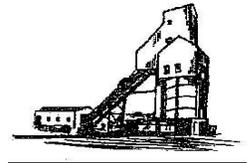




Copper Country Voter

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



LWVCC Calendar

- Jan. 7** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
- Jan. 15** Public Information Session sponsored by
Wednesday, 7:00PM FOLK on Economic Impact of Mining
Calumet High School Commons Area
- Jan. 16** Public Information Session sponsored by
Thursday, 7:00PM FOLK on Economic Impact of Mining
Houghton High School Multipurpose Room
- Jan. 20** Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 21** Annual Program Planning Meeting
Tuesday, 6:00PM Kangas Cafe
- Jan. 23** Fourth Thursday in History: *Comparing Butte,
Thursday, 7:00PM Montana and Michigan's Copper Country*
Keweenaw National Park Headquarters
25970 Red Jacket Road, Calumet
- Feb. 4** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
- Feb. 27** State Education Study
Thursday, 7:00PM Country Inn and Suites
- Mar. 4** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
- Apr. 1** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton

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.

State Education Study

Join us for the Unit Meeting to discuss the State Education Study on February 27, 7p.m. at the Country Inn & Suites at 919 Razor Back Drive, Houghton.

LWVCC Board for 2013- 2014

- Shared Governance Model**
- Acting President/
Fred DeYampert** 482-2161
- 1st Vice President/
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Kristine Bradof** 482-0446
- 2nd Vice President/
Social Policy
Mary Jane Hatton** 523-5368
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- Finance Drive
Faith Morrison** 487-9703
- International Relations
Carol Kurz** 337-2920
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Carolyn Weissbach** 482-3173
- Voter Editor
Linda Ott** 487-2315
- Website
Dale Yeo**

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

EPA Action Alert

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a groundbreaking new proposal, creating the first-ever federal carbon pollution standard for every new power plant built in America. This is a game changer for the climate – especially because power plants are our single largest source of carbon pollution.

Stand with the League and support this groundbreaking regulation to ensure a cleaner, healthier future for everyone.

The unlimited dumping of carbon pollution is the chief cause of climate change. Reducing the amount of carbon pollution from power plants is a life-saving measure that will protect our children, our nation and the world from the devastating effects of climate change.

We have 60 days to tell the EPA we support this effort to reduce the deadly effects that carbon pollution has on the health of our children and our environment.

The EPA needs to hear from you—add your voice in favor of this historic regulation!

Corporate polluters are already doing everything they can to block this important health protection. Will you join others around the country in saying you believe we must put people before polluters and protect our children and future generations from climate change?

Submit a public comment to the EPA in support of the standard and your voice will be part of the official record.

Do You Wish You Knew How To Respond To People Saying Things You Don't Think Are True About Obamacare?

An excellent source for information on the Affordable Care Act and health care issues: Kaiser Family Foundation website www.kff.org/health-reform. Watch the YOUTOONS video for a quick introduction. Scrolling around you will see the topics are numerous and the site is huge. Polling there indicates a great deal of public misperception about the impacts of the ACA.

Fourth Thursday in History: Comparing Butte, Montana and Michigan's Copper Country

Butte and the Keweenaw Peninsula were the world's two leading suppliers of copper in 1913. At the time, Butte miners had been unionized for three decades, setting a standard Michigan miners hoped to achieve when they went on strike that year. Join Fred Quivik as he compares the mining districts, exploring ways that two different mineral deposits helped to shape two distinct mining histories.

In 1887, Butte surpassed Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula as the world's largest supplier of copper. From then until World War I, Butte and the Keweenaw remained the United States' two most important copper mining districts. The Keweenaw's mines produced native copper, meaning the metal came out of the ground as pure copper, whereas Butte's mines produced copper sulfide ores: chemically bound in mineral compounds, composed of copper, sulfur, iron, and arsenic. These compounds had to be taken apart in order to place pure copper on the market. Quivik, an associate professor of history at Michigan Tech, will reveal how differences in the nature of the districts' ore bodies helped to shape significantly different histories in the two places, including their histories of organized labor. He will also briefly describe differences in population distribution, technological developments, corporate consolidation, occupational hazards, and environmental impacts.

This presentation will take place at 7:00 pm Thursday, January 23, 2014 at Keweenaw National Historical Park headquarters, located at 25970 Red Jacket Road in Calumet, Michigan. It is free and open to the public.

The *Fourth Thursday in History* series arranges public presentations on important aspects of Copper Country and regional history, including techniques for historic preservation. Presentations are scheduled in venues throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula, particularly at historic sites associated with specific topics. They are free and open to the public.

For further information, including specific directions to this event, contact Keweenaw National Historical Park at [\(906\) 337-3168](tel:9063373168) or check the web at www.nps.gov/kewe.

Board Member Resignation

Judy Crotty has resigned her position on the board in Health Care. We would like to thank Judy for all the work she has put into making our League what it is today. Thank you Judy.

Economic Perspective on Future Keweenaw Mining

Is the resumption of copper mining in the western Upper Peninsula good for the economy in the long run? According to Research Professor and Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Montana Thomas Power, the answer is likely “no.” In a presentation for the Green Film Series at Michigan Tech on November 5, Dr. Power discussed the report completed earlier this year for local environmental group Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK), “The Economic Impacts of Renewed Copper Mining in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan.”

Powers first made clear that he comes from a family background in mining and milling, so he respects the economic importance of mineral extraction. However, he cautions against a “rear-view mirror approach” to the local economy, trying to recreate the resource exports that fueled early development of the area, as “dysfunctional and dangerous.” Instead he encouraged a broader approach as more sustainable, based on opportunities not available during the original mining era: tourism and recreation; professional and technical services; universities and colleges; and state and federal government institutions and facilities.

Almost all of the job growth in the western UP over the past four decades has been in the service, retail, and government sectors, with workforce reductions in land-based occupations in mining and agriculture. Manufacturing and technology-based jobs have also grown, spurred by new economic development alliances such as the MTEC SmartZone and quality of life as a major factor for people choosing where to live, start a business, go to school, retire, or visit.

Power noted that the higher wages for mining employees are very attractive, but those jobs tend to be short-term, as are the economic benefits to the community. Most of the proposed new mines in the region are expected to operate only a decade or so. Fluctuating international metal prices, profits primarily going to outside investors, and technological advances that displace workers are all factors that reduce the benefits to mining communities, whereas environmental degradation impacts only the local area. Just as mining companies evaluate costs and benefits before developing an ore body, so must the local communities.

Because of the boom-and-bust nature of mining and of attempts to recruit large companies from outside the region to bring jobs, the report recommends continuing to encourage entrepreneurs who want to stay here long term because of the quality of life, schools and universities, and local workforce, a practice that the Keweenaw Economic Development Council terms “economic gardening.” The report concludes, “For all of these

reasons, it is our professional judgment that a return to metal ore mining and processing in the Western Upper Peninsula would damage, not improve, regional economic well-being and vitality. Instead, the economic development focus should continue to be on local ‘economic gardening’ and further developing the positive economic trends already under way.”

Dr. Powers’ full report is available at www.folkminingeducation.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Minings-Economic-Impact-on-Western-UP1.pdf and the executive summary at www.folkminingeducation.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Power-Executive-Summary-Final-Version.pdf The FOLK mining education website, www.folkminingeducation.info, also has information about specific mining development activities in the region including the Highland Copper Company’s exploration activities and the recent acquisition of the White Pine Mine (www.keweenawcopperco.com).

Michigan SB661

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is disappointed that the Michigan Legislature passed SB661, which allows the financial backers of campaign issue ads to remain anonymous. Prior to passage, League President Sue Smith sent a [letter to the House Members of the Elections and Ethics Committee](#), urging them to oppose the bill in favor of the public's right to know which individuals and organizations are paying for these campaign ads. The League is even more disappointed that Governor Snyder signed this bill on the last Friday of 2013, despite [a letter from President Smith](#) and [pleas from members and friends of the League](#) urging him to veto the bill. When Governor Snyder was running for office in 2010, he said, “All electioneering communications – broadcast, printed, and telephonic – that feature the name or image of a candidate for public office or ballot initiative should be considered expenditures subject to the appropriate disclosure requirements.” Good government groups are dismayed at this latest measure that will further impede the public's ability to find out who is really paying for political ads. Read the [Center for Michigan's article here](#).

I recommend a law prohibiting all corporations from contributing to the campaign expenses of any party. Corporations should be prohibited from making contributions for any political purpose, directly or indirectly.

Teddy Roosevelt, 1906



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

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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

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Donation

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