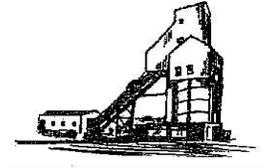


# Copper Country Voter



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



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

## LWVCC Calendar

<b>January 10</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites	<b>March TBD</b>	Leadership Program
<b>January 23</b> Monday, 5pm	Annual Planning Meeting Kangas Cafe	<b>April 4</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites
<b>February 7</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites	<b>April 4</b>	Equal Pay Date
<b>February TBD</b>	Transportation Meeting	<b>April 15 or 22</b> TBD	Annual Meeting
<b>March 7</b> Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites	<b>May 19-21</b>	LWVMI Convention Kellogg Center, East Lansing

### **January 2017 Annual Planning Meeting**

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, to be held on Monday, January 23rd at 5pm – 7:00 pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutila Center (the old Hospital) in room 311, Hancock. Please RSVP by Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> to Kathy Flagstadt at [kflagstadt@hotmail.com](mailto:kflagstadt@hotmail.com) or 399-0721 with your menu entree choice of either: Stuffed Manicotti with Spinach and Cheese or Chicken Cordon Bleu 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.

During the meeting, we look at program items. This is the time to bring up your suggestions for any state positions you believe need updates or any new study topic, and then be prepared to discuss and also work on the suggestion.

Also, in preparation for our local Annual Meeting in April 2017, if you have any ideas for local program or speakers, this is the time to bring up your suggestion, and then be prepared to discuss and also work on the suggestion, if passed.

### **Annual Meeting**

At this time of year, we start thinking about who to invite as our guest speaker for our annual meeting. We also select a date, which is usually a luncheon held on Saturday, before MTU and FU graduation date. This year the date could be 4-15-17 or 4-22-17, depending on our speakers availability. We also select the location for our meeting and lunch. If you have any suggestions for a speaker or a preference for where our meeting should be, please let one of your LWVCC Board Members know by February 7<sup>th</sup>, which is our next board meeting.

## December Program Explained National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

On December 8<sup>th</sup> a full room attended the LWVCC program at Portage Lake District Library. Member Barry Fink explained the role of the Electoral College (EC) as envisioned by the founders and defined in the constitution. She reviewed the LWVUS position calling for the abolition of the EC dating from 1970 and support for the Interstate Compact for the National Popular Vote (NPV) adopted in 2010. The NPV makes real the principle of one person one vote. When enough states in their legislatures have passed the identical compact language and their governor has signed the bill, those states will direct their EC electors to vote for the winner of the popular vote across the nation, thus using the EC to give the election win to the popular vote winner. At this time, eleven states are on board, representing 165 Electoral College votes. Rep. Dianda tells us that the legislation has been introduced in Michigan in the current session. It was passed in the MI House a few years ago but never taken up in the MI Senate and died at the end of the session. Extensive, well prepared, video discussions of every aspect and question about the NPV can be seen at <http://nationalpopularvote.com>.



## Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

This year Equal Pay Day falls on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Your local LWV is hoping to raise awareness on this issue again at MTU during that day. The State Equal Pay Day Celebration will be on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, due to the Easter Holiday Break in Lansing. Watch for more details to follow on our local EPD efforts and plan to participate.

Last year, members from LWVCC and SWE raised awareness to the Pay Equity issue by handing out literature explaining the data behind the wage gap, and frosted cookies with 79% boldly printed, proclaiming the wage disparity in the U.S. Equal Pay Day is a day that symbolizes the extra days women work on an average to catch up to what the average man earns, the year prior. Red is worn on this day as a symbol of how far women and minorities are "in the red".

## 2017 Know your Government Officials pamphlet – Coming Out Soon

The ever popular KYGO 2017 version will be available for distribution by the end of February 2017. The pamphlet will be updated with current contact information with most Houghton and Keweenaw local and county positions and state, and federal government officials.

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## Transportation Study

LWVCC adopted a new position on transportation in the area at last year's Annual Meeting. Faith Morrison has prepared a good summary report on the current information and investigation into the topic. Her report can be seen on the LWVCC website at [www.lwvccmi.org](http://www.lwvccmi.org). There is interest on Tech campus in a task force to look further into this subject and LWVCC will be a part any work going forward.

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## LWVUS Statement on the Passage of the REINS Act

01/11/2017 | by Sarah Courtney

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, **Chris Carson**, issued the following statement after the House of Representatives passed the controversial "Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny" or REINS Act. The REINS Act requires Congressional approval for all major regulations-- virtually shutting down the entire regulatory process. This legislation will put the interests of big polluters and special interests ahead of the public health and safety of the American people:

"The League of Women Voters is appalled that the House passed such a destructive piece of legislation that will have harmful impacts on public health and consumer protections. Congress has a responsibility to protect Americans, not special interests and corporate donors. Supporters of this legislation claim it will check the overreach of the executive branch, when in reality, the REINS Act would replace the strengths of agency rulemaking with the weaknesses of the legislative process. The League strongly opposes the REINS Act and hopes the Senate will reject such dangerous and unnecessary legislation."

Contact: Sarah Courtney | [202-263-1332](tel:202-263-1332)  
| [scourtney@lwv.org](mailto:scourtney@lwv.org)

## Women's March in DC and Sister Marches Nearby

Women from the Copper Country and across the UP are joining in the Women's March in DC on January 21. LWVCC members Carolyn Peterson and Barry Fink will be on the bus going from Marquette. The LWVUS has joined as a partner organization. The League statement says: this peaceful protest is in line with the League's principles. We know this event will bring together many organizations with a variety of priorities and messages for the incoming administration, not all of which we will agree with. **But as women and defenders of our democracy, there is more that unites us than divides us.**

This is an opportunity for the League to make our voice heard on our priorities. We march for voting rights. We march to reform money in politics. We march for health care. We march for the environment. These are our core issues and we want to ensure they are front and center.

The Women's March website mission and vision statement says in part:

*We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear.*

*In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new government on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.*

*We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all.*

*HEAR OUR VOICE.*

A Sister March will take place in Houghton on the same day Saturday January 21 at 2 pm on the Portage Lake Life Bridge linking Hancock and Houghton. Others are going to Marquette and Chicago to join marches there. We look forward to bringing you a report on these events in the future.

***It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.***

**- Madeleine Albright**

### LWVCC Board for 2016 - 2017

<b>President/Resource Management</b> <b>Rhianna Williams</b>	<b>296-9539</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> <b>Barry Fink</b>	<b>483-4632</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Natural Resources</b> <b>Kristine Bradof</b>	<b>482-0446</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Mary Marchaterre</b>	<b>483-2291</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <b>Barry Fink</b>	<b>482-4632</b>
<b>Electoral Process</b> <b>Faith Morrison</b>	<b>487-9703</b>
<b>Leah Bectel</b> <b>Mich Tech Student</b>	
<b>Voter Service</b> <b>Kathy Flagstadt</b>	<b>399-0721</b>
<b><u>Off Board</u></b>	
<b>Children and Youth</b> <b>Carol Kreher</b>	<b>523-4048</b>
<b>Education</b> <b>Martha Sloan</b>	<b>369-4184</b>
<b>Voter Editor</b> <b>Linda Ott</b>	<b>487-2315</b>
<b>Website Editor</b> <b>Shellie Crisman</b>	<b>523-6299</b>

### **Michigan Biennial Convention**

The League of Women Voters of Michigan's biennial convention will be in East Lansing at the Kellogg Center, May 19-21, 2017. If you are interested in attending as a delegate for the LWVCC, let a board member know. Travel, registration and accommodation expenses are covered for up to two delegates.



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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Join or make a donation to the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country!**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

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 {\$\_\_\_\_}