will be choosing the book to read soon. Please let Marian know the title and author either by email (LWVLeelanau@gmail.com) or at our next meeting.

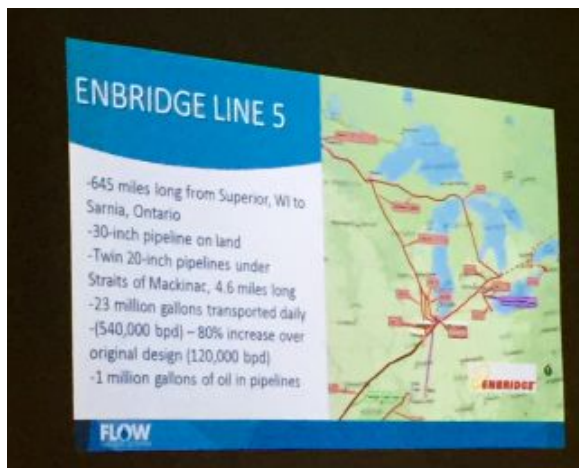
..... DO YOU KNOW

10 Easy Ways to Reduce Your Plastic Waste Today

<http://www.treehugger.com/green-home/11-easy-ways-reduce-your-plastic-waste-today.html>

1. **Bring your own shopping bag.** Between 5 Billion and 1 Trillion plastic bags are used each year with high environmental costs.
2. **Stop buying bottled water.** Use refillable bottles.
3. **Bring your own thermos to the coffee shop.** Avoids disposable cups.
4. **Choose cardboard over plastic bottles and bags (for pizza, detergent etc.).** Check cardboard also to be sure it comes from sustainable forest harvesting.
5. **Say no to straws and plastic beverage cups.** Avoid single-use plastic items or at least be sure to recycle them.
6. **Get the plastic off your face (found in microplastics in face wash, toothpaste, etc.).**
7. **Skip the disposable razor.**
8. **Switch from disposable diapers to cloth.**
9. **Re-think your food storage...check out using jars or glass containers**
10. **Shop in bulk.** Bring your own carriers and stock up to reduce plastic.

View the October 7 League presentation on our website LWVLeelanau.org under Video Links.



The Fate of our Water: Are We Sunk?
Liz Kirkwood
Executive Director of FLOW



BJ Christensen

Why We Need Campaign Finance Reform Consensus Discussion on Money in Politics January 6, 2016

Everything has changed since *Citizens United*. There the U.S. Supreme Court drastically extended its views on free speech to allow unlimited independent spending in candidate elections by corporations and unions and entirely discounted any danger from any undue influence other than *quid pro quo* (“something for something”) corruption.

The national League is pursuing a strategic, multi-dimensional approach at the federal and state levels to overcome or limit the Court’s decision in *Citizens United*. To date, the League has not supported or opposed particular legislation to amend the Constitution. A National League **Money in Politics Committee** has been tasked with undertaking member study and consensus and drafting a potential revision of League position on these matters,

BJ Christensen, a LWVLC Board member, has also been very active with Move to Amend. She offers her own thoughts here on **Why We Need Campaign Finance Reform**.

“In my opinion, Congress doesn’t pass laws saying there should be limits and transparency in political spending and campaign donations because they are the beneficiaries of this broken system. Even if the House and Senate could agree on legislation, the Supreme Court interprets the laws and can overturn them. When legislators leave office, many go to work for these special interest donors and lobby their colleagues for their new employer.”

Small and midsize local corporations keep their profits in the community by sponsoring Little League teams, funding parks and recreation centers, schools, hospital additions, museums, etc. Most of the money stays locally through local employees and the entire community prospers. Large and multinational corporations send their money offshore to avoid taxes. They expect tax abatements, traffic lights, utilities and police security. They can demand lower prices from their suppliers, they can sell for less, and their employees are usually part-time low-income employees without benefits. Local mom and pop businesses eventually go out of business. Large corporations closed US factories and built them in countries with lower labor costs and fewer regulations where they could substantially increase their profit.

Communities can enact ordinances and laws but corporations can sue and overturn these laws at the national, state, or local level for “restraint of future profit.” Every issue you are concerned about is linked to money in politics. Isn’t it time for a constitutional amendment regarding campaign finance reform?”

The LWVUS Study Guide for the Money in Politics Consensus can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/study-guide-money-politics-consensus> The LWVLC will holding an educational forum on Money in Politics and a consensus discussion on this issue at noon on Wednesday, January 6th.

The committee working on “An Age-Friendly Leelanau County” met on 14 October. With the help of four area professionals in the field, they worked to identify criteria for an age-friendly county. The committee will meet again on Wednesday, October 28 at 10 am in the Government Center, Conference Room 2, to continue the study.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Age Friendly Leelanau County
October 28 at 10 pm
County Government Center
Conference Room #2

Early Childhood Needs and Services
November 20 at noon
Munnecke Room, Leland Library

Energy and Natural Resources
November 4 at 10 am
County Government Center
Conference Room #2

Farm Labor Task Force
November 16 at 9 am
County Government Center
Conference Room #2

You are welcome to attend and join any League committee.

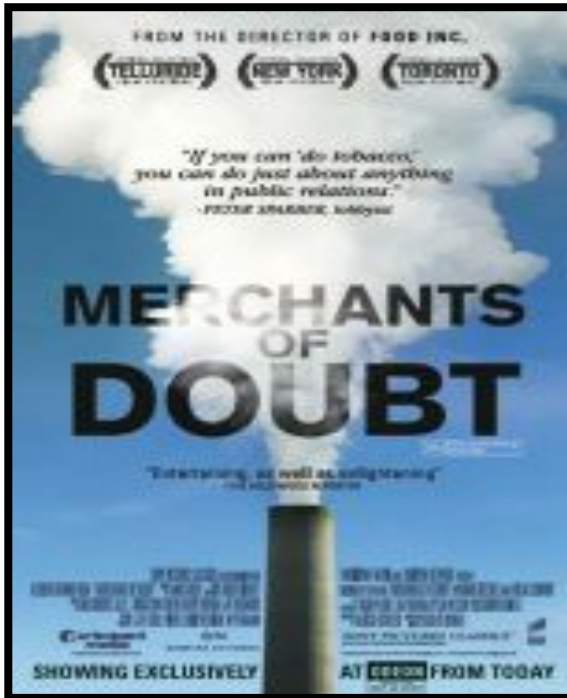


Mark your calendars for our holiday League event on December 9th at the Government Center. We will be hosting our annual luncheon for members, guests and Leelanau County officials.

The very special program after lunch will be puppeteer Joanne Schroeder from the Manistee League. She will entertain us with her wonderful original puppets and witty dialogue. Many of her puppets are fashioned after famous women who talk about their struggles for equality.

Schroeder has been a professional puppeteer since 1980 having performed all over the United States. Several of us were fortunate to see her at the League of Women Voters Michigan State Convention last May.

All members will receive an updated Member Handbook, via email, in November. The document will include the new Board, a current membership list, the year's Calendar of Events and much more.



*Join us for
The Big Picture*

**Monday, October 19th
at the Old Art Building in Leland at
4 pm**

MERCHANTS OF DOUBT

takes audiences on a satirically comedic, yet illuminating ride into the heart of conjuring American spin. The film lifts the curtain on a secretive group of highly charismatic, silver-tongued pundits-for-hire who present themselves in the media as scientific authorities – yet have the contrary aim of spreading maximum confusion about well-studied public threats ranging from toxic chemicals to pharmaceuticals to climate change.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. NO CHARGE BUT DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

The next Big Picture Show will be on Monday, December 14. same time. same place.

The LWVLC Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee meets at noon on the 3rd Friday of each month in the Munnecke Room of the Leland Public Library. We are currently actively planning our LWVLC spring forum on resilience in the face of childhood stress. This topic ties into our role of educating the public about and advocating for quality early childhood services. As you may be aware, we have been presenting to the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health members in an effort to support the state and national League's position statements on early childhood services.

Our committee would like to encourage all LWVLC members to watch "Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation" airing on CMU's public television station on Nov. 1 at 3:30, p.m.

Please make others aware of this important documentary that explores the history of U.S. child and family policy over the past century, the victories as well as the defeats. "The Raising of America" seeks to better understand what stands in the way of progress, and what Americans can do better.

Sue Miller, Committee Chair

Thank you to recent donors to the LWV Leelanau County.

Member Donors to General Fund

**Bruce Borchardt
Karen Wachs**

Member Donor to Education Fund

Barbara Marsh

Friends Donors to the Education Fund

**Jan and Jim Bardenhagen
Suzanne Mulligan**

**SUMMARY of LWV Lake Michigan Region Conference
in Glenview, IL on September 25-26, 2015
by Ann McInnis**

Visit to Kent/Fuller Prairie: Demonstration of LEED Platinum-Certified interpretive center and Prairie restoration (all native plants). Building has a green roof, excess water funneled to wetland, solar panels, wind turbine, 12 inch walls, geothermal heating, spray soy foam insulation, ground up blue jean insulation and much more.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Abigail D. Lewis described the importance of preserving natural areas (like the Chicago Wilderness project) for nature's critical ecological services, carbon sequestration, and recreational opportunities in the face of the ramifications of climate change.

Workshops:

1. Importance of using social media as an educational tool and way to connect to activists for "Mom's Clean Air."
2. Since government leaders don't always know appropriate "rules," give them a Civics lesson. Work with industry lobbyists as well as develop good relationships with your legislators, even if you aren't always in agreement.
3. If identified in water, activists need to get solid facts about pollutant PCBs; involve many community groups including schools; understand the different cultures involved; and listen to everyone.
4. Use creative folks in your community to help people understand concepts and issues. Use, art, dance, literature, music, etc. to build better understanding.
5. Nutrient management by agricultural sector is critical to avoid increasing dead zones and toxic algae blooms. Speaker described a positive incentive program that her organization the Delta Institute uses to get agricultural cooperation.
6. Take advantage of faith groups - "Faith in Place" - to connect them to ecological restoration, recycling, community gardens, reducing one's footprint and more.

Saturday's Keynote speaker Molly Flanagan...reiterated the importance of collaboration with groups working to deal with numerous threats to Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes These include invasive species, micro plastics, carp, toxic algae blooms and agricultural run-off, use of grey water, proposed radioactive waste disposal on Lake Huron, water diversions, potential catastrophic oil spill from Straits pipe lines and the many serious issues association with Climate Change.

League members Ann and Doug McInnis and Vina and Phil Mikesell appreciated the League's support in allowing them to attend the conference. Next year's conference will be in Michigan City, Indiana.