



Copper Country Voter

Published by the
Copper Country League of Women Voters
Houghton County, Michigan



LWVCC Calendar

Nov. 5	ELECTION DAY (No elections locally)
Nov. 5 7:00pm	Green Lecture Series: The Economic Tuesday, Anomaly of Mining: Treasure and Tears by Thomas Power MUB Ballroom, Michigan Tech
Nov. 6 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Nov. 20 Wednesday, 11:45am	Constitution Day talk on DVD by David Canon Kangas Cafe
Dec. 3 Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Jan. 7 Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Jan. 15 Wednesday, 7:00PM	Public Information Session sponsored by FOLK on Economic Impact of Mining Calumet High School Commons Area
Jan. 16 Thursday, 7:00PM	Public Information Session sponsored by FOLK on Economic Impact of Mining Houghton High School Multipurpose Room
Jan. 21 Tuesday, 6:00PM	Annual Program Planning Meeting Kangas Cafe

Annual Program Planning Meeting

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 6pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutila Center (the old Hospital) in Hancock.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 17th to Mary Marchaterre, mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 with your menu entree choice of Stuffed Manicotti with Spinach and Cheese or Chicken Piccata in a lemon and caper sauce. The cost is \$13 for the meal, which includes: Salad, Red Parsley Potatoes, and Mixed Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert, Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, and Gratuity.

Unfortunately, "No shows" will still be expected to pay for their dinner and will be billed by the LWVCC, as we will be committed to covering the number we have Reserved.

For more information on LWV January programming planning meetings see the article on Page 3.

LWVCC Board for 2013- 2014

Shared Governance Model	
Acting President/ Fredi DeYampert	482-2161
1st Vice President/ Natural Resources Kristine Bradof	482-0446
2nd Vice President/ Social Policy Mary Jane Hatton	523-5368
Treasurer Mary Marchaterre	483-2291
Secretary Barry Fink	482-4632
Children and Youth Carol Kreher	487-6778
Health Care Judy Crotty	296-2099
Voter Service Kathy Flagstadt	399-0721
Website Shellie Crisman	523-6299
<u>Off Board</u>	
Finance Drive Faith Morrison	487-9703
International Relations Carol Kurz	337-2920
Health Policy Carolyn Weissbach	482-3173
Voter Editor Linda Ott	487-2315
Website Dale Yeo	

www.lwvccmi.org
<http://www.facebook.com/coppercountrylwv>

Regional DWI/Drug Court in the Copper Country

Kathy Flagstadt

According to Bob Rashleigh, Probation Officer for Houghton County, who was the guest speaker at the Superior Community Coalition for the Prevention of Domestic Violence October 15th meeting, which Kathy attended, the Western U.P. will now have a Regional DWI/Drug Court covering the counties of: Houghton, Baraga, Keweenaw, Ontonagon, and Gogebic. The mission of the Region 1 DWI/Drug Court is to reduce recidivism rates of repeat DWI/Drug offenders, to enhance public safety through increased supervision, judicial action, treatment and accountability. Partnering the judicial system with treatment providers will lessen the burden of community resources and foster a healthier, safe lifestyle for the participant, their family, and the community. The overall mission is for successful recovery for substance abuse dependent individuals. The mission will be reached by achieving the following goals:

1. Reduce substance use during program participation
2. Reduce drug and alcohol related crime in the jurisdiction
3. Retain participants in substance abuse treatment
4. Alleviate jail overcrowding

The court targets non-violent offenders who require more intensive focus on treatment, monitoring, and judicial intervention than a traditional court offender. The court will target offenders where there is a reasonable assumption that the offender's criminal activity is connected directly to the ongoing, chronic, and habitual abuse of substances.

The offenders entering the Regional DWI/Drug Court Program must meet eligibility criteria:

1. Must live in a location where he/she can get to all court dates and court obligations.
2. Must not meet the definition of a "violent offender: under PA 224 of 2004 MCL 600.106.
3. Must not have a pattern of violent criminal behavior.
4. Must not have a criminal record of drug delivery.
5. Must have an alcohol and/or drug dependency.
6. Must be willing to admit responsibility and plead guilty.
7. Must not possess a dangerous weapon at the time of the offense.
8. Must show sufficient emotional stability and mental capacity.

9. Must not have pending felony charges, detainer for immigration, or parole/probation violation.
10. Must sign a voluntary written consent to participate in the program in conformance with MCL 600 1068(1)d.

Referrals are made by law enforcement, prosecutor, probation, or the courts. The program consists of 5 phases and each phase is 90 days minimum and the program is a total of 15 months. To graduate from the program offender must have a least 180 current, continuous, sober/clean days, complete required treatment and support group sessions, complete mandatory 12 step meetings, have a 12 step sponsor, pay all program fees and satisfy all court costs and fines, be employed in/out of the home or in school full time or combination of work/school, be a productive member of the community, and satisfactory completion of all sobriety court phases.

Navigating Healthcare.gov: Possible with Persistence

By Kristine Bradof

The good news is that it is possible to sign up in the Health Insurance Marketplace via the healthcare.gov website. Better news is that a subsidy and the choice of a number of plans offer far better value than my current plan, which will be canceled as of December 31. My monthly premium for that insurance increased 52% last year simply because I turned 55, even though I remain in good health.

The bad news is that it took at least a half dozen failed attempts over six weeks ending with error messages (and invitations to try again later) and two live chats with agents who knew less than I did (and a third chat with one who helpfully referred me to a site to download an application form to mail or phone in). The website definitely worked better on December 12 than when I first created an account on October 19, when it still wasn't possible to view available plans—only a blank screen. However, it's doubtful that I would have qualified for a subsidy without reference to resources on the Kaiser Family Foundation website (kff.org) about what income to include and exclude. That site's subsidy estimator and a call to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan verified the likelihood of qualifying for a subsidy. It was also reassuring to know that help was available from "navigators" at the Western U.P. Health Department had I been unable to complete my application.

“Horrors of Obamacare” Robocall

Kristine Bradof

At 6:58pm on a Sunday in September, the following robocall was left on my home answering machine. The Center for Responsive Politics’ site, www.opensecrets.org, identifies America’s Next Generation as a Super PAC

(Tune your ears to your favorite disaster film trailer voiceover now.) “This is an urgent healthcare update from America’s Next Generation. With more and more Americans pushing back against Obamacare, President Obama is launching a last-ditch PR effort using millions of your tax dollars to sell his disaster of a law to the American people. Backed by the propaganda arm of the Administration—the liberal media—Obama is gearing up to air feel-good stories about socialized medicine and spread his lies before Obamacare officially starts on October 1st. “We must rise up and force the liberal media to tell the truth about the horrors of Obamacare while there is still time to defund it. How it will destroy jobs and skyrocket costs. How it will gut Medicare and force seniors into rationed care—not to mention the death panels. Obama knows that if the American people find out the truth about Obamacare, they’ll never stand for it. And here, at America’s Next Generation, we’re taking the Obama Administration head on. We’re reporting the upcoming Obamacare horror stories, backed by a nationwide petition drive directed at every news network. Now, we know there will be some pushback by the mainstream media, but they will respond to immense public pressure and moderate their Obamacare coverage to protect their ratings. Will you stand with us and sign our ‘Expose Obamacare’ petition drive? Please press 1 now to add your name. Again, please press 1 now to add your name to our ‘Expose Obamacare’ petition. If you do not wish to receive these calls, please press 2 now or call 1-855-325-7111.”

More about the robocalls

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/blogs/political-pulse/os-robocalls-warn-of-death-panels-in-obamacare-20131011,0,2978054.post> and the group behind them: <http://www.thenextgen.org/site/>

January Program Planning Meeting

From the LWV.org website/member resources

Every other year our program planning alternates between a review of state or national program in preparation for the alternating state and national conventions. This year we participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues – this is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization. Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League’s mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. (See the current program at <http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues>) It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. In recent years, local and state Leagues and ILO’s have had the option to propose one new study, or one review and update, or one concurrence or to make no recommendation. This biennium, the response form will accept two recommendations which can be any combination of study, review/update, or concurrence.

While it is important for *every* League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss issues at the national level, it is not essential that every League select an issue. The response form includes a line to indicate that issues were discussed, but no new issues are recommended. This important option gives the LWVUS a more realistic picture of the participation and opinions of all Leagues, **so it is important for all Leagues to complete and submit a response form whether they recommend a new program item or not.**

National is also asking Leagues what LWVUS positions, if any, the local League has used in your work in the community. The response form will include a section where you can provide that information.

Local program is also addressed at this meeting and this is the time to consider whether you think any of our local positions need attention or if you have a proposal for a new study item. It is recommended that any member interested in a study or review be prepared to work on a committee to prepare that proposal. The board will take any proposals under consideration and bring them to the membership as a recommended or non-recommended proposal for a vote at the annual meeting in April.



The League of Women Voters
of the Copper Country
PO Box 815
Houghton, MI 49931

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Join or make a donation to the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____ (home) _____ (work)

Check here if you would like to receive your LWVCC
Voter by e-mail.

Contributions to the annual finance drive and Kay LaRue Scholarship
are NOT tax deductible. Checks should be made out to: LWVCC.

Contributions to the Educational Fund are tax deductible.
Checks should be made out to: LWV Educational Fund

Membership

Individual Dues (\$55)

Household Dues (\$80)

Student Dues (\$30)

Donation

Finance Drive (\$_____)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$_____)

Education Fund {\$_____}