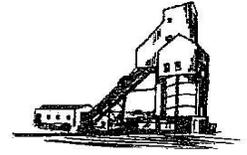




Copper Country Voter

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



LWVCC Calendar

- Feb. 4** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
- Feb. 20** Green Film Series:
Thursday, 7:00PM *Tiny: a movie about living small*
Atrium & G002 Hesterberg Hall, Forestry Bldg.
Michigan Tech, Houghton
- Feb. 20** State Education Study and Consensus Questions
Thursday, 7:00PM Martha Sloan's house
1220 East Lake Shore Dr., Houghton
- Mar. 4** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton
- Mar. 20** Jim Islieb, MSUE Crop Production Educator
Thursday, 7:00PM Speaking on GMO and more
TBA
- Apr. 1** Board Meeting
Tuesday, 7:00PM Country Inn & Suites, Houghton

LWVCC Board for 2013- 2014

- Shared Governance Model**
- Acting President/
Fredi DeYampert** 482-2161
- 1st Vice President/
Natural Resources
Kristine Bradof** 482-0446
- 2nd Vice President/
Social Policy
Mary Jane Hatton** 523-5368
- Treasurer
Mary Marchaterre** 483-2291
- Secretary
Barry Fink** 482-4632
- Children and Youth
Carol Kreher** 487-6778
- Health Care
Vacant**
- Voter Service
Kathy Flagstadt** 399-0721
- Website
Shellie Crisman** 523-6299
- Off Board**
- Finance Drive
Faith Morrison** 487-9703
- International Relations
Carol Kurz** 337-2920
- Health Policy
Carolyn Weissbach** 482-3173
- Voter Editor
Linda Ott** 487-2315
- Website
Dale Yeo**

State of Michigan Educational Update

Join us for the Michigan Update of Public Education and 2014 Consensus Questions. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 20th at Martha Sloan's house at 1220 East Lake Shore Dr. Directions: Drive on 41 to Lake Street, follow Lake Street and E. Lakeshore Drive east past the Super 8 toward Tech to the yellow house at the far end.

We will discuss and attempt to form consensus on education questions from the State League, which we must do by May. Fortunately much of the state's update involves minor changes. You can find the questions, explanations, and background material at http://lwvmi.org/member/mem_studies.html.

The current state position is at <http://lwvmi.org/positions.html>. The National Education Study and consensus, completed in May of 2012, is at <http://lwv.org/content/leaders-guide-education-study-consensus>.

Hope you can join us for an evening of thought and input.

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

Cost of Government Shutdown

The following is excerpted from an editorial in The Federal Times, Nov. 11, 2013

- The Office of Management and Budget compiled this list of short term costs of the government shut down in October 2013.
- Fourth quarter gross domestic product growth was trimmed by between 0.2 and 0.6 percentage points, or between \$2 billion and \$6 billion in lost output.
- As many as 120,000 fewer private-sector jobs were created during the first two weeks of October.
- Federal agencies lost 6.6 million days of productivity due to employee furloughs, costing \$2.5 billion in total compensation.
- Steady advances in reducing the backlog of veterans' disability claims were set back.
- Almost \$4 billion in tax refunds were delayed.
- Hundreds of patients were unable to enroll in National Institutes of Health clinical trials.
- Home loan decisions for 8,000 rural families were delayed.
- An estimated \$3 billion in revenue from tax enforcement activities were not collected.
- The government was forced to pay many millions of dollars in interest on billions of dollars in late payments.

There also is a significant, though perhaps inestimable, cost to taxpayers that comes from Congress's inability to reach a budget deal or pass spending bills that would bring much-needed stability to federal financial planning and management.

Many experts and business leaders agree that a "grand bargain" style long-term deficit-cutting deal would do wonders in terms of spurring a faster economic recovery, reducing deficits and improving the effectiveness of federal financial management. It would end the sequester, end budget uncertainty and provide a firm foundation for economic growth that businesses need before committing to hiring and expansion. Once economic growth can accelerate, so will revenues, driving down our deficits.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle must make that happen.

National Agricultural Position Update

LWVUS has an update study underway on our national position on Agriculture. In March LWVCC will be hosting a speaker from MSU Extension who is an education specialist in the realm of agricultural issues. The following is from the national website www.lwv.org where there are links to a great many resources and where the consensus questions can be accessed at <http://lwv.org/content/discussion-guide-consensus-questions>. If you know someone who would be especially interested in this issue, invite them to this meeting. This is a great way to promote the League.

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

"A sustainable agriculture must be ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible."
John Ikerd, retired professor of soil science at the University of Missouri

Suggested Readings

<http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-reading>

The Committee has identified three specific background documents that provide a broad and relatively neutral overview of the complex set of issues addressed by U.S. agricultural policy and three websites that provide similar types of information, but from the website sponsor's point of view. The Committee would like to point out that although we have done our best to identify "neutral" background resources, each of the documents and websites is presenting information that is consistent with the mission of the authors and/or sponsoring organization, so League members must be willing to read widely to get a balanced understanding of the agricultural policy challenges facing the U.S. in particular and the world in general.

Multimedia Resources for Background Information

<http://www.lwv.org/content/agricultural-update-multimedia-resources-background-information>

The multimedia resources are provided as an indication of the breadth of the topics covered in the update. They are not meant to endorse any particular practice or viewpoint.

661: BAD NEWS FOR TRANSPARENCY ADVOCATES

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is disappointed that the Michigan Legislature passed SB661, which allows the financial backers of campaign issue ads to remain anonymous. Prior to passage, League President Sue Smith sent a letter to the House Members of the Elections and Ethics Committee, urging them to oppose the bill in favor of the public's right to know which individuals and organizations are paying for these campaign ads. The League is even more disappointed that Governor Snyder signed this bill on the last Friday of 2013, despite a letter from President Smith and pleas from members and friends of the League urging him to veto the bill. When Governor Snyder was running for office in 2010, he said, "All electioneering communications – broadcast, printed, and telephonic – that feature the name or image of a candidate for public office or ballot initiative should be considered expenditures subject to the appropriate disclosure requirements." Good government groups are dismayed at this latest measure that will impede the public's ability to find out who is really paying for political ads. Read the Center for Michigan's article at <http://bridgemi.com/2014/01/>

LWVMI Advocacy in January, 2014

After the Lansing State Journal printed an editorial supporting "no reason" absentee voting, LWVMI President Sue Smith sent a letter agreeing with the editorial and again encouraged the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation to make it easier and more convenient for Michigan voters to participate in elections. The letter was published in the Journal on January 31, 2014.

The League was honored to be invited to testify at a hearing in Detroit hosted by the National Commission on Voting Rights on January 9th. President Sue Smith submitted written testimony highlighting the League's Work on Election Administration Reform in Michigan. Additionally, LWVMI Voter Service Chair, Eva Packard, gave public testimony on Voting Suppression in Michigan.

HOW DID MY MI LEGISLATOR VOTE?

Wondering how your state senator or representative voted on key issues in 2013? To view results of roll call votes on issues important to the League in the Michigan House of Representatives, click <http://www.lwvmi.org/documents/RollCallHouseVotes2013.pdf>. To view results in the Michigan State Senate, click <http://www.lwvmi.org/documents/RollCallVotesSenate2013.pdf>

LWVUS Statement

01/31/2014 | by Stephanie Drahan

KEYSTONE XL REPORT DEEPLY DISAPPOINTING, MISGUIDED

Statement from Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters

Washington, DC – "We are deeply disappointed by the Environmental Impact Statement report released today by the U.S. State Department on the Keystone XL (KXL) Pipeline project. We strongly believe that if this project is approved it will have a negative impact on the delicate ecosystem of America's breadbasket, contribute harmful greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, and increase America's dependence on foreign oil.

"By assuming that Canada will exploit its dirty tar sands no matter what, the report reaches the misguided conclusion that the pipeline will not have a terrible effect on the climate.

"We need international action on climate change, not irresponsible action by Canada, spurred on by the U.S.

"The League urges Secretary Kerry and President Obama to put the health and safety of Americans, and of the world, ahead of blind reliance on fossil fuels and support for development of Canada's tar sands.

"Granting a permit for the pipeline would be inconsistent with meaningful action on climate change, one of the most serious threats to the environment of our nation and our world. The life-cycle of greenhouse gas emissions from gasoline produced by Canadian tar sands are significantly greater than those of gasoline produced by conventional sources.

"We also hope that the State Department and President Obama will consider the safety of our drinking water and groundwater resources. These resources could affect thousands of Americans in the heartland and threaten the safety of our food supply.

"We urge President Obama to protect people, not polluters, as he makes the final decision on this dangerous pipeline project."

Welcome to new member:

Karen Marie Johnson



The League of Women Voters
of the Copper Country
PO Box 815
Houghton, MI 49931

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Join or make a donation to the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____ (home) _____ (work)

Check here if you would like to receive your LWVCC
Voter by e-mail.

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

Membership

Individual Dues (\$55)

Household Dues (\$80)

Student Dues (\$30)

Donation

Finance Drive (\$_____)

Kay LaRue Scholarship (\$_____)

Education Fund {\$_____}