



League of Women Voters of Alpena County Officers

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Sue Lawson
Vice President—Florence Stibitz,
Co-Secretaries—Margot Dorn
Dottie Haase
Treasurer—Leona Wisniewski

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Marcia Aten
Marie Gilmet-Dully
Bonnie Friedrichs
Nancy Hammond
Sue Maxwell,
Vernie Nethercut
Janet Smoak

Alpena LWV Web site
www.lwvalpenacounty.org

LWV State Web site
www.lwvmi.org

LWV US Web site
www.lwv.org

May 2009

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALPENA**

We Want Your Opinion

Join us on **May 11, Monday at noon at the 19th Hole Restaurant** (corner of US 23 and Golf Course Road) for lunch and discussion of important State League Issues. Our delegates to State convention Sue Lawson and Pauline Buchner need your opinions on League issues—

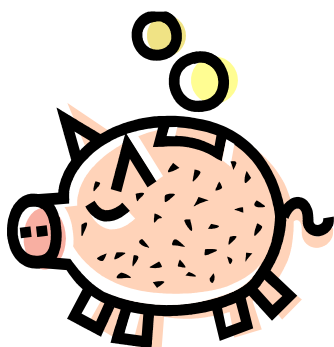
- Election administration
- Campaign finance & enforcement
- Term limits



Two new items are also on the League Convention agenda. Delegates will be discussing a Restudy of the position on Prisons and whether to adopt the Berrien-Cass County LWV position on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). The CAFO position says that inadequately regulated CAFO pose a risk to area groundwater.

Our league will be donating a basket of up-north items for the LWV Auction at convention. If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it to this meeting. Donated items include Fletcher Root Beer, local chocolates, local wine. Feel free to add to this collection.

Where else can you go where people are anxious to hear your opinions! Join us on Monday, May 11 at noon at the 19th Hole.



Dues are Due

Dues were collected from many members at the Annual meeting. If you haven't paid yet, please send your check for \$50.00 made out to LWV of Alpena County. Bring your check to the May 11 meeting or mail it to Leona Wisniewski, 357-A Oliver, Alpena, 49707.

March Meeting Review

Speakers at the March League meeting were members of Huron Pines, a not-for-profit conservation organization. They have AmeriCorps members included on staff. They spoke on the topics of services offered by Huron Pines in northern Michigan and invasive species. They will send out people to help landowners with problems on their property in their First Responders program. Written materials about invasive species were available for attendees to take.

A representative from Lafarge gave a presentation on the efforts of Lafarge to be environmentally responsible.

Here is an excerpt from the Huron Pines newsletter——

web site <http://www.huronpines.org/newsletter.php>

Really tall invasive plants (phragmites) along the Lake Huron Shore are marching towards Alpena.

Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) plants can grow up to 15 ft. in height, but what percentage of the plant's mass is underground?

Answer: 80%

Phragmites, also known as common reed, is a perennial wetland grass. While it is native to Michigan, there is a non-native, invasive variety of phragmites that is threatening and overtaking wetlands and coastal areas.

Phragmites creates tall, dense stands that essentially make it impossible for native vegetation to survive. The monoculture that is created also crowds out animals and blocks shoreline access to swimmers, fishermen, and hunters. A dangerous fire hazard can also be produced by the dead, dry plant material left behind each fall by the plant...



Legislative Interview

Andy Neumann, our District 106, State Representative was interviewed by Margot Dorn and Marie Dully. Neuman was interested in League issues and upcoming legislative topics were discussed.



To June Perry for her years of service on the League Board, and for the focus she has brought to protecting our lakeshore and water. We look forward to her continuing guidance on these issues, starting with a program on Great Lakes issues next fall. New volunteers to work on this area would be very welcome!



To Marcia Aten who has left our League as co-president, but has returned as a board member. Thank you Marcia for your service to our League as co-president. Our local league board appointed Marcia to the board at their April Board Meeting.

