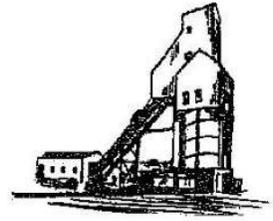


Copper Country Voter



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



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

LWVCC Calendar

January 15 Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	March 5 Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
January 29 Tuesday, 5pm	Planning Meeting Kangas Café, Hancock	March 21 Thursday, 7pm	New Member Unit Meeting Fink's house - 22083 Royalwood Dr., Houghton
February 5 Tuesday, 7pm	Board Meeting Country Inn & Suites, Houghton	May 17-19	2019 LWVMI State Convention. Livonia, MI Celebrate the LWVMI 100th Year!

Planning Meeting January 29, 2018 – Save the Date

Our January Planning Meeting will be a dinner meeting, to be held Tuesday, January 29nd at 5pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutula Center (the old Hospital) in room 311, Hancock.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 25th to Mary Marchaterre, mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 with your menu entree choice of: Cheesy Meatloaf or Veggie Lasagna. The cost is \$18.00 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.

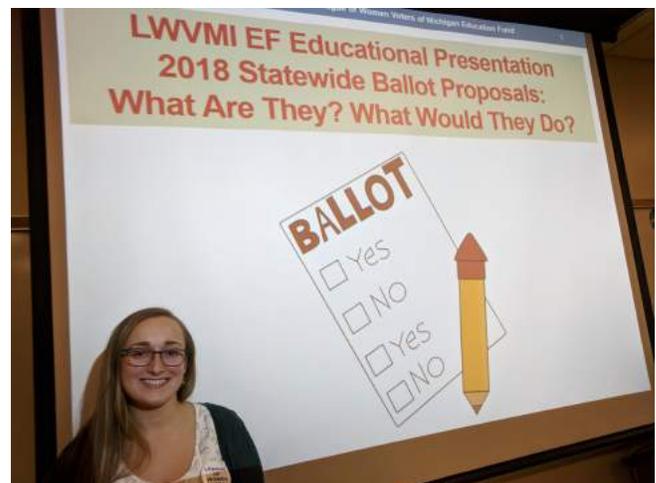
In preparation for our local Annual Meeting in April, any ideas for local programs or speakers should be brought up at this time.

Ballot Proposal Presentation a Success

by Leah Bectel

The League of Women Voters was pleased to host a presentation at the Portage Lake District Library in October regarding the three ballot proposals on the November 6th ballot. The presentation was a success – 51 people showed up in the community room with many questions on their mind. The presentation was created by the League of Women Voters of Michigan's Education Fund and outlined the inner workings of the three

proposals should they pass. Main concerns of the citizens revolved around how the marijuana proposal would work, how the redistricting commission would be selected, and how local control would be paramount when deciding where to have marijuana retail stores. The Daily Mining Gazette was present at the presentation and did three front page features on the event, with each one highlighting a different ballot proposal and the main questions citizens had. The League would like to thank the following groups: The Daily Mining Gazette for their great coverage, the Portage Library for their help in the event, and the State League of Women Voters for helping guide members through the process of putting this event together.



The League of Women Voters Observer Corps

by Linda Belote and Krissy Sundstrom

If you are looking for a way to become involved in local government, consider the possibility of participation in The League of Women Voters Observer Corps in the Copper Country. The national League has published a booklet that describes the work of this group, [lwvof_observingyourgovernment.pdf](#). It says “Protecting our right to know is integral to the health of our democracy. Decisions that determine how our schools will be run, at what level community safety programs will be funded, and how land in our towns will be used impact our lives and are vital to our well-being. These kinds of decisions need to be made with public input and oversight. One important way to ensure that is to observe government meetings. The League has been a champion of government transparency since our founding in 1920. It is one of our core principles and a vital part of our mission. Our efforts in this area reinforce our reputation of fairness, nonpartisanship and trust. League members attend governmental meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. Experience has shown the importance of the League being present to watch—and to take action when necessary.”

“An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and (hopefully) the community. By attending public meetings of local governmental bodies/agencies, observers learn more about what their government is doing. They learn about the issues facing their community and are empowered to take action, if warranted. They also learn how issues are being addressed. Observers keep elected and appointed officials on notice; they let them know that someone is watching what decisions are being made and how they are being made. They help ensure that the issues facing their community are being handled ‘in the sunshine,’ in the open.”

The Copper Country League of Women Voters Observer Corps presently has 2 members. Linda Belote observes the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, Krissy Sundstrom observes the School Board of Houghton-Portage Township Public Schools. Krissy publishes her notes on the Houghton-Portage Schools Parent Network Facebook group. There are many other units of government active in the Copper Country: we have 2 cities (Houghton and Hancock), 5 villages, and 14 townships. None of these have League observers. There are in addition 9 public school districts and 2 universities; and many other public entities, like our public library, planning commissions etc. any of which could provide a valuable educational experience for a League member and our League would benefit from the knowledge gained too.

If you are interested in becoming an observer, please contact Linda Belote (lbelote@mtu.edu 483-0552) for more information about what is expected of an observer.

It is not usually a major consumer of time, most governmental units only meet once a month for an hour. It’s a good use of time for yourself and your community.

Linda and Krissy have also prepared a list of many possible governmental, public groups to observe giving the usual time and place of their meeting, though this can vary, and should always be confirmed with the officials directly. This list (still incomplete) is posted on our Copper Country League website <http://www.lwvccmi.org/>.

Constitution Day Celebrated at Finlandia University

by Carolyn Weissbach

Constitution Day 2018 was celebrated at Finlandia University in Hancock, MI on September 17, 2018. This was part of the annual nation-wide commemoration of the signing of the U.S. Constitution at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787 and also in celebration of all people who have come to the U.S. and become citizens.

At an events table in Finlandia Hall, students and other members of the Finlandia University community stopped by to sign an over-sized copy of the U.S. Constitution later displayed in the University’s Suomi College of Arts and Sciences. Participants also received pocket-sized copies of the complete Constitution.

The present Constitution Day holiday was created in 2004 through Senator Roberd Byrd’s amendment to that year’s Omnibus spending bill. The legislation creating Constitution Day requires that on that date publicly funded schools and U.S. agencies offer educational programming on the U.S. Constitution. Previously the holiday had long been known as Citizenship Day.

This local event was sponsored by Finlandia University’s Fall 2018 American Government and American History classes in co-sponsorship with the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country.

New or Renewing Members:

Erin Burkett	Alex Mayer
Ann Derochers	Gloria Melton
Karleigh Krieg	Sherry Middlemis-Brown
Jacqueline Huntoon	

Proposed Constitution Convention Presentation

by Liz Hakola



LWVCC member, Liz Hakola, presented "Proposed Constitutional Convention: What's Wrong With That?", the League's annual study topic. Fifteen people attended the November 13 presentation which was held at the Portage Lake District Library. The 30 minute presentation explained the constitutional convention movements' origins and objectives, its supporters and its opponents and the current status. The Constitutional Convention of States is a little known movement of major importance and impact to all Americans. Raised awareness of this movement and the threat

that it poses to the Constitution and our democracy is needed to counteract the call for a Constitutional Convention. The LWVUS opposes resolutions that call for a Constitutional Convention. The League is also a member of a coalition of other local, state and national groups that oppose a Convention of States.

Candidate Forum

by Taryn Mason

On Friday, October 19 at 6:00 the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country (LWVCC) and the Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce convened a Candidate Forum. Candidates attending included State Senate 38th District, Scott Dianda, Democrat and Ed McBroom, Republican; State Representative 110th District, Greg Markkanen, Republican and Ken Summers, Democrat; Houghton County Commissioner District 2, Melissa Davis, Democrat; Houghton County Commissioner District 4, Gretchen Janssen, Democrat and John Sullivan, Republican; Houghton County Commissioner District 5 Roy Britz, Republican and Sharon Stoll, Democrat; and Keweenaw County Probate Court Judge Keith DeForge and Diana Langdon.

We'd like to thank Donna Cole and Braeton Ardell for their help as timers. Mary Marchaetterre and Barb Turuc for collecting audience questions. David Nitz and Leah Bectel for screening questions, and Faith Morrison for moderating the Forum. We had 100 people attend the Forum, and received very positive feedback on how professionally and non-partisan the Candidate Forum was conducted. The success of the event was due to the involvement of many volunteers!

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League of Women Voters
of the Copper Country
PO Box 815
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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