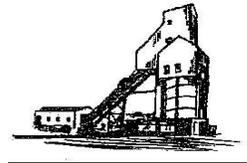




Copper Country Voter

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



LWVCC Calendar

Jan. 6 Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Jan. 27 Tuesday, 5:00PM	Annual Program Planning Meeting Kangas Cafe
Feb. 3 Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Mar. 3 Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Apr. 7 Tuesday, 7:00PM	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
Apr. 11 Saturday, 11:15AM	Annual Meeting Speaker: State Rep. Scott Dianda

Planning Meeting - January 27th

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, January 27th at 5pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutila Center (the old Hospital) in room 311, Hancock. Please RSVP by Friday, January 23rd to Mary Marchaterre, mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 with your menu entree choice of: Stuffed Manicotti with Spinach and Cheese or Chicken Cordon Blue w/ Homemade Mac & Cheese. The cost is \$13 for the meal, which includes: Salad, Roll, Dressings, Dessert, and 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. Call if you need assistance with transportation.

The following is from Fran Hamburg, VP for Program, LWVMI

The purpose of the planning meeting is to give our feedback on positions to the state or national league. This year we are responding to the state of MI League and next year will once again be addressing the national positions, since the two alternate every year. We are asked to say whether we recommend that each current position be retained, dropped, updated or restudied.

(continued on page 2)

LWVCC Board for 2014 - 2015

Shared Governance Model	
Acting President/ Mary Jane Hatton	523-5368
1st Vice President/ Children and Youth Carol Kreher	487-6778
2nd Vice President/ Natural Resources Kristine Bradof	482-0446
Treasurer Mary Marchaterre	483-2291
Secretary Barry Fink	482-4632
Director Ellen Varney	524-7845
Electoral Process Faith Morrison	487-9703
Voter Service Kathy Flagstadt	399-0721
Off Board	
Education Martha Sloan	369-4184
International Relations Carol Kurz	337-2920
Facebook Lisa Dunnebacke	231-2176
Voter Editor Linda Ott	487-2315
Website Editor Shellie Crisman	523-6299

www.lwvccmi.org

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

Planning Meeting (continued from page 1)

The difference between an update and a restudy is that with an update there are no substantive changes in the goals of the position and the original position remains in effect during the course of the study. Last year's update of the three old education positions <http://lwvmi.org/member/documents/EdPosition9-14.pdf> is a case in point. A restudy potentially involves a substantive change in the position and the original position is suspended until the restudy is completed.

On the recommendation of the Advocacy Committee, the Board agreed to recommend an update of the entire Taxation and Budgeting position. The present position is so out of date that it cannot be used to advocate at the legislature. You will see that noted on the response form. In the meantime, the statement in Section III of the Taxation and Budgeting position "However, the present taxing power of local school districts should not be broadened." has been deleted due to a conflict with the new Education position.

The Board also agreed to appoint a committee to review the position on Public Libraries in Michigan. If the committee recommendations are limited to updating technological terms, the edited position will be adopted by the Board and presented to convention. If the committee recommends more substantive changes, then the Library position will go through the normal program planning process.

All the current positions can be viewed at <http://lwvmi.org/positions.html> and a hardcopy will be available at the meeting. They include: Government/Redistricting For the State Legislature and US House of Representatives, Election Laws, Intergovernmental Relations Within Michigan, Taxation and Budgeting; Natural Resources/ Great Lakes Ecosystem, Land Use, Pesticides, Solid Waste Management, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations; Social Policy/ Children and Youth, Public Education (Pre K-12) in Michigan, Health Care, Social Services System, Structure and Funding of Michigan's Public Libraries, Prisons in Michigan.

Best Wishes for a good recovery to member Ruthann Ruehr!

Ruthann had a stroke around Christmas time and is recuperating at Portage Point.

LWVCC Visibility Project: Letters to the editor

At the January board meeting, the Board voted to initiate a regular letters to the Editor effort to keep voters in the the community informed and to keep the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country in the minds of the community. New Board member Faith Morrison kicked off the campaign with the submission to the Daily Mining Gazette of a letter spreading the word of the availability of Michigan news on the Michigan Radio smartphone app. This letter is expected to appear in the next few weeks. The LWVCC Board is targeting sending 5 or 6 letters per year, each reporting on League activities or on issues of interest to the electorate. Following League policy, only topics related to existing Board positions will be addressed; current LWVCC positions may be found on our website, www.lwvccmi.org/. If members have any suggestions of topics that the Board might address in such a letter, they are asked to submit them to the Board. All letters will be approved by the Board before submission to the newspaper.

Looking to 2015: Many Challenges and a Few Opportunities for Voting Rights in the States

From LWVUS

There is little doubt that the 2015-2016 state legislative sessions will be an ongoing challenge for voting rights across the country, but once again the League of Women Voters is ready to fight back against voter suppression and to advance pro-voter reforms in the states. It has become crystal clear that the struggle to ensure free, fair and accessible elections will require a long-term movement and the League is primed to once again lead the charge to protect and expand voting rights for all eligible voters across the country.

Taking into consideration the incoming state governments, we analyzed all 50 states on their likelihood to advance either positive or negative election related reforms using six criteria. Through this process, the PAVP project identified nearly 20 states that will have a moderate to high chance of passing reforms that will suppress the vote next year.

On the flip side, there are 19 states where we remain hopeful that common sense pro-voter election reforms could become law. See the full story at lwv.org

Amazing Week for Natural Resources in Michigan
Kristine Bradof, Natural Resources Chair

The League has ample reason to thank Gov. Rick Snyder for actions taken so far in January. On the 15th, he vetoed a bill to restrict the Michigan Department of Natural Resources “from effectively and sustainably managing forests, potentially putting Michigan’s natural resources at risk.” He went on to say, “Biodiversity is an essential component of sustainable forest management.” The governor’s veto letter also expressed concern that the bill, authored by state Sen. Tom Casperson, could also threaten forest certification, which is critical to forest products industries.

Casperson said after the bill’s passage, “While we value and appreciate the diversity of our natural resources in Michigan, residents across the state made it clear in supporting Senate Bill 78 that they want to see a balance between protection of our resources and their wise use for recreation, tourism and economic development. Michigan has much to offer in terms of natural resources, and we need to ensure that the people of this state can enjoy them without overly restrictive regulations imposed by department bureaucrats that will only serve to hamper our way of life with no real need to do so being apparent. Despite what environmental organizations and some liberal professors are claiming, the sky is not falling and this bill will not lead to the end of biodiversity in Michigan.”

On January 13, Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette announced agreements in principle with We Energies, Integrys, UPPCO, the Michigan Public Service Commission, Invenergy, and Cliffs Natural Resources that will keep the Presque Isle Power Plant (PIPP) in service until 2020 to maintain electric grid reliability. The agreements will avoid a significant increase in the U.P.’s electric rates, which are already among the highest in the country. We Energies will sell the PIPP to UPPCO this summer, the current System Support Resource fees paid by U.P. customers will be eliminated, and Cliffs will buy power from UPPCO until the PIPP is retired and replaced by a natural gas cogeneration (heat and power) plant that Invenergy will build at the Cliffs site. In return, the

Save the date!

**2015 Annual Meeting
April 11, 2015 11:15am**

**Speaker: State Rep. Scott Dianda
MI 110th District**

Watch your Voter for further details

state will drop its objection to the merger of Wisconsin Energy and Integrys Energy Group.

“Our primary goal is to protect U.P. families from unreasonable rate increases to the greatest extent possible,” Schuette said. “We remain committed to vigorously opposing any short-term rate increases due to the costs of maintaining the Presque Isle Power Plant, but this agreement will help avoid long-term burdens on U.P. ratepayers while increasing energy reliability and the opportunity for future economic growth.”

The Houghton Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) hailed the agreements at the kickoff event for Houghton County’s two-year competition as a semifinalist for the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize the following morning at the courthouse. Goals of HEET’s Houghton County Energy Plan include reducing electricity and natural gas use in the county 10% by the end of 2016, achieving higher levels of renewable energy in the region, involving 100% of schools and municipalities in developing their own energy plans, and reaching out to diverse parts of the community for equitable access to benefits of the plan. A \$30,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation will enable HEET to hire a community energy manager/coordinator to implement the plan, which has some innovative components. In one example, local fire departments would fundraise using their thermal imaging cameras for low-cost energy audits to help target weatherization efforts. Learn more about the competition and plan at energizehoughton.org.

I think the biggest mistake this court made is in campaign finance. . . It should be increasingly clear how [money] is corrupting our system, and it is spreading in states that elect their judges.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg 8-20-14



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

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