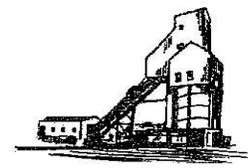


Copper Country Voter



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



<http://www.lwvccmi.org/>
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LWVCC Calendar

February 6 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	April 3 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
February 18 Sunday, 2:00pm	Houghton County Jail Discussion Four Seasons Tea Room, Houghton	April 14 Saturday, 11:15am	Annual Meeting Guest Speaker Sarah Green Ramada Inn
March 6 Tuesday, 7:00pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	June 28 – July 1	League of Women Voters' 53 rd National Convention 2018 Creating a more perfect democracy Chicago, IL
April 10 Tuesday, 11:30-12:30	Equal Pay Day event by MTU Husky Wear red to show support		

New Jail Proposal Discussion Meeting

We will have tea and a presentation from the Jail Study Committee at a unit meeting on Sunday, Feb 18 at 2pm in the Four Seasons Tea Room. The committee chairperson is Linda Belote. She will give a brief history of past examinations of the question of a new jail and present a summary of the proposal currently being prepared by Karin Cooper of UP Engineers and Architects. Karin will also be in attendance to participate in the discussion. The committee has also met with Sheriff McLean and will share his input. Committee members include Valorie Troesch, Barry Fink, Sue Ellen Kingsley and Krissy Sundstrom. They will contribute their thoughts about the merits and shortcomings inherent in the plan, which the Houghton Co. Board of Commissioners has requested and will be presented this spring. The board is planning to put a millage proposal on the November ballot.

LWVCC has a position adopted in 2007 which states:

Houghton County Jail Facility

The League of Women Voters of the Copper Country supports the construction of a new Houghton County Jail building (to replace the facility in existence as of 04/2007) with adequate facilities for functional, cost and energy efficient, secure operation in compliance with State Administrative Rule requirements, as set forth in the Rules for Jails, Lockups and Security Camps.

Members will be asked to consider whether this proposed project should be endorsed by LWVCC based on the current position. Our options are to endorse, oppose, or not take a position at this time but plan to offer public education and seek public input about what the public would support. The County Commissioners have not asked for any public input and there is no guarantee how that would be received.

You are encouraged to invite a guest, however the meeting is not advertised to the public and while everyone can contribute to the discussion, only members will have a "voice" in reaching consensus.

Some Highlights of League Action US and MI

Since Convention 2016, LWVUS sent 21 action emails to our network of grassroots activists on

- voter suppression tactics, including the creation of the “Election Integrity Commission”
- fighting budget cuts to key federal election-related programs
- action alerts on environmental issues and
- attacks on the Affordable Care Act.

These efforts resulted in 75,300 letters to Congress, more than 25,340 petition signatures and close to 10,000 contacts with the Executive Branch.

Some of LWVUS work also included:

- Lobbying for restoration of the Voting Right Act by supporting passage of the Voting Rights Advancement.
- Lobbying against Congressional attempts to terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
- Spoke out actively against the new (and now disbanded) ‘Election Integrity Commission’
- Support of the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017
- [Filled an amicus brief](#) in the case of *Gill v. Whitford* case on gerrymandering which was heard by the Supreme Court in early October.
- In Detroit, the Michigan League of Women Voters and 10 Democratic activists filed [a federal lawsuit](#) challenging the constitutionality of Michigan's legislative and congressional districts on grounds similar to those a federal court panel used to [throw out Wisconsin's political map](#).
- The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the ballot proposal initiated by Voters Not Politicians (VNP) that calls for an Independent Commission to establish district lines.
- LWVMI is part of a coalition of organizations dedicated to the protection of Michigan’s water, natural resources, advocating about safety concerns regarding Line 5 pipelines in the Mackinac Straits.

LWV Michigan endorses VNP ballot proposal on Redistricting

Good News:

At a special LWVMI Board meeting on December 17, the state Board voted to support the VNP ballot proposal.

Eight Possible Ballot Issues For 2018

There may be up to eight ballot issues on the ballot in November 2018. Their petitions are being circulated now and many will garner enough signatures to earn their place on the ballot.

One group, Voters Not Politicians, turned in over 425,000 signatures on Dec. 18 for the ballot proposal to amend the Michigan constitution to create an independent commission to redraw the lines, every ten years, for congressional and legislative districts. This is more than enough to assure a spot on the 2018 ballot. At a special LWVMI Board meeting on December 17, the state Board voted to support the VNP ballot proposal.

To read about the possible ballot issues: click this overview from [Bridge Magazine](#).

Membership Updates

New or Renewing Members:

Sue Ellen Kingsley
Valorie Troesch

Lifetime Members: (Do not need to pay dues)

Viola Halkola
Karen Hubbard
Carol Kurz
Patsy May
Ruth Miller
Ruthann Ruehr
Norma Lee Stuart
Alyce Thorpe
Sherry & Anthony Zoars

*Courage does not always roar.
Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at
the end of the day saying, “I will try
again tomorrow.*

- Mary Anne Radmacher

Women's March: One March, Many Reasons

By Leah Bectel, League of Women Voters of the Copper Country Board Member

January 21st marked the 2nd annual Women's March that took place in cities around the United States and the world, including a demonstration on the Portage Lift Bridge. Talking to people, reading signs, and listening to chants showed that marchers protested for many reasons:

- Support of the record number of women running for office in 2018
- Showing solidarity with the 150+ Larry Nassar sexual violence victims
- Protesting against sexual violence/ the #metoo movement
- Ratifying the Equal Rights amendment
- Support of reproductive rights
- March against Donald Trump

These only scratch the surface of what marchers were feeling that day – many other reasons probably existed for those who woke up that day and decided to march.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan group dedicated to voting issues, encouraging active participation in government, and increasing awareness of major public policy issues. Since the organization is non-partisan, the League can side with many, but not all of the positions listed above. However, the League does support laws that are compliant with the Equal Rights Amendment (congressionally passed in 1972 but never ratified). Such actions include opposing laws that allow discrimination based upon sex and strengthening enforcement of existing laws that support ERA-type policies.

The League "...envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy."

One does not have to support every ideal that was painted on signs that Saturday – everyone has their own political, social, and economic ideologies. However, it can be overwhelmingly stated that the women's march simply represents the march for women – their fair treatment, respect, and seat at the political table.

In Memorium

We are saddened to report the passing of long time LWVCC member Gladys Dawson. Gladys was a board member and continued to assist with the Budget committee up until a few years ago.

LWVCC Board for 2017 - 2018

President/Resource Management Rhianna Williams	296-9539
1st Vice President Barry Fink	483-4632
2nd Vice President/Natural Resources Kristine Bradof	482-0446
Treasurer Mary Marchaterre	483-2291
Secretary Tayrn Mack	231-1713
Electoral Process Faith Morrison	487-9703
Leah Bectel Mich Tech Student	
<u>Off Board</u>	
Children and Youth Carol Kreher	523-4048
Education Martha Sloan	369-4184
Voter Editor Linda Ott	487-2315
Voter Service Kathy Flagstadt	399-0721
Website Editor Shellie Crisman	523-6299



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!

Name _____

Address _____

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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 (\$60)

Household Dues (\$90)

Student Dues (\$30)

Suggested Donation of \$10

Finance Drive (\$____)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$____)

Education Fund {\$____}