



# The Leelanau VOTER

## January 2019

### From the President

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In this issue you'll find highlights of some of the many ways in which our members have "Empowered Voters and Defended Democracy" through "Education and Advocacy". We hope these highlights will spark your interest and inspire you to get involved in new ways. With newly elected officials and passage of ballot initiatives come so many opportunities to move our positions forward. Your support is needed more than ever.

It's no mistake that the top two stories of 2018 as reported by the local paper were Leelanau's State record voter turnout and work toward passage of water protection measures related to septic systems. LWVLC had much to do with those results; we were after all on the front lines when it came to voter education on candidates and ballot proposals, voter registration and education and advocacy related to the septic issue.

While dining out with family over the recent New Year Holiday I was approached at my table by an older gentleman who extended his hand and asked, "Are you that lady from the League of Women Voters?" I stood to shake his hand and replied, "Yes", he smiled and said, "Thank You for all the good work you all do! That was some voter turnout!" So I pass his message on to you, Thank You for all your contributions in 2018! Can't wait to see what we do with 2019...

*In Service, Tricia Denton*

### Calendar

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#### January 2019

- 19** Women's March TC, Workshop Brewing Co., 1-3P
- 26** Senator Peters meet and greet, Bayside Coffee and Tea, Suttons Bay, 10A
- 28** Program Planning at LWVLC Board Meeting, Lower Level Govt Center 9:30 A

#### February 2019

- 6** LWVLC Forum on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Lower Level Govt Center Noon

#### Mark your Calendar!

**BOOK DISCUSSION:** "The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote" by Elaine Weiss. April 11, 2018—time/place TBD

**Monthly LEAGUE LINKS from LWVMI is at LWVMI.org under Member Resources**

**Follow LWVLC on FB at League of Women Voters Leelanau County**

**Empowering Voters.  
Defending Democracy.  
Imagining a Democracy where  
every person has the desire, the  
right, the knowledge, and the  
confidence to participate**

#### 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.**

## The League's Farm Labor Task Force in Changing Times

The Farm Labor Task Force was established when the League of Women Voters Leelanau County became the 391<sup>st</sup> League in America on June 17, 2013. The mission of the Task Force was to study the continuing and evolving challenges faced by the Leelanau County agricultural sector to secure and sustain a viable and skilled migrant/seasonal workforce. A committee of ten League members conducted over 50 interviews with Leelanau County farm, vineyard and crop processing employers, migrant and seasonal farm workers, local governmental representatives and area employer and worker support agencies. A report of their findings was released in January 2015.

The Task Force then proposed an Agricultural Migrant/Seasonal Worker Position which stated:

*State and local governments should pass legislation and publicly fund programs and services that address the ongoing challenges faced by agricultural employers to recruit and retain viable, skilled migrant/seasonal farm workers. It is quality of life issues for workers and their families that draw workers in a competitive labor market. Quality of life is enhanced by safe, healthy, affordable housing; education; health care; fair treatment by law enforcement and other services provided by state and local government offices and agencies.*

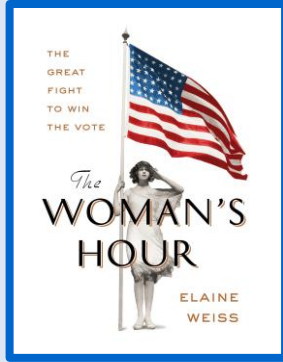
This Position was adopted by the Leelanau County League as a County position and then the Michigan State League as a State position. This means that all League members in Michigan can work to influence public policy as it relates to this position through education and advocacy.

Today, as we approach 2019, the scope of the problem of attracting migrant/seasonal farm workers is changing. Growers are now choosing to participate in the Federal H2a Visa Program which supplies workers from other countries. The program is similar to a Visa program offered to hotels and restaurants. Many of the largest growers in Leelanau County are now participating in H2a and they report that it is working very well for them. However, due to the high cost and some rules that are difficult to work with, smaller growers have not signed on.

A very big change is that the H2a program only brings in men and not families. This has an impact on many of the worker support agency programs such as the summer Migrant Daycare program. In addition, the workers send most of their money back to their home country instead of spending it here in our local economy.

One thing that has not changed is the difficulty of getting workers. Folks that have been coming here to work on our farms are now ready to retire and their adult children have pursued other careers and do not want to work as field laborers. Meanwhile, the growing immigration problem keeps new young workers from coming and our government does nothing to fix the problem.

These and other issues related to immigration in general will continue to hold the attention of the Farm Labor Task Force Committee moving forward. Join us as we study these problems in order to educate and advocate. We are looking for new members! *Submitted by Christi Bardenhagen* **the next meeting will be in February, date to be determined.**



## Elaine Weiss: Both In Print and In Person

The book that LWVLC members selected to read together in 2019 is **“The Women’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote” by Elaine Weiss**. We selected this book from a dozen titles suggested by members, then narrowed to five by the LWVLC board before our vote at our December 7 holiday luncheon. Our discussion is set for April 11, 2018—time and place to be announced. Here’s what others say about our selection:

*“With a skill reminiscent of Robert Caro, [Weiss] turns the potentially dry stuff of legislative give-and-take into a drama of courage and cowardice.”--The Wall Street Journal*

*“Weiss is a clear and genial guide with an ear for telling language ... She also shows a superb sense of detail, and it's the deliciousness of her details that suggests certain individuals warrant entire novels of their own... Weiss's thoroughness is one of the book's great strengths. So vividly had she depicted events that by the climactic vote (spoiler alert: The amendment was ratified!), I got goose bumps.”--Curtis Sittenfeld, The New York Times Book Review*

Critics describe the book as an historical page-turner. Nashville, August 1920. Thirty-five states have ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, twelve have rejected or refused to vote, and one last state is needed. It all comes down to Tennessee, the moment of truth for the suffragists, after a seven-decade crusade. The opposing forces include politicians with careers at stake, liquor companies, railroad magnates, and a lot of racists who don't want black women voting. And then there are the "Antis"--women who oppose their own enfranchisement, fearing suffrage will bring about the moral collapse of the nation. They all converge in a boiling hot summer for a vicious face-off replete with dirty tricks, betrayals and bribes, bigotry, Jack Daniel's, and the Bible.

Following a handful of remarkable women who led their respective forces into battle, along with appearances by Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Frederick Douglass, and Eleanor Roosevelt, “The Woman's Hour” is an inspiring story of activists winning their own freedom in one of the last campaigns forged in the shadow of the Civil War, and the beginning of the great twentieth-century battles for civil rights.

This spring we can both read the author, Elaine Weiss, and meet her, too. Weiss will keynote the Michigan League State Convention, to be held May 17-19, 2019. There, she will join us to celebrate the Michigan League’s 100th anniversary. Elaine has also agreed to be the speaker at our LWVLC Annual Dinner and Member Meeting to be held on May 22, 2019. A clear, concise, and compelling speaker, Weiss addressed over 1,000 delegates at the 2018 National League of Women Voters Convention in Chicago.

**Note:** New Leelanau League member, Tina Bevington, is selling “The Women’s Hour” at her recently opened book shop, called Bay Books, located near Martha’s in Suttons Bay.

## LWVLC COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Early Childhood Needs and Service:** The ECN&S Committee has been busy with education and advocacy work. The Committee weighed in on several education proposals that came before Michigan's "lame duck session" in December. We opposed the new school grading system and the formation of another state education commission operating independent of the State Bd. of Ed. The grading system was approved but is now "on hold" due to a review of its constitutionality. Committee members also met with our two legislative representatives, Senator Curt Vanderwall and House Representative Jack O'Malley to discuss early childhood issues. The outcome is a willingness to continue meeting and an invitation by Senator Vanderwall to write early childhood legislation with him. The Committee is also scheduling presentations to educate the community via service groups and other interested parties on early childhood issues. **Finally, the ECN&S Committee has changed its regular meeting time to 2:00 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month in the Munnecke Rm. of the Leland Public Library. The next meeting is January 18.** Submitted by Sue Miller, Chair of ECNS.

**The Voter Service Committee** reflects the mission of the LWVLC by informing the public through the dissemination of public policy information and advocacy. Efforts to create an informed public have been enhanced by the League's provision of candidate forums. Also, the committee has used the monthly meeting format to explore issues such as the recently proposed ballot initiatives. A meeting was dedicated to a non-partisan discussion of three of these initiatives Voters Not Politicians, Promote the Vote and Recreational Marijuana.

Many League members worked diligently to secure signatures for Promote the Vote and Voters not Politicians. The League has been very successful in advocating for in school registration of new voters. This year we worked with local clerks to register students at all six county schools and assisted with registration at NMC. Exposure to the enthusiasm and interest of students is a great reward in itself. League members have been available to do special school presentations and performed registrations at other community locations.

New legislation provides new opportunities for informing the public of changing voter registration laws. The committee plans to work with clerks to assist in the distribution of this information. Voter Service membership provides an opportunity to do some hands on work with the public and advance the cause of democracy. **The next meeting will be February 13, 10AM Governmental Center Law Library.** Submitted by Chris Palmer, Co-chair of Voter Service.

### **HISTORY OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY (ERA) COMMITTEE**

The ERA Committee has set as its priority the effort to support the ratification of the ERA in unratified states, to promote equal justice under the law for all people and to continue to build collaboration with other local organizations committed to these goals.

The ERA committee was formed in early 2017 due to great interest generated about this topic after LWVLC sponsored the showing of the movie, "Equal Means Equal". The movie was shown at the Bay Theater in Suttons Bay, MI in the Fall of 2016. Since that time, the committee has met regularly and has successfully undertaken numerous projects. As education for the committee and a basis for the actions taken by the committee, we began by reading and discussing the book "Equal Means Equal, Why the Time for an Equal Rights Amendment Is Now", by Jessica Neuwirth.

### **HISTORY OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY (ERA) COMMITTEE con't...**

During the Fall of 2017, LWVLC organized and co-sponsored the showing of the movie "Equal Means Equal" at the Milliken Auditorium on the campus of Northwestern Michigan College. The audience had the privilege to speak with the director of the film, Kamala Lopez, by Skype at the end of the movie. The ERA committee developed mail-in post-cards to be sent to key Federal Legislators seeking the removal of the deadline for ratification of the ERA. These were distributed to the attendees as well as giving them printed material outlining the history of the ERA movement, organizations supporting ERA, along with action steps to be taken by individuals. Many of the organizations co-sponsoring the film remain in contact and meet to work on Equal Rights Advocacy issues in a newly formed Community Coalition.

In March 2018, the LWVLC ERA committee provided a community forum during Women's History Month with a showing of the movie, "Legalize Equality". This is the latest movie offering by the director, Kamala Lopez. A lively discussion followed with participants leaving with action steps they agreed to take to assist in the ratification of the ERA. Copies of the movie were sold for \$5 with a few raffled to the group as door prizes. Once again mail-in post-cards and information regarding the ERA were distributed to attendees.

During the Spring of 2018, the ERA committee wrote a draft resolution to be presented at the LWVUS National Convention June 2018, seeking to make the ratification of the ERA a National priority once again and to ask for the removal of the deadline for ratification. The resolution was reworked to meet the LWVUS stringent standards for submission. LWVMI approved the resolution then sent it to LWVUS for consideration. The LWVUS 2018 Convention was an opportunity for the LWVLC delegates to gather support for the resolution that we would present. The LWVLC delegates distributed "ERA/YES" stickers to convention delegates ahead of the vote along with information regarding the history of the ERA, actions steps and supporting organizations contact information. We were also able to present a caucus about the ERA and show the movie, "Legalize Equality" before the motion for the resolution was brought to the convention floor for a vote. We sold out of our 50 copies of the movie, needless to say it was well received. The motion passed unanimously with delegates jumping out of their chairs shouting a resounding "yes" in support. Marian Kromkowski, presented the motion and Jan Frazee spoke in favor. This was a powerful and inspiring day for all of us who have been working towards ratification for so many years.

The LWVUS position on Social Policy states, "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and health and safety of all Americans." This position lends itself to the priorities the LWVLC ERA committee has dedicated itself to and directs actions taken by this committee. The LWVMI positions on Social Service, Health Care, Children and Youth all have components of the LWVUS position imbedded within them. The direction of the LWVLC ERA committee is consistent with the National and State positions at this time as they appear complimentary in nature.

The ERA committee will be meeting throughout the year to assess how to best support the ratification of the ERA in the unratified states and to discuss other projects to support equal rights for all people. This committee is open to any LWVLC member and welcomes their input.

**JOIN US AT THE WOMEN'S MARCH IN TRAVERSE CITY SATURDAY JAN. 19 AT 1 PM.  
The next scheduled meeting is January 30, 2019 at 11 am at the Government Center.**

Respectfully submitted by Jan Frazee Chair of ERA committee

## HISTORY OF THE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The **Energy and Natural Resource Committee** will continue to support preserving, protecting, and enhancing environmental quality through research, education programs, outreach, and advocacy activities that contribute to a resilient and sustainable future of health and happiness for all human and non-human citizens of planet Earth. Of special concern are issues related to water resources, land use, air quality, and proper disposal of wastes, all of which are highly connected to the acquisition and use of energy. The committee will communicate with local State, & National officials regarding policies and programs that impact our environment as well as enhance those efforts by partnering with like-minded local and regional organizations.

The committee was initiated when the *Leelanau community issues* organization became LWVTC and then LWVLC. Concerns about the local impacts of energy and resource depletion of fossil fuels (“peak oil”) along with climate change...were the initial impetuses for the formation of the committee.

Members researched and surveyed local fuel usage, township ordinances and regulations, interviewed users and suppliers, and identified potential alternate fuel resources all of which were presented in an educational forum in 2013 by committee members (including potential solutions). Title: “**What will Leelanau County do for its future energy needs?**” This resulted in support and follow-up advocacy for promoting renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency and opposition to local fracking. Potential out-reach programs to schools and local community municipalities were considered.

A number of subsequent presentations at LWVLC Membership forums have involved local and regional energy and climate experts such as Doug McInnis ( “The Northport Energy Story” in March 2011), Skip Pruss (renewable energy), Dave Barrons (climate disruption), Chris Grobbel (fracking), Steve Smiley (wind and solar), Liz Kirkwood of FLOW (fracking and later WATER), Lisa Del Buono and others (the Citizens Climate Lobby solution) and June 2017 Lisa Del Buono and other physicians (the health impacts of climate disruption). Also the committee organized a popular evening **Energy Fair (“Community Energy Resilience”)** with a focus on local alternative energy and food resource availability. Stephanie Mills beautifully articulated potential benefits of “living lightly”.

Another program about transporting oil thru **Line #5** by Jim Lively and a few years later by Liz Kirkwood (including fracking) was offered. A forum program with ISEA education specialist Jeanie Williams dealt with **microplastics** in our local water with suggestions for what to do. Our LWVLC committee also initiated and successfully implemented a county-wide **Solar Tour in October of 2016**.

Thinking in terms of potential survival needs of Earth’s human and non-human citizens prompted the committee to research and host forums on Water resources (Sarah Litch and Rob Karner) with suggestions how to keep local water safe (including groundwater) Subsequently the committee members have become especially active in clean water advocacy....often in partnership with other local environmental organizations. Future Food availability due to increasing environmental impacts was addressed by several local experts

## HISTORY OF THE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE con't

during a forum highlighting different current agricultural and residential practices for sustainable production. A forum involving the sustainable philosophy and culture of Anishinaabe Natives was held at the Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center in Peshawbestown in June 2017 and attended by over 120.


The current committee focus is on Strategies for Influencing Officials (Jan.2019), Water issues related to harmful contributions of onsite sewage treatment(septic) to water, spraying of sewage by the Homestead, PFAS, microplastics, shutting down Line 5, contamination of water and land due to storm water runoff, and more. Strategies for Living Lightly projects are being planned relating to resiliency in the face of potentially catastrophic impacts of climate disruption and the unravelling of Earth's biology (6th Extinction) perhaps even by sequestering atmospheric carbon in soil and living biomass. The local Energy and Natural Resource Committee position, along with the positions of the State and LWVUS, provide the platform for the E&NR committee to address the multiple interrelated issues with more research, education, and especially with advocacy from the grass roots level to the top of our government leadership. Please join us! **The next meeting is February 6, 2019 at 10A in conference room 1 of the Leelanau Co Govt Center.** Submitted by Ann McInnis, Co-chair of ENR Committee.

### Biennial STATE PROGRAM PLANNING DISCUSSION January 28 at LWVLC Board Meeting 9:30 am Lower Level of Govt Center

We seek your input regarding existing LWVMI positions. We also wish to hear your ideas as to whether there is a need for a new topic to be studied in order for the League to take action. Positions for LWVUS are available in Impact on Issues at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/other-issues-tools/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition> and LWVMI are at <http://lwvmi.org/positions.html>. **The Program Planning documents are in PDF form at [http://lwvmi.org/member/mem\\_currentProjects.html](http://lwvmi.org/member/mem_currentProjects.html)** In March, after reviewing the feedback and/or proposals submitted by local Leagues, the state Board will vote on a recommended Program to be considered by the delegates at the 2019 Michigan State Convention.

**The tape of the January 9<sup>th</sup>  
presentation  
"From Idea to Advocacy"  
will be at  
LWVLeelanau.org under  
Video Links shortly.**

**Almost all of our monthly  
programs are taped  
and can be viewed at  
LWVLeelanau.org.**



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

**From Idea to Advocacy:**  
How the LWV develops position and program

Are you newer to the "League" or just wanting to know more about this important aspect of our mission? Join Joan Hunault, LWVMI Vice-President for Advocacy, and your Board and Committee Chairs for an interactive discussion of the League of Women Voters' processes for development of local, state and national positions and programs.

**Wednesday, January 9, 2019 NOON**  
**Leelanau County Government Center**  
**Lower Level Meeting Room**

The public is invited. Many bring a sack lunch.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Leelanau County

## Donations

The League of Women Voters Leelanau County welcomes donations throughout the year. **We are very grateful for the following donations that have come in since the close of the Annual Fund Drive on June 30, 2018.**

The General Fund has received \$257.00, the Education Fund, \$735.00, and the Vina Mikesell Fund within the Ed Fund, \$50.00.

### List of Recent Donors

#### General Fund

Joan and Dale Blount (Friends)

Nancy Duck

Stephen Gilbreath

Karen Mulvahill

Marguerite and John Sweet (Friends)

#### Education Fund

Jan and Jim Bardenhagen (Friends)

Sue and Chuck Cady (Friends)

Wendy Greeney

Jan Rygwelski

Shirley Wall

#### Vina Mikesell Fund

Nancy Duck

### Membership Count

LWV Leelanau County has 169 members who have paid FY 2019 dues as of January 1, 2019. Leagues submit their membership count to the LWV of the United States (LWVUS informs LWVMI) on January 31 each year. That number is the basis for the Per Member Payment due to the national and state Leagues each summer. Since the last count was submitted, LWVLC has gained 37 new members. Counting our gains and losses, LWVLC has a net gain of 6 members over the 163 count last year. There is still time to renew if you are a current member and have not renewed your membership. If you have any doubt, email Nancy Duck, Treasurer, [n.duck@att.net](mailto:n.duck@att.net), before your send in dues. She will double check League records and give you the information you need to pay the \$60 Individual membership, \$90 Household membership or \$5 Student membership.

**Do not let ability to pay stand in the way of your participation in the LWV! Generous dues assistance is available from**

**The Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund.**

**Contact Barb Marsh for an application [blmarsh@hotmail.com](mailto:blmarsh@hotmail.com)**



**HAVE A CONCERN? WANT TO SAY THANKS?  
WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION?  
CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

**Senator Gary Peter**

724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-6221  
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

**Senator Debbie Stabenow**

731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-4822  
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/?p=contact>

**US Representative Jack Bergman**

414 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-4735  
<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

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**Attorney General Dana Nessel**

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**VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTE**

Contacts for All Elected County Officials at  
[www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp](http://www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp)

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!**

**WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

**Anne Rogers  
Kathy Wiejaczka  
Barbara Young**

**LWVLC Membership Form at  
[LWVLEELANAU.org/join\\_form.html](http://LWVLEELANAU.org/join_form.html)**

**Send checks to**

**Nancy Duck, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 992 Leland, MI 49654  
Single Membership is \$60.  
Household Membership is \$90.  
Student Membership \$5.  
Make your check out to LWVLC.**

**Scholarships are available for dues from The  
Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund.  
Contact Barb Marsh for an application  
[blmarsh@hotmail.com](mailto:blmarsh@hotmail.com)**

**We appreciate and value our members at  
any level they choose to participate, from  
considering their dues as a donation to  
support our causes, attending our forums,  
becoming a committee member, or working  
as a board member.**

**LWVLC BOARD 2018-2019**

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**



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