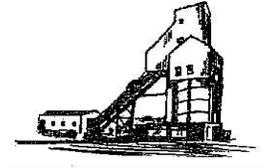


Copper Country Voter



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



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

LWVCC Calendar

October 6 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	November 3 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
October 8 Thursday, 4:00	Houghton County RICC Voter Registration Information Lakeview Manor, Hancock	November 11 Thursday, 6:45pm	US Constitutional Educational and consensus Meeting Sloan House, 1220 E Lakeshore Dr Houghton
October 21 Wednesday, 11:00am	US Constitutional Educational and Consensus Meeting Kangas Caf�, Hancock	November 12 The Thursday, 6:45pm	"I Am Worth IT": The Simple Truth about Pay Equity and what we can do about it. Portage Lake District Library, Houghton
October 21 Wednesday, 5:15pm	Baraga County RICC presentation Lakeside Restaurant, Baraga	December 1 Tuesday, 5:00pm	Board Meeting Habaneros Fresh Mexican Kitchen, Hancock
October 29 Thursday, 7:00pm	An Update on Money in Politics (MIP) Educational Meeting Portage Library, Houghton		

US Constitutional Educational and Consensus Meeting, Oct 21. Wed at 11am at Kangas Caf 

Please let Mary Marchaterre know if you are attending. Lunch will be ordered off the menu. Contact her at mmmarch@mtu.edu or call 906-483-2291 if you plan to attend. If you are unable to attend this meeting, another is being held at Martha Sloan's house November 11 at 7pm. If you are unable to attend either meeting, contact Mary Marchaterre about alternatives. Consensus answers will be turned in by December 1st.

An excerpt from the Constitutional Amendment Study Guide

This study of amending the U.S. Constitution is in three parts. The questions in Part I are to develop guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals. Part II asks about aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a Convention. Part III relates to how the League might put these guidelines into practice and asks two overall balancing questions between process and positions.

Constitutional Background

In 1787, delegates from twelve of the thirteen states then in existence met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead, they drafted a totally new document, what we know as the U.S. Constitution. It was unanimously ratified by the states. While this all seems very long ago, how the Constitution began and how the 1787 Convention was convened and conducted are cited in the (continued on page 2)

An Update on Money in Politics (MIP) Educational Meeting , Oct 29, Thu at 7pm at Portage Lake District Library – public welcome!

Excerpt from Committee background.

As adopted by delegates to the 2014 LWVUS Convention, Leagues from across the nation are engaging in a review and update of the national LWV position on campaign finance to consider First Amendment-political speech issues. The LWVEF Board tasked the Money In Politics Review and Update Committee to:

- Conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance.
- Evaluate the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment.

This scope of work requires member understanding and agreement about these issues. The Money in Politics Committee is providing members and the public with information and facilitating member study and consensus.

So, why is the League updating the position on campaign finance? Our current position dates back to the 1970s and predates Supreme Court decisions that changed campaign finance law significantly. The MIP Review and Update will address a gap in our current position. It aims to get League member understanding and agreement as to the extent to which our organization believes that financing a political campaign is speech protected by the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider through the consensus process: the rights of individuals and organizations to (continued on page 3)

US Constitutional Educational and Consensus (cont. from page 1)

current debate about calling a Convention under Article V.

Here's what Article V of the U.S. Constitution says about amending the Constitution:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; . . .

So Article V provides two ways of proposing amendments to the nation's fundamental charter. Congress, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. OR, the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution; this is commonly called an Article V Convention. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, 38 at present.

The first method has been used by Congress to submit 33 amendments to the states, beginning with the Bill of Rights. Of these, 27 were approved; 26 are currently in effect, while one – the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) — was ultimately repealed by a second amendment, the 21st. The 21st Amendment was also the only one ratified by conventions in the states, rather than by state legislatures. In June 1920, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the U.S. Constitution provided for state legislatures, not citizen referendum campaigns, to ratify amendments.

The second method, an Article V Convention, has never been successfully invoked.

League Background

Perhaps it goes without saying that the League of Women Voters believes it is right and permissible to amend the Constitution of the United States when circumstances demand. The League was born from the successful, decades-long effort to pass the 19th Amendment.

The question for us today is: what are the shared values and beliefs within the League – what consensus do we have – regarding the circumstances that might allow or compel the League to endorse a constitutional amendment or an Article V Convention?

If we do find that we have consensus on some of the principles that should guide us, mobilizing the organization to advocacy for or against a particular amendment would fall under the established protocol by which the League determines its advocacy agenda, as laid out in Impact on Issues.

We might support an amendment that was in concert with League positions, but we might not support every amendment that was in concert with League positions. In

other words, having a position on the issue is necessary but might not be sufficient for the League to endorse a constitutional amendment.

For additional information:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide>

“I Am Worth It”: The Simple Truth about Pay Equity and what we can do about it Nov 12 7-8:30pm Portage Lake District Library

Join AAUW Michigan President Elizabeth Haynes, Albion College Professor Susan Conner, and AAUW Michigan Public Policy Chair Janet Watkins for an evening of information, discussion, and strategy about closing the wage gap. Get the facts and plan your action.

Did you know that there is an unexplainable 7 percent difference in the earnings of male and female college graduates one year after graduation? That's bad news, but the difference in pay gets worse over time. Overall, in the United States, women earn only 79% of what men earn, and at the present rate of change, AAUW estimates that it will 100 years before equality is achieved. This isn't just a woman's issue, it's a family issue, and an issue of economic justice.

Join us at the Portage Lake District Library to live stream the presentation November 12th from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. For more information, please contact Mary Marchaterre at mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 906-483-2291

Constitution Day Presentation

On September 17, 2015, Dr. William Knoblauch and Ms. Mary Jane Hatton, professors at Finlandia University gave a presentation to an audience of about forty participants about the founding of the United States. The events and documents of the late 1700s were examined with fresh insights as to why the framers of the Constitution wrote the Articles the way they did. The presenters gave insights into why the framers did not abolish slavery when they wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and who they expected to benefit from the creation of the new government.

After the presentation, there was a period of question and answers. Participants received a bookmark of the Bill of Rights and the Articles of the Constitution for further study and reflection.

In Memorium

We share, with sadness, the news of the death of June Hawthorne. June was a member of the LWVCC board for many years. Her obituary included that she was “a proud, longtime volunteer in the League of Women Voters”. June died September 22, 2015 in Petosky, MI.

**Money in Politics (MIP) Educational Meeting
(continued from page 1)**

express their political views through the financing of political campaign activities; and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current LWV position. The current League position takes a collective approach to financing political campaigns. It focuses on achieving political equality in areas of combating corruption and undue influence, ensuring equitable competition, and protecting the rights of citizens to know and to fully participate. This position has enabled the League to advocate strongly for transparency in campaign finance and against big money and its influence on elections and government.

But there are still questions to consider and this is why we are studying the issue: What about the First Amendment interests of candidates and donors particularly as compared with equitable competition; preventing corruption and undue influence; enhancing voter participation? These are questions that the position update is considering.

The First Amendment has been at the center of the campaign finance debate since the 1970s. A key provision says, “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...”

Before the 1970s, the Supreme Court rarely heard cases on campaign finance regulation. But the issue of money in politics has a long history in the U.S. The 1907 Tillman Act banned contributions from national banks and corporations, in response to corruption in the Gilded Age. The 1947 Taft Hartley Act extended the ban to labor unions. The 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act and its 1974 amendments put further restrictions on campaign contributions and spending, expanded disclosure, and created the Federal Election Commission to oversee compliance. The 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold) tried to remedy the explosion of soft money we saw in the 1980s and 1990s.

The activities that the Court focused on largely involve free speech. Election campaigns develop messages for publication, from speeches and debates to paid advertising in various media. Money is required to coordinate the messaging and pay for the advertising. Under the Court’s approach, a system of campaign finance protects the rights of a candidate to disseminate her message as well as the rights of her donors to express their own views through her message -- It also protects the rights of other political actors who may wish to make election expenditures independent of the candidates or to advocate in support or opposition to particular public policy issues. To the Court, this campaign speech (as opposed to campaign finance) is central to American democracy and is what the First Amendment was designed to protect.

Whatever else it may have done, the Supreme Court’s decisions in the 2010 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and 2014 McCutcheon, et al. v. FEC cases galvanized the campaign finance reform movement. Any education and discussion of these issues must attempt to be comprehensive, which means complex. The task of the Money in Politics Committee is to make the issues understandable to the members of LWV and all citizens.

The consensus questions will be answered in our January Planning Meeting that is scheduled January 25 at 5pm at Kangas Café.

For additional information: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/lwvus-money-politics-mip-review-meetings-box-education-resources-and-sugges>

LWVCC Board for 2015 - 2016

Shared Governance Model	
Acting President/ Mary Jane Hatton	523-5368
1st Vice President/ Children and Youth Carol Kreher	523-4048
2nd Vice President/ Natural Resources Kristine Bradof	482-0446
Treasurer Mary Marchaterre	483-2291
Secretary Barry Fink	482-4632
Electoral Process Faith Morrison	487-9703
Health Ellen Varney	524-7845
Resource Management Rhianna Williams	651-402-9708
Voter Service Kathy Flagstadt	399-0721
<u>Off Board</u>	
Education Martha Sloan	369-4184
Facebook Lisa Dunnebacke	231-2176
Voter Editor Linda Ott	487-2315
Website Editor Shellie Crisman	523-6299



LWVCC celebrated National Voter Registration Day by staffing voter registration tables in the Houghton and Baraga County DHHS offices.



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

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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

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Household Dues (\$80)

Student Dues (\$30)

Donation

Finance Drive (\$____)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$____)

Education Fund {\$____)