

# League of Women Voters of the Copper Country

## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President	Leah Bectel
1st Vice President	Linda Belote
2nd Vice President	Kristine Bradof
Treasurer	Mary Marchaterre
Secretary	Taryn Mason
Electoral Process	Faith Morrison
Director at Large	Barry Fink

## OFF-BOARD PORTFOLIOS

Education	Martha Sloan
Voter Editor	Linda Ott
Voter Service	Kathy Flagstadt
Website Editor	Shellie Crisman

League of Women Voters  
of the Copper Country

P.O. Box 815  
Houghton, MI 49931

www.lwvccmi.org  
www.facebook.com/coppercountrylwv

# 2018 Report to the Community

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE COPPER COUNTRY



LEAH BECTEL  
PRESIDENT

www.lwvccmi.org  
www.facebook.com/coppercountrylwv



## League of Women Voters Nonpartisan but political

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not oppose or support political parties or candidates.

Anyone over the age of 16, female or male, may become a voting member of the League of Women Voters.

Members of the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country receive the *Copper Country Voter* and *National Voter* newsletters; and the opportunity to learn about and influence local, state, and national issues.

## Observer Corps

One of the best ways to improve government is to “put it in the spotlight” by watching it. The Observer Corps serves our community by maintaining a presence at as many government meetings as possible. Becoming an observer is a perfect opportunity for someone to have an impact, simply by attending one meeting per month. Observers do not comment or speak in their role of observer.

Join the Observer Corps today!

In 2017-2018 league members observed:

- ⇒ Houghton County Board of Commissioners
- ⇒ Houghton-Portage School Board

## 2018-2019 Membership Form

**YES**, I want to join the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country (check one):

\$60 INDIVIDUAL	\$ _____
\$90 HOUSEHOLD	\$ _____
<b>FREE</b> STUDENT	\$ _____

I wish to make a **CONTRIBUTION** to the League at this time (please fill in amount):

- General LWVCC \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Kay La Rue Memorial Membership Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - LWV Education Fund (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply for a scholarship for membership

Name(s)

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Email

You can pay using PayPal on our website [lwvccmi.org](http://lwvccmi.org) or make your check payable to LWVCC, and mail it with your application form to:

LWVCC  
PO Box 815  
Houghton, MI 49931

Membership dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters (except LWV Education Fund) are not tax deductible.



2018 Annual Meeting

## BUDGET 2017-2018

### GROSS EXPENDITURES

General administration	\$200
Board and administrative committees	\$250
Delegates, travel, & workshops	\$1,000
Copper Country Voter	\$630
Education Activities	\$480
Annual meeting, misc.	\$435
State and national dues	\$3,200
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,195</b>

### GROSS INCOME

All Member Dues	\$2,370
Grants, Interest, and Reserves	\$300
Contributions:	
Member	\$600
Non-member	\$700
Member Ed Fund	\$1,115
Nonmember Ed Fund	\$1,000
Kay LaRue Scholarships	\$110

**Total Income**                    **\$6,195**

### Education and Outreach Activities

- \* Provided voter information to students at Michigan Tech *Afternoon on the Town*.
- \* Featured organization at *Keweenaw Roller Girls Solar System Smackdown*.
- \* *Registered* voters at Michigan Tech.
- \* Assisted 4H with *Teen Leadership Program*.
- \* Welcomed *Prof. Sarah A. Green*, Chemistry Department of Michigan Tech University at our annual meeting.
- \* Presented *Redistricting in Michigan* at Portage Lake District Library.
- \* Discussed *Statehood for the People of District of Columbia* at Portage Lake District Library.
- \* Participated in *March for Science*.
- \* *Jail and Courthouse Project*
  - ⇒ Held educational meetings in Laird Township, Hancock High School and Calumet High School.
  - ⇒ Conducted public interest survey.
  - ⇒ Put op-ed in Daily Mining Gazette titled "Public Input Needed."
  - ⇒ Submitted detailed report to Commissioners.

## Highlights from 2017 - 2018

### Advocacy of LWV Positions

#### Local

- \* Letters to the Daily Mining Gazette
  - ⇒ Concerns over the Baraga County Board's decision to disenfranchise non-taxpaying citizens caused this letter to be written: "Baraga Backs Voter Suppression."
  - ⇒ Vote "YES" for Houghton city renewal millage for Portage Lake District Library.
  - ⇒ Don't let fear hold you back. Avoid the drumbeat of fear; don't let it keep you from trying, reaching, doing, speaking.
  - ⇒ Thank you to the Keweenaw Roller Girls for featuring the LWV of the Copper Country.

#### State of Michigan

- \* Legislative Interview with State Senator Tom Casperson.
- \* Educational and concurrence meeting on State's agricultural/seasonal worker position for the LWV of Michigan.
- \* Sent delegate to LWV national convention.

#### National

- \* Held educational meeting on statehood for the people of District of Columbia.



### Verna Grahek Mize Inducted into Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

Houghton native Verna Grahek Mize (1913-2013) was honored for her "Save Lake Superior" campaign, begun in 1967 to end the dumping of asbestos-like iron mining waste into Lake Superior. Her lobbying of government officials for six years inspired others to action that led to

the landmark United States of America v. Reserve Mining Company case. As a result, USEPA gained broader powers to regulate corporate pollution, and dumping of mining waste into Lake Superior ended in 1980.



Guest speaker Prof. Sarah A. Green from Michigan Technological University at our April 2018 annual meeting.