

From the President

So many highlights this past month! Advocacy efforts especially related to shutting down Pipeline 5 have had us keeping a feverish pace. In addition to sponsoring the Policy Luncheon on Immigration at the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health Convention, we helped sponsor a public forum on PFAS hosted by the Watershed Center.

Convention and the 100 year Celebration of the LWVMI were truly inspiring. Thank you for the contributions that helped makes it possible for 11 of our members to attend. Meeting Elaine Weiss at convention and then hosting her up north was a fascinating once in a lifetime opportunity worthy of all we have to celebrate and work that still needs doing. We tried some new things with this year's annual dinner that allowed for more social time, less time waiting at a table or in line for food and reduction in expenses that made it possible to cover travel for our speaker with our ticket price. We acknowledged the contributions of County Clerk Lyn Drzewiecki, our Outstanding Community Member, Joan Hunault our Vina Mikesell Award winner, "Belle" Ringers Christi Bardenhagen, Chris Palmer, Nancy Duck, Jan Frazee, and me. Thanked outgoing board members Peter Wolcott, Barb Krause and Chris Palmer. And voted in and welcomed Susan Price as secretary, Gary Bardenhagen as Treasurer and Anne Rogers as new board members. Special thanks to Anne who will be hosting our annual board retreat on June 17. Send me your ideas for the upcoming program year!

All this said, the top of the list for me was sharing the head table at our annual meeting with our new student members, Jack Simermeyer and Richard Shipiro pictured below with Elaine Weiss and student member Cecelia Denton. These young new members remarked repeatedly on parallels between historical accounts of the suffragettes and current events. How lucky we are to have young people who see the need and respond to the call to action!



*In Service,
Tricia Denton*

Calendar

June 2019

- 5 Talkin' Trash Forum, special exhibits 11am, speakers at noon Lower Level Govt Center**
 - 15 Poverty Simulation Workshop, pg 10**
 - 17 LWVLC Board Retreat**
 - 19 Leelanau Clean Water Quality Symposium Leelanau School 10a-3p, pg 10**
- Committee Meetings on Page 4**

The monthly editions of LWVMI's LEAGUE LINKS are at LWVMI.org under Member Resources.

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

Our monthly forums are taped and can be found at LWVLeelanau.org under Video Links. Bring a friend to a LWVLC Forum!!

**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.



LWVMI NEW LAWSUIT - AGAINST PA 608 of 2018

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, LWVMI, Michiganders for Fair and Transparent Elections, Henry Mayers, Valeriya Epshteyn, and Barry Rubin filed a lawsuit against Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State (SOS), in the State of Michigan Court of Claims seeking a permanent injunction barring enforcement of [PA 608 of 2018](#) because it violates the Michigan Constitution.

The lawsuit challenges PA 608 passed in lame duck because it significantly hampers efforts to gather signatures for an initiative and/or referendum.

- 1) The new geographical signature cap - not more than 15% of the signatures from any one congressional district.
- 2) The new requirements targeting paid circulators - requiring that petitions indicate whether the circulator is paid or unpaid and requiring paid circulators to file an affidavit with the secretary of state
- 3) Penalizing petition signers by disqualifying and nullifying otherwise valid signatures due to clerical errors on the petitions - i.e. checking a box if a paid or a volunteer circulator. This invalidates a citizen's signature without notice to the citizen.

These changes will dramatically increase the cost and difficulty of mounting a successful citizen's petition campaign. We know of no problems this law is trying to address.

While we appreciate [the opinion issued by AG Dana Nessel](#), it doesn't bind the courts and doesn't finally decide the constitutionality of PA 608.

LWVMI supports the principles of initiative and referendum. Requirements for petitions such as the number of signatures and restrictions on the process of gathering signatures should be sufficient to prevent fraud and frivolous proposals, but not so high as to discourage grassroots efforts to initiate legislation or to amend the constitution.

LWVMI is proud to be a plaintiff in this lawsuit to represent our members and Michigan citizens for the right to petition our government.

REDISTRICTING COURT CASE: On Friday, May 24, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay in the LWVMI redistricting case. The stay decision is not a decision on the merits of our case. The U.S. Supreme Court has simply paused our case. The next step will be the Supreme Court's decisions during June in the pending cases from Maryland and North Carolina. There is still time to draw new districts in Michigan for the 2020 elections.



LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE CENSUS?

The Be Counted Michigan 2020 coalition, of which LWVMI is a member, has a lot of information available on its website and you can sign up for a newsletter. We are encouraging local Leagues to work in their

communities to ensure that everyone is counted. For numerous fact sheets go to this website: <https://becountedmizozo.com/> There are also 13 regional hubs. Networks Northwest will be the hub for Northern Lower Michigan. More info to come! Now we await the U.S. Supreme Court decision on including the "citizenship" question in the Census!

Energy & Natural Resources Committee Hosting June 5 "Talking Trash"

12 noon Forum - 11am Exhibits

TALKIN' TRASH

Where do Your Consumer Choices Lead?



THIS OR THIS

What can you do with the stuff you no longer want?
What can we do about the plastics problem?

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5, 2019 at NOON

Leelanau County Government Center All Welcome

FEATURING:

Andy Gale, Bay Area Recycling for Charities
Marcia Harris, Leelanau Solid Waste Council

11:00 AM Special Exhibits

Family Friendly, Children Welcome
Books, Art from Trash, Repurposed Items, Composting and
Compost Tea for Plants, Recycling, and
Jane Packard's 1 Month Attempt at "Zero-Plastic Challenge"



Living Lightly in Leelanau
Series of the
LWVLC Energy & Natural
Resources Committee

How much trash can you save in one year by substituting alternative items for the following single use throw-away items?

- 1 reusable **water bottle** could save 167 plastic water bottles
- 1 reusable **tote bag** could save 170 plastic bags
- 1 reusable **cup** could save 500 single use coffee cups
- 1 reusable **metal straw** could save 540 plastic straws
- 1 reusable **cloth towel** could save 7,300 paper towels

What do consumers do with stuff no longer wanted? Are food scraps just destined for landfills along with zillions of discarded electronic items or things made of plastic? China will no longer accept American throw-aways for recycling as in the past. What options are there to deal with disposing of the huge amount of waste which, in fact, equates to a huge waste of energy and natural resources? Arrive early at 11:00 AM to check out the Pre-Show Exhibits of books, art using recyclables, easy composting, recycling, repurposed items, results of a 1 month experiment in "zero-plastic", and more.

League members attended a recent demonstration at the Straits of Mackinaw Saying NO to Tunnel for Line 5 Oil.



Early Childhood Needs and Services: The Early Childhood Needs and Services Committee is represented on Leelanau County's Early Childhood Study Committee. This group is assessing the current state of early childhood services in the county and preparing recommendations for improvements, to be presented to the County Commission by the end of June. The Committee is also organizing a June visit to a community child care and nearby resource center in Ludington, MI. to learn about their model for sustainability. Meanwhile, the Committee has updated the Leelanau County Early Childhood Resource List which should be posted on the League website in June.

The Voter Service Committee: May has been a very exciting and eventful month. Attending the League's Michigan convention and the annual meeting were highlights. **Join us for a Voter Service Meeting on June 19th, 9:30 Conference Room #1 in the Government Center.**

We will be planning for the rest of 2019, and looking forward to 2020. We will also discuss voting changes related to Proposition 3 and lots of other fun stuff.

Equal Rights Advocacy (ERA) Committee:

The ERA committee invited and hosted Elaine Weiss, author of the "Woman's Hour- The Great Fight to Win the Vote". She was the speaker at our annual LWVLC dinner on May 22nd. It was an inspiring and enlightening talk. We were honored to have her join us.

Tina Green owner of Bay Books in Suttons Bay and a valued LWVLC member, hosted a book signing of Elaine's book in the afternoon before the annual dinner. Some ERA committee members were able to spend extra time with Elaine during her visit at a welcome "pizza party" and taking her on tours of our beautiful County before she returned to Baltimore.

The next meeting of the ERA committee will be June 11th at 5:30pm to be held in the Munnecke Rm of the Leland Library. We will be finalizing plans for marching as suffragists in the 4th of July Parade in Leland. Also, we will be discussing potential educational offerings about voting rights for the local schools in the fall. All are welcome - please come and share your ideas.

The Farm Labor Task Force is now the Farm Labor and Immigration Task Force

The Farm Labor Task Force has decided that, due to changing times, we need to change our focus. Growers are hiring more H2A workers and fewer domestic workers. This means that single men are coming to Leelanau County instead of families. It seems that education, health care and government services are becoming less important while housing and law enforcement are still important. We are always looking for new members. If farm labor and immigration piques your interest, please join us.

Call Christi 271-0072 for information on next meeting.



League member Cecelia Denton receiving the Willis B. Hawkins Award for Science and Research, the Bob McNutt Alumni Scholarship, Dean's Cup for character and leadership and the Top Scholar Award at the Leelanau School on May 31, 2019. Congratulations!!!

The Lucky Leelanau League



**Elaine Weiss at Bay Books
in Suttons Bay before
Annual Dinner.**

Elaine Weiss, nationally recognized author of “The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote,” was the keynote speaker at the LWVLC Annual Meeting and Supper, held at The Leelanau School on May 22, 2019.

We were mighty lucky to have her. Weiss could have been at U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s high table, honored on the 100th anniversary of the day—May 21, 1919—that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, sending it out to the then 48-states for ratification. Instead, Elaine Weiss declined Speaker Pelosi’s invitation, explaining she had, months earlier, promised the Leelanau League of Women Voters a talk about suffrage.

It was a great talk. We were lucky to hear it. Weiss illustrated her remarks with historical slides to show Michigan’s role in ratifying the 19th Amendment. We learned Michigan was the third state to ratify, in June 1919, with a unanimous vote in both legislative chambers.

Getting these “Aye” votes was tough—a 52-year effort. In 1866, women’s right to vote was defeated in the Michigan legislature by one vote. In 1870, it passed both chambers, but was vetoed by the governor. In 1874, the bill died in the legislature. In 1908, the newly drafted State Constitution ignored female suffrage. In both 1912 and 1913, female suffrage proposals appeared on the state ballot, but were twice voted down by male voters. The liquor industry funded the opposition. The Michigan Equal Franchise League worked for passage. Finally, female suffrage for Michigan women was adopted in the November 1918 general election—as young men marched under the banner “Let Our Mothers Vote.” In April 1919, the Michigan Equal Franchise League changed its name, becoming the Michigan League of Women Voters—forming one year before the national League.

In June 1919, seven months after women won the right to vote in Michigan, the state legislature ratified the 19th Amendment, becoming the third state to do so. But 36 states were needed to add that Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Fifteen months later, in August 1920, we were still one state shy.

As was true in Michigan, the nationwide effort to win female suffrage was a battle. That battle spanned seven decades of ceaseless effort by thousands of ‘suffs’, led by Carrie Chapman Catt who, upon ratification, immediately founded an organization to ensure its implementation—the organization we know today as the national League of Women Voters.

So, here we were, the lucky Leelanau League, listening to our founding story, straight from Elaine Weiss, the author of what has become the seminal work describing the frenzied final six-weeks in Nashville where a ‘war of the roses’—yellow for ‘suffs’, red for the ‘antis’—belied a rough and tumble battleground fueled by bourbon and bombast and betrayal, as gracious and grandmotherly Carrie Chapman Catt rallied her troops to make their last stand.

As Weiss reminded, when Tennessee finally ratified—by a single vote margin—in August 1920, tens of thousands of suffragists had conducted 900 campaigns spanning 70 years, both in the halls
Continued on page 6.

The Lucky Leelanau League con't.

of the U. S. Congress (where it was voted down 28 times) and the lobbies of state legislatures. As they worked to get the vote, their rallying cry was “Organize. Educate. Agitate.” They traveled by horse and buggy, then rail, and eventually cars. They worked without telephones or typewriters. They marched—by the thousands—in white dresses with yellow sashes at a time when marching was unladylike. They faced derision in their communities. Many were jailed. The “silent sentinels” at the White House gates were force-fed to end their hunger strikes. Gaining the greatest expansion of the franchise in history—27 million first-time women voters in 1920—came at great cost.

That great effort culminated with a single vote—a vote of conscience. We best always remember the name Phoebe “Febb” Burn. Her son, Harry, was the youngest member of the Tennessee General Assembly. Read Weiss’s book to discover why. “The Woman’s Hour” is a rollicking narrative; a gripping page-turner—and a drama soon to unfold on the big screen. A few days before addressing the lucky Leelanau League, Elaine Weiss learned filmmaker Steven Spielberg bought the story rights, at the urging of Hillary Rodham Clinton, an executive producer.

LWVLC mentoring new League in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties

The League of Women Voters Leelanau County has been asked by the League of Women Voters of Michigan to mentor a new Michigan League. Several women from Charlevoix and Emmet Counties desire to form a League. They have already held a voter forum and are active in promoting good local government. Penny Crim and Harriet Graves, from Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, came to our May Forum and afterwards met with Joan Hunault, Nancy Duck and Tricia Denton from our League and the then incoming President of the LWVMI, Christine Schlitt.

New Leagues in Michigan have to go through several steps to become independent Leagues. The first step is to become a LWVMI Geographical Unit, called Unit for short. This group will be called League of Women Voters of Leelanau County, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties Unit. Its members will be members of LWVLC and all its finances are run through our League; however it will have its own independent programs, first approved by LWVLC’s Board. Penny and Robin Jordan have already joined our League. Camilla Davis, who has advised other new Leagues, has been appointed our advisor from the LWVMI. Joan Hunault and Nancy Duck volunteered to be the primary mentors from our League. We all are looking forward to building a new League together and welcoming new members!

League Sponsors state Policy Luncheon on Immigration



Our local League sponsored the policy luncheon on "Immigration Advocacy - What you Need to Know and What you can do to Help" at the biennial conference for the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health in Ypsilanti on May 6. Six of our League members attended this luncheon that featured a panel discussion including Abdullah Hammoud, serving District 15 Dearborn in the MI State House of Rep., Susan Reed, managing attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Deborah Drennan, CEO Freedom House Detroit, a shelter for individuals and families seeking asylum, and Nicole Brown, Mayor pro-tem, Ypsilanti. All spoke to the effects of immigration policies on immigrant families and children. They talked of the fear that

started with the travel ban and has continued to permeate immigrant communities with the ongoing arrests, detention and deportations. This fear is exacerbated by the post-traumatic stress from the immigrants’ experiences in their home countries. to speak out and acknowledge their status. There was some discussion about how to encourage immigrants to overcome their fear and respond to census questions, in spite of their fears. Advocacy recommendations from the panelists included “get involved: get on boards and run for office. Get to know your state legislature to the point of meeting face to face with your representatives.

The Annual Fund Campaign of the League of Women Voters Leelanau continues until the end of the fiscal year, June 30. We are very grateful to all the donors, both Members and Friends, who have contributed generously a total of \$5,610.00 to further the goals and mission of our League.

If your name is not on this list, it is not too late to give. Send your contribution (payable to LWVLC or LWVLC Education Fund) to P. O. Box 36, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653. The Ed Fund will only accept checks made out to it. No longer can you write one check with gifts to the General fund and the Ed Fund on one check.

LWVLC has four funds to which gifts have been given and to which we welcome your gift: The General Fund and the Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund that supports memberships and leadership development. These funds are not tax-deductible.

Tax-deductible gifts may be made to the LWVLC Education Fund and/or the Vina Mikesell Fund within the Ed Fund (put Vina Mikesell Fund in memo line of your check).

**Thank you, Thank you,
Thank you
To each and every donor!**

**Nancy Duck and Jane Gale
Annual Fund Co-Chairs**

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Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund Friends

Jill and George Wellman



**Photo from
May 22, 2019
LWVLC Annual
Dinner Meeting
featuring author
Elaine Weiss**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LWVMI CONVENTION

Gun Violence Prevention

The 2020 Census: How to Count Every Person, Once, in the Right Place

Statehood for the People of DC

2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission



These topics are a sampling of the fascinating workshops I was able to attend at the League of Women Voters of Michigan Centennial Convention. Also I had the fortune to hear some wonderful speakers such as Chris Carson, LWVUS President; Congresswoman Rashida Talib; Attorneys Mark Brewer and Jay Yeager who represented LWVMI on the Redistricting Lawsuit; Sharon Dolente of ACLU who spoke on Proposal 3 and Voting Rights; and of course Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. The weekend was packed with fun and inspiration. I hope all members will have the opportunity to attend one of these. It's well worth the effort. *Christi Bardenhagen*

Presentation by our attorneys on the Gerrymandering lawsuit was excellent and the detail they shared on their findings was eye opening. Numerous other presenters informed and inspired us. We learned more information on the implementation of Promote the Vote and plan to work with Clerks and the general public to disseminate this. Continue the excitement- what better way to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage? Join the Voter Service Committee. *Chris Palmer*



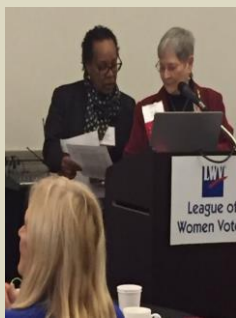
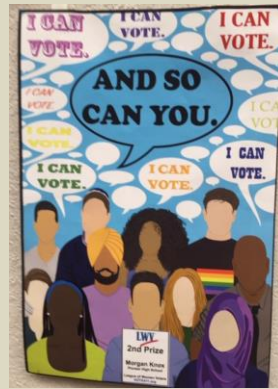
The LWVMI Biennial convention was held in Livonia on May 17-19. I presented a workshop along with veteran historian and ERA activist Laura Callow, titled "The ERA then and now." About 60 people attended the workshop with positive evaluations and comments afterwards. *Jan Frazee*

This was the largest LWVMI convention ever held. National president Chris Carson joined us and commended the hard work that is being done here in Michigan. Joan Hunault, Tricia Denton and I presented at two different workshops. Holly Bird from our area also spoke on water rights. A highlight for me was hearing Rashida Talib US Representative from Michigan speak. She gave a passionate defense of environmental justice and detailed valiant efforts to combat deadly pollution in the neighborhoods of Southwest Detroit.

Marian Kromkowski



**Photos from the LWVMI Convention
in Livonia May 17-19, 2019**



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

POVERTY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

Hosted by Northport Poverty Reduction Initiatives & Trinity Church

Survive a "Month" in Poverty in Leelanau County

Saturday, June 15, 2019 - 9:00am - 12:30pm

Northport School Gymnasium

This workshop is a learning opportunity for everyone that invites deeper understanding into the daily challenges of living in poverty in Leelanau County.

The Poverty Simulation Workshop was suggested as the next step for our learning about poverty at the Conversation of Consequence, "INVISIBLE LEELANAU: POVERTY IN PARADISE" on January 13, 2019 at Trinity Church.

Ty Wessell informed us: "14.6% of children under age 18 in Leelanau County are living below the poverty level. 38.4% of single parent families in the County are living in poverty. 8.7% (1,893) of the total population is living in poverty."

Northport Poverty Reduction Initiatives is an informal group of people from Northport and Leelanau Township seeking to respond to emergency needs and identify longer-term solutions for our neighbors who live with the daily challenges of poverty.

Workshop participants role-play persons in poverty in a variety of circumstances and situations: Some are newly unemployed, some have just experienced desertion of the breadwinner, others receive temporary assistance for needy families and children, and others are older residents challenged by illness and isolation.

During the workshop, you and your "family" will be part of a community that includes a bank, police station, school, grocery store, an employment office, food pantry, human services office, and pawn shop. Your main task is to provide both shelter and basic necessities for your family for a whole month (divided into four 15-minute weeks. Your fate may change quickly with a *luck of the draw card that could bring you unexpected income or an unexpected expense.*

At the conclusion of the simulation you will be invited to share your poverty experiences, reactions and insights in a prevention and solution discussion led by Northwestern Michigan College Social Science Instructors Diane Emling and Brandon Everest.

FREE

REGISTER TODAY - 218-269-4466 - filgy@mac.com

June 19

Leelanau Clean Water, 2nd Annual Water Quality Symposium at Leelanau School in Glen Arbor 10am - 3pm

\$20 per person (Includes lunch/refreshments- pay at the door)

Call 231-256-9665 or email: ybrown@leelanauconservancy.org to RSVP by June 14th

~What resources do you need as a water steward? ~How can Leelanau Clean Water help?

Agenda: 9:30 a.m. Doors open

10:00 a.m. Welcome- Rob Karner, LCW Chair

10:10 a.m. Key Note by John Hartig, Visiting Scholar for Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
Title "Grassroots Watershed Cleanup of the Rouge River"

10:40 a.m. Focus on septic systems and water quality in Leelanau County

Nature Change Video -The Risks of Failing Septics

qPCR & Enteric Bacteria study Leelanau County- Ron Reimink

Time of Transfer and Septic Ordinances- Eric Johnston Q & A with presenters

11:45 a.m. Lunch (included in registration) Move around, meet people & ask questions

12:30 "Rapid" Presentations

Lake Leelanau Lake Association WQ program- Brian Price

@NMC FreshWater Studies Program Stream Data- Dr. Kohler

Watershed Protection Strategies- Rob Karner

Forests for Fish- Kama Ross of Leelanau Conservation District

Michigan Shoreland Stewardship Program- Tricia Denton

How to fund and staff Water Quality monitoring- Dennis Wiand

1:30 p.m. Break (coffee & cookies provided)

1:45 p.m. Small groups/Facilitated Discussion - Jeanie Williams

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

President Donald Trump

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

Senator Gary Peters

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/>

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517)-373-3400
(517)-335-7858 - Constituent Services
FAX: 517-335-6863

State Senator Curt Vanderwall

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Attorney General Dana Nessel

G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, MI 48909
Phone (517)-373-1110
miag@michigan.gov

**VOTE
VOTE
VOTE**

Contacts for All Elected County Officials at
www.leelanau.cc/directory.asp

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robin Jordan
Penny Crim
Tim Johnson
Rich Miller
Doug Roberts
Angela and George Wills
Alan Vanderpass
Jack Simermeyer
Richard Shipiro

DUES FOR 2019-2020 NOW DUE

LWVLC Membership Form at
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.

Dues assistance is available from
The Barbara Reinert Memorial Fund.
Contact Barb Marsh for an application
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.

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MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!