
NEWSLETTER

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Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

2018-2019 Board

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Mission Statement:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWV-MI Program Planning for 2020

At the February 25 City and County Clerks event, you will be asked to Retain or Update the LWV-MI's current positions. The current positions can be found at:

<https://lwvmi.org/positions.html>

Voters' Family Feud

Ballot counting and election fraud are national news topics nowadays. If you would like to know about our own local election procedures, the LWV of Alpena County invites you to a presentation by the county clerks of 5 local counties and the Alpena City Clerk. The program is 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, at the Alpena County Library, upstairs in the conference room.

Presenting information on the ins and outs of the local election process will be: Anna Soik, Alpena City Clerk; Bonnie Friedrichs, Alpena County Clerk; Ann Marie Main, Presque Isle County Clerk; Stephanie Eller, Alcona County Clerk, and Cheryl Neilsen, Montmorency County Clerk. Their program will include video clips, a quiz game, and Q&A for such topics as poll watching and volunteer election workers. Alpena County Clerk Bonnie Friedrichs states, "We will be presenting information on Precinct Workers Training, Absent Voter counting process, Campaigning, PollWatchers and Challenges, and Functions of the Board of Canvassers, followed by a quiz game and a Q&A. Men and women, young people and adults, are encouraged to become informed voters by attending this program.

Calendar of Events

February 25, Monday, 6:30pm - Voting Machines, Counting Ballots, etc., with Bonnie Friedrichs, member and Alpena County Clerk, in the Alpena Library Conference Room.

February 26, Tuesday, 5:30pm - "White Fragility" presentation by Doris Fey and Julia Natvig, Cabin Creek Coffee, 201 N 2nd Ave, Alpena

March 15, Friday, noon - Lunch Bunch, Black Sheep, 113 S. 2nd Ave., Alpena

March 31, Sunday, 2-3:30 - Women's History Month Event, presentation on "The Women's Hour" a book by Elaine Weiss, at Alpena Library Conference Room, 211 N. 1st Ave.

April 19, Friday, noon - Lunch Bunch, 19th Hole, 1081 US-23 N., Alpena

May 17, Friday, noon - Lunch Bunch, Connie's Cafe, 11585 US-23 S., Ossineke

May 17-19, 2019 - LWV-MI State Convention, Embassy Suites, Livonia

May 21, Tuesday - LWV-AC Annual Meeting

June 21, Friday, noon - Lunch Bunch, Shotmakers, corner of US-23 and Main St., Harrisville

July 19, Friday, noon - Lunch Bunch, The Portage, 5529 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle

"White Fragility" Presentation

League members Doris Fey and Julia Natvig will lead a discussion on the book, "White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo, on Tuesday, February 26, at Cabin Creek Coffee in the meeting room, from 5:30-6:45. Robin Diangelo was in a short video that was presented by Alpena Community College instructor Matt Dunckel during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. Diangelo is a trainer on issues of racial and social justice. This event is free and open to the public.

Women's History Month



The Women's Hour

Join the LWV and celebrate March, Women's History Month. Mary Ann Crawford will lead a discussion of the Elaine Weiss book, "The Woman's Hour: the Great Fight to Win the Vote". The discussion will be on March 31, Sunday, from 2-3:30pm, at the Alpena Library on the second floor conference room. There are two copies of the book available at the library ready to check out. "Both a page-turning drama, and an inspiration for every reader," says Hillary R. Clinton. The author of this book will be the guest at the LWV Annual State Convention in May.

Should the League of Women Voters of Alpena County Change our Name?

In 1965, a group of committed voting activists started up our local LWV chapter. All the members were in Alpena County, and there were many other chapters around the state. Now, however, there are far fewer local Leagues in Michigan, and the LWV-AC is the only one remaining in northeast Michigan. Over the past several years, our League has gained several active members from Alcona and Presque Isle Counties.

The Leadership Team is considering a name change to reflect the enlarged area of our membership: League of Women Voters of Northeast Michigan.

CONS — It would take more woman power to cover Alpena, Alcona, Presque Isle, and perhaps Montmorency, counties, especially at election time. It would require a change to the Bylaws. We do not currently have an LT member from Presque Isle.

PROS — There are already three LT members from Alcona County. Already in the last election, we covered all three counties. The closest Leagues to ours is Grand Traverse and Bay City, which leaves little choice for interested people in northeastern Michigan. Covering all three (or four) counties would mean more publicity.

Please consider this issue. There will be a vote at the Annual Meeting in May.

REDISTRICTING LAWSUIT!

We went to court!

LWVMI v Benson was heard by a panel of three federal judges at the US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division. We were in court February 5 - 7th. Final documents have to be submitted by February 22. A ruling will come later.

We especially thank the lawyers for their dedicated work on our behalf, the many League members who testified, provided depositions and attended the hearings and all of the donors who made this possible!



Left to Right - Daniel Kelley (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP), Elayne Bosimier (LWV), Sue Smith (LWV), Kevin Toner (FBD), Betsy Cushman (LWV), Matt Kinsman (FBD), Jay Yeager (FBD), Mark Brewer (Goodman Acker PC), and Judy Karandjeff (LWV)

Jane Speer and Trina Borenstein, LWV-Alpena County members, testified for the LWV-MI. Jane was at the gerrymandering trial won February 6, and Trina was deposed on February 9. Thanks to Jane and Trina for representing our League and our local voting citizenry.

If you want to read more details, please go to the Brennan Center website,

<http://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/league-women-voters-michigan-v-johnson>

And there are stories about the trial in Bridge Magazine: Experts testified that gerrymandering in Michigan is worse than almost anywhere, Ex-Democratic chief says Michigan gerrymandering scared off candidates, and Redistricting guru - Michigan's maps are legal, even if process was political:

<https://www.bridgemi.com/public-sector/ex-democratic-chief-says-michigan-gerrymandering-scared-candidates>

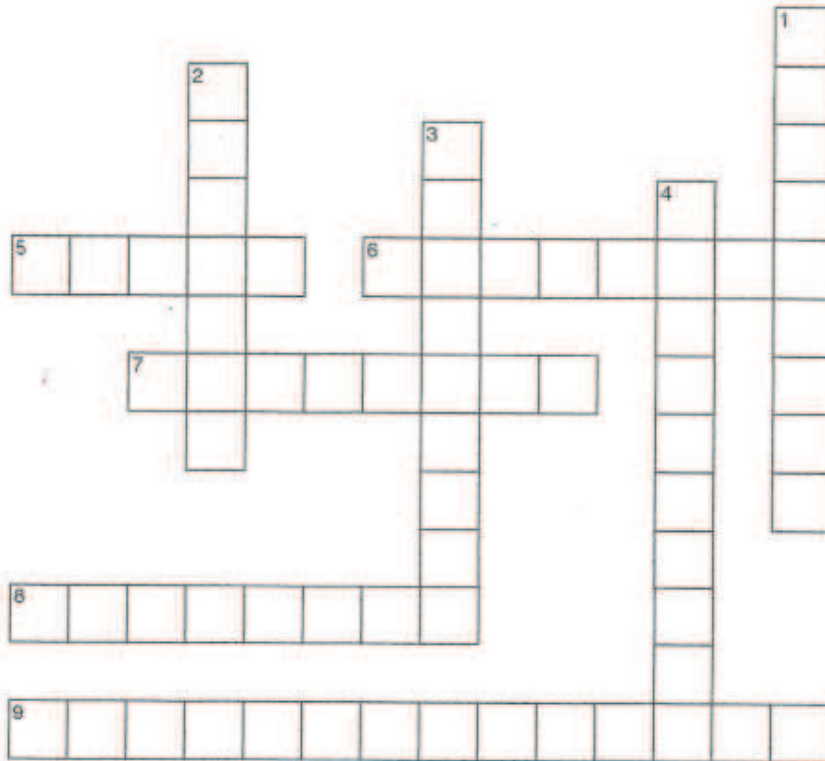
Please click here to make a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to the League of Women Voters 2019 Annual Fund and help ensure more Americans are able to make their voices heard at the ballot box in 2019 and 2020.



Help combat voter suppression and partisan gerrymandering, register, engage and educate voters, and ensure that come Election Day, every vote counts.

***SUPPORT
THE 2019
ANNUAL
FUND:***

***https://
tinyurl.com/
y6gse715***



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ACROSS

- 5 What war was fought in 1861-1865 between the North and the South?
- 6 What group of people was taken from their homeland to America as slaves?
- 7 At what age must all men register for the Selective Service?
- 8 How old does an American citizen have to be in order to vote?
- 9 When are federal income taxes due?

DOWN

- 1 Which now-state did the United States purchase from France in 1803?
- 2 What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?
- 3 Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
- 4 Who was the first President of the United States under the Constitution?

ANSWERS:
 5C- 1 Louisiana, 2 Pacific, 3 Jefferson, 4 Washington, 5 Civil, 6 Africans,
 7 Eighteen, 8 Eighteen, 9 April/Fifteenth



LWVMI CONVENTION: MAY 17-19, 2019

It's a time to celebrate our birthday, a time to be updated on the League's current democracy agenda, a time to learn by attending workshops, a time to listen to some topical speakers (including Elaine Weiss, the author of *The Women's Hour: the Great Fight to Win the Vote*), a time to have fun by meeting up with League friends from around the state, and a time to participate in a historic League event. We are celebrating two centennials at this convention: the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and the 100th anniversary of Michigan women's suffrage.

The First Call to Convention was sent out to all local League presidents this week. That notice, plus information about the convention awards, delegate counts, possible bylaw amendments, and our silent auction fundraiser can all be found on our website: www.lwvmi.org. Official convention registration forms and the hotel reservation information will be available on the website in February. ALL League members are invited, whether you are a voting delegate or not. We hope you'll all plan on joining us in Livonia the 3rd weekend in May.

Paula Bowman, Convention Chair

Membership

Be sure that you invite your friends to join LWV.

Membership is open to men and women, 16 years or older. Membership in LWV-Alpena County includes membership in LWV-MI and LWV-US.

\$55 Individual Membership for one year (not tax deductible)

\$82.50 Household Membership for one year (two members at same address, not tax deductible)

Educational Fund Donation (tax deductible)

Make check payable to LWV of Alpena County, and mail to LWV, 307 W. Maple St., Alpena, MI 49707

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____

Phone _____