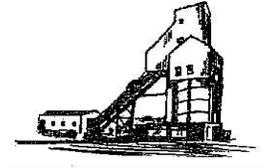


Copper Country Voter



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



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

| <u>LWVCC Calendar</u> | | February 2 | Board Meeting |
|--|---|--|--|
| January 12 Tuesday, 7:00pm | Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton | Tuesday, 7:00pm | Country Inn & Suites, Houghton |
| January 14 Thursday, 3:30-4:30 | RICC Board Meeting - LWVCC training: "How to Run an Effective Meeting" Lakeview Manor Meeting room, Hancock | March 15 Tuesday, 3:00-7:00 | Youth Leadership training CCISD, Hancock |
| January 25 Monday, 5:00pm | Annual Planning Meeting Kangas Cafe, Hancock | April 16 Saturday, 11:15am-1:30pm | Annual Meeting - Speaker George Stockero, CCISD Superintendent Ramada Inn |
| | | June 16-18 Thursday-Saturday | National Convention Washington DC |

January 25th Planning Meeting

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, which will be held on Monday, January 25th at 5pm at the Kangas Café in the Jutila Center (the old Hospital) in room 311, Hancock. Please RSVP by Friday, January 22nd to Mary Marchaterre, mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 with your menu entree choice of: Chicken Cordon Blue or Deluxe Chef Salad. 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 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 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. We will discuss Money in Politics consensus questions, so please come prepared to discuss.

Background material and questions will be available at the meeting for your convenience. All the current positions can be viewed at <http://lwvmi.org/positions.html>

It is our job to review the following positions and to

make recommendations as to whether any particular position needs updating. We will review the following:

- Representative Government
- Voting Rights
- The election process
- Citizens' rights
- Congress and the presidency
- International Relations
- United Nations
- Trade
- U.S. relations with developing countries
- Arms control
- Military policy and defense spending
- Natural Resources
- Resource management
- Protection and pollution control
- Public participation
- Agricultural policies
- Social Policy - Equality of Opportunity
- Federal role in public education issues
- Fiscal policy
- Health care
- Immigration

LWVUS Convention June 16-19, Washington DC --- looking for a local delegate – How about YOU?

The LWVUS Convention will be held in June 16-19, 2016 in Washington, DC. To be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC, 20008. The registration fee is \$395 per attendee and the room rate is \$209 per night.

Do you want to be part of the process and learn more about the LWV and their activities? Why not attend the LWVUS convention this year? Most of your expenses will be paid for by your local LWVCC. All we need is a commitment from you and your willingness to participate and then report on your experience. We are looking for a volunteer to be our local delegate to the convention. How about you? For more information, please visit the LWVUS.org. Website or let one of your board members know, ASAP.

State Taxation and Budgeting Study

The Michigan state League is reviewing its Taxation and Budgeting Study. Its scope includes a review and update of the current position, sources of funding for state and local units of government, including schools, the process for distributing funds to state and local units of government, including schools, and the adequacy of funds to provide needed goods and services. The plan for the study is for its committee, of which CCLWV member Martha Sloan is part, is to form a committee consensus in March, present it to the state board this spring, and send study materials and consensus questions to local leagues this fall with a March 2017 from the local leagues back to the committee. The committee then will develop a state consensus to present to the state board in April 2017 and to the next state convention in May 2017.

The committee has met twice so far and expects to meet twice a month until it has developed approved materials for local leagues. Thus far it has identified problem issues including restrictions on local fund raising, emergency management, the current tax structure, changes in Michigan's demographics and economics, and Proposal A school finance reform. An interesting issue is that Michigan is one of just a few states that dedicates or "earmarks" most (nearly 63% in 2014) to specific functions, thus tying the hands of state legislators. (See

Voter Services

From The League Update: *The [League of Women Voters](#) is the only living legacy of the movement that got women in this country the right to vote. We are that legacy because our founders understood that in order to succeed in the long run, the energy of a movement must be translated into sustained civic engagement by those involved in the movement. Nearly one hundred years ago, the strategies and tactics that the National American Woman's Suffrage Association employed to achieve the vote were well adapted to the political process. Today, that political process remains largely unchanged while the ability of activists to organize across distance and time has evolved to be unrecognizable even to those of us who have lived through the change.*

That is the challenge facing the League and every other traditional political organization in this election. To effect real change through the political process every voice must be heard, not just through new media, but at the ballot box. Contact our Voter Service director, Kathy Flagstadt kflagstadt@hotmail.com / 399-0721 to volunteer to help with candidate forums and the Voter Guide for this election season.

LWVCC Visibility Project: Letters to the Editor

Last January at the board meeting, the Board voted to initiate a regular letters to the Daily Mining Gazette Editor in an effort to keep voters in the community informed and to keep the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country in the minds of the community. The LWVCC Board is on target by sending at least 5 or 6 letters last year, 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

An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people.

– Tomas Jefferson

League Calls on President Obama to Expand Voter Registration through Health Benefit Exchanges

The following is a statement by Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.: “We are excited that President Obama is ready to commit the remaining year of his presidency to support reforms that make voting easier.

“It is long past time to have a democracy that is truly representative of all voters. Imagine what would happen if every eligible citizen showed up at the polls. Imagine what would happen if candidates had to be more responsive to the people they represent than to the donors who fund their campaigns.

“Imagine how campaigns would be different. Imagine how governing would be different. Imagine how empowering that would be.

“If Americans don’t exercise their vote — their voice, someone else will be only too happy to speak in their stead.

“It is essential to fix the redistricting process so voters can truly choose their representatives instead of politicians choosing their voters.

“As the President said, this is our collective mission. We must roll up our sleeves, size up the situation and get to work. Online voter registration for all, expanded early voting and same day registration are changes that will make our political systems free, fair and accessible for all eligible voters. But that is not all.

“We call on the President to offer voter registration at health care exchanges as required by current law. He can expand voter registration simply by observing and enforcing the National Voter Registration Act.

“The League is pleased to have the power of the presidency behind reforms that lower barriers to voters and help us work toward a more perfect democracy. We stand ready to work with the President to move pivotal election reforms forward for all.”

Voting and Elections: Restoring the Voting Rights Act (VRA)

Restoring the Voting Rights Act (VRA) continues to be a top priority for the League. It’s now been nearly three years since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted key provisions of the VRA and Congress has failed to act on historic legislation to restore the voting rights of Americans across the country. The League will continue to lobby House and Senate leadership, and engage grassroots support, to ensure that legislation to restore the VRA gets hearings and a vote in both houses of Congress.

Welcome to New Members

Leah Bectel
Pamela Borsum
Jackie Huntoon

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

Off Board

**Education
Martha Sloan** 369-4184

**Facebook
Lisa Dunnebacke** 231-2176

**Voter Editor
Linda Ott** 487-2315

**Website Editor
Shellie Crisman** 523-6299



The League of Women Voters
of the Copper Country
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