



League of Women Voters of
Alpena County
October 2015

Calendar

October 26, Monday

Center Bldg. Downstairs

Conf. Room

Dinner 5 PM, Meeting 6 PM

Consensus on the LWV US
Constitutional Amendment Study

November 9, Monday

2:30 PM, ACC, 107 D

Team Leader Meeting

November 16, Monday

7 PM, Alpena Library

Town Hall on Redistricting

December 15, Tuesday

Holiday Gathering

Besser Museum

Dinner & Planetarium Show
Save the date—more details to follow

January 11, Monday

Team Leader Meeting, 2:30 PM

ACC, Room 107 D

January 18, Monday

Money & Politics Consensus

7 PM, (Place to be determined)

Constitutional Amendment Study—LWV US Consensus for 2015

Why is the League studying the process of amending the US Constitution? It's been around for 200 plus years, what's important about it now? The answer is that in a number of states, including Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois last year, state legislatures are adopting resolutions asking Congress to "call a constitutional convention". Article V provides two ways to amend the US Constitution. The first is the way all the amendments so far have been—approval by 2/3 of each House of Congress and ratification by 3/4ths of the states. A convention, the provision says, "shall be called" when 2/3 of the states ask. But there has never been one.

So, how would it work? Who would go? How would they be chosen? Would there be any limits on what they can propose? These are open questions that the League is looking at as part of the study.

Join the discussion as part of our League's study committee. Call or e-mail Trina Borenstein if you would like to help with this study. (trina@guppylake.com) (734-926-9425)

Our consensus meeting will be **Oct. 26, Monday, at 6 PM. Join us at 5 PM at the Center Building in the downstairs Conference Room and order from the menu of the Fresh Palate. The meeting will begin at 6 PM.**

Pat Donath, the LWV US chair of this study will join us for this consensus meeting. Pat has a cottage in Harrisville, has been the President of LWV MI and has often been a visitor with us.

For more info on this subject, go to <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide>



Redistricting...

a call for a reform to gerrymandering

Our League will host a **Redistricting Town Hall that is organized by the LWV MI on Nov. 16, Monday, at 7 PM at the Alpena County Library.** This program will be co-sponsored with the Alpena Lifelong Learners Association and is free and open to the public.



In Michigan, the district lines are drawn by elected officials in the legislature, effectively allowing politicians to choose their voters and giving the political party in power at the time a tremendous advantage. What are the ramifications of partisan drawn districts that favor one party over another? Is there a better and fairer way to do this? What are the alternatives?

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision on Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission said there is an alternative and that citizens, not just politicians, have the right to decide how Congressional district lines are drawn. The decision has grabbed the public's attention. Some have asked if Michigan, like Arizona, should use an independent commission to draw the lines, not only for the Congressional Districts, but for the State House and Senate, as well. This alternative and others will be presented at the Town Hall.

Donna Hornberger will be presenting the information on this important subject, Donna is a member of the LWV MI Membership & Leadership Development Team. She serves as a member of her Township Planning Commission and is President of her Community Library Board.

LWV of Alpena County is one of 35 local leagues that will host this community –based education campaign regarding how district lines are drawn in Michigan and possible reforms. For more info go to crcmich.org/a-call-for-redistricting-reform. The LWV MI also has info on this issue on the front page of their site.



(from the Citizens Research Council of MI)

Help Wanted

Hello, Fellow League Member,

Everyone in the Alpena County League of Women Voters is going to be involved in preparing the new edition of "Know Your County". Although I'm a fairly new member, when the Leadership Team (board) decided it was time to update, I volunteered to coordinate this worthwhile project.

This 64-PAGE publication was originally created by our group in 1966 as a requirement by the League of Women Voters of MICHIGAN to become a full fledged League. "Know Your County" has been updated four times over the past fifty (!) years, and it is time to do so again. The original edition is available online for your perusal, and soon the 1971, 1987, and 1999 editions will be as well. The link to download the original 1966 edition is <https://www.dropbox.com/s/u35udtoeu7dk3mq/All63pages.pdf?dl=0>

Working on this will give all of us the opportunity to become more familiar with the workings of our county government.

The list of chapters follows. Our plan is that each brief chapter will be revised by a team of two members, and each team will be provided with guidelines and contacts for the county officials that can provide the necessary information for the updates. Please email me, Trina Borenstein, at trina@guppylake.com and say which chapter you would be most interested in helping to revise.

- I.....History
- II.....Political Parties and the Electorate
- III.....County Government
- IV....Township Government
- V.....County Services
- VI...Alpena - The City
- VII...Justice
- VIII..Education
- IX....Health
- X.....Social Services
- XI....Highway Administration
- XII...Regional Agencies

Money in Politics

Last year the LWVUS convention voted to study “Money in Politics.” The LWV.org website has posted educational study info on the Money in Politics Review Page.

“Independent Expenditures” is now posted which describes

the history of independent expenditures and the evolution of regulations addressing them. In addition the “Money in Politics” debate sponsored by the LWV and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy is now available to see and hear—www.mackinac.org/21072. Consensus is due in 2016. Our meeting on this topic is scheduled for Jan 18, 2016, Mon. at 7 P.M. (Place to be determined.) Marcia Aten and Carol Lund are interested in this topic—Contact Marcia at marcia.aten@gmail.com if you would like to learn more.

Lunch Bunch Continues

Join League members for lunch and talk once a month on Fridays. Each month we get together at a different restaurant. All are welcome.

Nov. 20, Friday noon, Burgies

628 Chisholm, Alpena

Dec. 18, Friday noon, Jimmy Chen’s Hunan

1283 M 32 W, Alpena

**LWV of Alpena County Officers**

Co-Presidents—Florence Stibitz stibitzf@alpenacc.edu

Dottie Haase dsbhaase@live.com

Vice President (vacant)

Co-Secretaries— Beverly Bodem

Jane Speer

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Board Members

Marcia Aten Anne Nave

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LWV of Alpena County**Website**

www.lwvalpenacounty.org

LWV State Website

www.lwvmi.org

LWV U.S.A. Website

www.lwv.org

LWV of Alpena**County— Facebook**

Up and running —
thanks to Trina Borenstein.
Check it out.