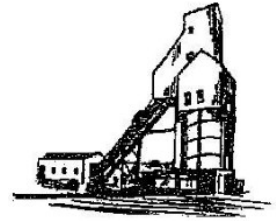


Copper Country Voter



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 12 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 – Reminder

It is time for our January Planning Meeting and we need to receive your RSVP. The meeting will be held over dinner, Tuesday, January 29th at 5pm at the Kangas Cafe in the Jutila 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.

This year we will review the positions of LWVMI <http://lwvmi.org/positions/html> and submit any recommendations regarding revisiting current positions or any new studies the state league should take up. For any such suggestions that you would like to propose, you should be prepared to volunteer to work on a committee should one be formed. Also, In preparation for our local Annual Meeting in April, any ideas for local programs or speakers should be brought up at this time. If you have ideas to share and cannot attend the meeting, please give your remarks in writing to a board member.

Volunteer Opportunities

Here is a quick list of some of the upcoming volunteer activities.

The Observer Corps is always looking for volunteers – contact Linda Belote at lbelote@mtu.edu or 483-0552 to learn more about it.

Please contact Mary Marchaterre at mmmarcha@mtu.edu or 483-2291 for the following opportunities.

- Need help with updating and maintaining our Facebook page.
- Need one more volunteer for the Budget committee to meet in February.
- Nominating committee need another volunteer to help before April.
- Equal Pay Day event April 2, 11:30-12:30 – need cookies and help distributing information in front of Husky statue.
- 100 year anniversary of League in 2020.

We plan on including a similar list in all our upcoming newsletters.

Governor Whitmer's 10th Executive Directive Takes Aim at Equal Pay for Women

By Leah Bectel

On January 9th, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed her 10th executive directive which barred state agencies from asking prospective employees about their past salaries. Although this directive only applies to state agencies such as the DNR, DHHS, and others, it is a directive that will hopefully set the tone regarding asking potential employees about their past wages and salaries.

This practice can cause employees to receive lower starting salaries and can disproportionately affect women. Women today make 78% of what a man makes, so forcing women to disclose their past salaries can only exasperate the problem of women not making the same amount as a man in the same position. Although this directive does not solve all problems related to equal pay for equal work, it is a step in the right direction, especially on Governor Whitmer's 9th day in office.



Observer Corps

by Linda Belote

Last month's issue of The Voter contained information about the Observer Corps. It is currently posted on the League website (<http://www.lwccmi.org>). There is also a list of Houghton County offices, and when they meet on the website. [Baraga, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties have yet to be compiled.] If you would like to participate as an observer for any local public governmental group, please contact Linda Belote to help you get off to a good start. You might also like to come to hear Steven Karpiak speak on township governance on April 11, at the Carnegie Museum of the Keweenaw 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

New or Renewing Members:

Kari Henquinet Valorie Troesch
Kelly Luck

Jail Update

by Linda Belote

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners has not forgotten about the jail. At the November meeting, held one week after the millage for their proposed plan was voted down, they decided to hold a Special Meeting of The Committee of the Whole (that's the whole board) to discuss the issue further.

The special meeting, held on December 4th was well attended, and included a number of our League members present. This meeting was opened to permit the public participation throughout the meeting, not just during the time normally allotted to public comments.

Although the Board Chair initially proposed simply putting the November ballot language back on the upcoming May ballot, and marketing it better, the public representatives expressed the need for more information regarding the public's concerns, and the need for more options to be considered.

At the January 15th meeting, the Chair announced that the Committee of the Whole would hold another Special meeting. The date was not yet set, but we are carefully watching the Board website because it will be announced there. If you want to be informed of the date and time, email Linda Belote (lsbelote@mtu.edu) and she will let you know as soon as it is published.



LWVCC members stressed the importance of voting at the Women's March January 19, 2019.

Eliminating the Electoral College

H.J.Res. 7 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09), a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, on January 3, 2019, introduced a Joint Resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the Electoral College and provide for the direct election of the President and Vice President of the United States. The complete text is available <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/7/text?format=xml>.

The Joint Resolution was referred to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. When identical language is passed by two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, it will then be referred to the states. It must pass three-fourths of the states to amend the Constitution.

League members are free to contact their own representatives as individuals to encourage support of the Joint Resolution.

LWVMI'S Federal Lawsuit Against Gerrymandering Goes To Trial In February, 2019

On November 29, 2018, a 3-judge panel ruled to allow a federal lawsuit filed by the League of Women Voters of Michigan and 11 individual voters in December 2017 against the State of Michigan to go forward. The lawsuit aims to end unfair, partisan gerrymandering of Michigan's Congressional, state senate and state house districts. The suit has survived attempts for dismissal by lawyers for Michigan Secretary of State Ruth John and will now go to trial in February, 2019. "Emails that the mapmakers exchanged illustrate the profound extent to which partisan political considerations played into their redistricting efforts," the judges wrote in their November 29th decision. The judges added that the "efforts proved extremely successful," allowing Republicans to win a "majority of seats" in Congress the next three elections "despite never winning more than 50.5% of the statewide vote." Click to read the November 30, 2018 Bridge Magazine article. <https://www.bridgemi.com/public-sector/michigan-gerrymandering-trial-february-court-cites-profound-bias>

When the lawsuit was filed, LWVMI President Judy Karandjeff said, "The Michigan League of Women Voters today filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of voters throughout Michigan to end the practice of unfair, partisan gerrymandering. Michigan's State House, Senate and Congressional districts are among the worst in the nation when it comes to partisan gerrymandering, and today's lawsuit aims to fix the problem and restore voters' rights to choose who best represents them." "Ending partisan gerrymandering is critical to preserve our democracy and ensure every vote counts," said Sue Smith, director of the League's Redistricting Program."

The lawsuit asks the federal court to declare the current districts to be unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders and to ensure that the districts are redrawn in a fair fashion.

- Click here for the complete Press Release. <https://www.lwvmi.org/documents/PrRelRedist12-22-17.pdf>
- Click here to read the Complaint. <https://www.lwvmi.org/documents/RedistComplaint12-17.pdf>.

LWVCC Board for 2018 - 2019

President Leah Bectel	616-719-6085
1st Vice President Linda Belote	483-0552
2nd Vice President/Natural Resources Kristine Bradof	482-0446
Treasurer Mary Marchaterre	483-2291
Secretary Taryn Mason	231-1713
Electoral Process Faith Morrison	487-9703
Director at Large Barry Fink	482-4632
<u>Off Board</u>	
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

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Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$____)

Education Fund {\$____}

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