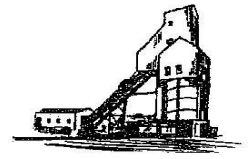


# Copper Country Voter

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



## LWVCC Calendar

<b>Apr. 1</b> Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
<b>Apr. 8</b>	Equal Pay Day – Wear Red
<b>Apr. 12</b> Saturday, 10:45AM	Annual Meeting Portage Room, Ramada Inn, Hancock
<b>Apr. 17</b> Thursday, 7:00PM	Green Film Series: <i>Thin Ice</i> Atrium & G002 Hesterberg Hall, Forestry Bldg. Michigan Tech, Houghton
<b>May 14</b> Wednesday, 7:00PM	Net Neutrality by Martha Sloan Hardee's lower level, Houghton

## **Annual Meeting With Speaker Marilyn Clark, CEO MTEC SmartZone**

LWVCC will hold it's 54th annual meeting Saturday, April 12, 10:45am to 1:00pm. Members check in and pay annual dues starting at 10:45. We will order lunch on our own from the Waterfront Restaurant menu. The business meeting begins at 11am to conduct the regular business of electing officers and directors, adopting program and approving the budget. Following lunch, we will hear from our speaker, Marilyn Clark, CEO of the MTEC Smart Zone on the role of the Smart Zone in economic development in the area.

Marilyn was born and raised in Chassell and is a graduate of Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Masters in Business Administration. Marilyn also taught Human Resources at the University. She served as President of the local Michigan Tech Alumni Association chapter and is a member of Michigan Tech President's Council of Alumnae. Her relationship with both universities and extensive professional career are invaluable to MTEC SmartZone's next stages of growth. Her leadership experience includes serving as Operations Manager at Fortune 500 Company Cummins Engine. She has also consulted with local companies Talon Research, IR Telemetrics and Midwest Loan. As Sales Director for the local technology company Consistacom, Clark developed an effective marketing strategy that significantly increased sales. She closed large customer deals up to \$1 million during her tenure at Consistacom. ([http: mtecsz.com/](http://mtecsz.com/))

## LWVCC Board for 2013- 2014

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

[www.lwvccmi.org](http://www.lwvccmi.org)

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

## Are You Prepared for Equal Pay Day April 8?

Kathy Flagstadt, Voter Services Chair

April 8<sup>th</sup> is Equal Pay Day. The day is symbolic because it is the day in which women's wages "catch up" to men's wages from the year before. This year, April 8 is even more significant because it falls between two legislative anniversaries concerning women's workplace rights. January 29, marked 5 years since President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. July 2, will mark 50 years since the Civil Rights Act became law. Title VII of the act prohibits employment discrimination based on sex, race, color, national origin, and religion. Nationally, the gender wage gap remains statistically unchanged in the last year. Women's earnings were 76.5% of men's in 2012, compared to 77.0% in 2011, according to the Census statistics released on September 17, 2013, based on median earnings of all full-time year-round workers. In 2012, men's earnings were \$49,398 and women's were \$37,791, leaving a difference of \$11,607, according to the National Committee for Pay Equity. Even in female dominated occupations like nursing, secretary, and elementary school teachers, women's median weekly earnings are less than men (US Bureau of Labor Statistics).

This year, LWV-Michigan will recognize Equal Pay Day on April 8<sup>th</sup> followed by an event on Tuesday, April 29 from 12 noon to 1:00 in the Capitol's Rotunda. The hour long event will be a Coalition Lobbying & Training, hosted by LWV and other organizations, including AAUW, BPW, and the public. Please consider taking action by telling your legislators it's time to end the pay gap by supporting legislative measures to advance equal pay concepts. For more information on registering for this event, check the state website.

Locally, CCLWV members are invited to wear red and attend a dinner at the Bambu in Houghton on 4-8-14 at 5:15. By wearing RED on Equal Pay Day, we will be symbolizing that women and minorities are "in the red" with regard to their pay.

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## Make your Voice Heard

Locally, the Secretary of State's Michigan Votes – Make your Voice Heard flyer, will be distributed to our local high school seniors during the month of April, so they will have information exercising their right to vote. The flyer contains information on how to register to vote, including a smartphone application on: where to vote, voter ID requirements, absentee ballots, voters that require assistance to vote, and important dates to remember in 2014 in regard to voting.

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**Welcome to new member:  
Heather Bean**

## Paycheck Fairness Act

The Paycheck Fairness Act will give employees and employers the concrete tools they need to make real progress in closing the gender pay gap. The Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 377/S. 84) would provide a much-needed update to the Equal Pay Act of 1963, bringing the law's principles and practices in line with the nation's other civil rights laws. The Paycheck Fairness Act helps to create incentives for employers to follow the law, empowers women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthens federal outreach and enforcement efforts. The bill would also deter discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages. Please consider urging your U.S. Representative to support the Paycheck Fairness Act. According to Lilly, "I've always said, giving women my Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act without the Paycheck Fairness Act is like giving them a nail without the hammer."

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## Another devastating ruling handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court!

Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

In the *McCutcheon vs. FEC* case, the Court ruled that aggregate campaign contribution limits are invalid—raising big donors above citizens like it did in *Citizens United*.

The Court's decision opened a huge loophole allowing political parties to be further corrupted by big money contributions. The party and PAC systems now become an enormous funnel for corrupting elected officials across the country.

This is yet another irresponsible decision on money in politics! The Roberts Court is undermining our democratic system — saying that big money is worth more than the voices of individual citizens.

With these limits on campaign contributions set up by Congress to protect voters now struck down, we must work harder than ever to make sure the voter's voice is heard in our democracy. LWVUS will stand up to these threats, please help at <http://www.lwv.org>

### The LWVUS Convention is June 6 – 10, Dallas TX

\$2000 is budgeted for registration and expenses. Expenses beyond the budgeted amount will be the responsibility of the delegate. Any member interested in attending as our voting delegate should make their interest known to a board member by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## State and National Studies Receive CCLWV Consensus

A unit meeting was held February 20<sup>th</sup> at Martha Sloan's house to form consensus on the Update of Education Position of 2013-214. Discussion questions were from the current role of the federal government in public education to common core standards. Thanks to Martha, it was a well prepared unit meeting with some very interesting discussion.

The March 20<sup>th</sup> unit meeting was co-sponsored with the Copper Country Farm Bureau. MSUE Educator, Jim Isleib, shared an informative, researched based talk on GMO's. Challenged by other events that evening, we were pleased to have about 26 people attend.. The National study was lengthy and required significant background and study, so the focus was on the Agricultural Update: Research and Development

question 7, Food Safety question 8, and Food Labeling questions 9, 10, and 11. There were two questionnaires, one for the public and one for the CCLWV members. Interestingly, both demonstrated similar opinions. After review at the Board meeting the differences may have resulted from wording that the members struggled with after the meeting. The public did not have an opportunity to discuss their thoughts. The public opinions on the questions have been sent along with the CCLWV Consensus.

### A friendly reminder

Our League membership year runs from April to March. If you haven't yet renewed your membership this year, now is time. With the 2014 election year approaching and the issues facing us all, the community will again be looking to the League for interesting events. Volunteers are always welcomed!

### A tremendous thank you to our friends.

Your time, energy, and donations are forever appreciated!

Jean & Richard Adkins	Marleen & Mike Gilpin	Mary Marchaterre & David Nitz
Judy & Steve Albee	Bonnie and Hugh Gorman	Gloria & Willie Melton
Allan's Realty, Allan Baker	Edith Greene	Memorial Chapel Funeral Homes, Inc., Neil J Ahola
Maureen & Art Anderson	Viola Halkola	Ruth E & Roswell K Miller
Dave Bach	Cynthia & Geoffrey Harrison	Michelle & Phil Morgan
Susan Bagley and Gilbert N. Lewis	Mary Jane Hatton	Faith Morrison
Susan Gilbert Beck	Patricia Heiden	Pushpa Murthy
Barbara Bertram	Nancy Herck	O'Neill-Dennis Funeral Home, Mark Dennis
Susanne Beske-Diehl	Karen Hubbard	Linda Ott
Susanne Boxer	Jackie Huntoon & Christopher Wojick	James Pickens
Kristine Bradof	Phyllis Johnson	Anton Pintar
Gisele Colarossi	Kangas Café	Ramada Inn
Country Inn & Suites	Sue Ellen Kingsley	Nanno Rose
Shellie Crisman	Joseph Kirkish	Martha Sloan
Judy & David Crotty	Carol Kreher	James and Teresa Spence
Daily Mining Gazette	Jeanne & Craig Kurtz	Alyce T Thorpe
Frederika de Yampert	Carol Kurz	UP Engineers & Architects, Inc., George Kiiskila, Jr.
Carol & Lawrence Evers	Sharon & Mike Lahti	Carolyn Weissbach
Barry E & William O Fink	Pam LaRue	Ann West
Kathy Flagstadt	Sharon Levine and Dana Richter	Dale Yeo
Beth Flynn	Kelly Luck	Sharon & Anthony Zoars



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

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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 {\$\_\_\_\_)