



Partisan- Never!
Political- You Bet!

VOTER

February 2012
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The League of Women Voters – Manistee County

2010-2012
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Bear Lake, MI 49614

Website:
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A Warm Welcome To New Member:

Laurie Mason
3545 Glovers Lake Rd.
Arcadia, MI 49660

Needed: Your Oleson receipts! Our League can earn \$\$\$ when we turn them in to Olesons for community share points! Give them to Joanne Schroeder!

February:

- 9 ***General Program for members and guests 5-7 pm:** Discussion on the National League's Privatization Study. Delicious hot soup supper provided. **Note the time change....5-7 pm**
- 16 Board Meeting-Hubbell's Restaurant-Bear Lake-9 am
- 28 Michigan Presidential Primary---VOTE!!! You must request a Republican or Democratic Primary Ballot

March:

- 1 Board Meeting-Hubbell's Restaurant-Bear Lake-9 am
- 8 ***General Program for members and guests 5-7 pm:** Consensus program on the Privatization Study. There will be FOOD! **Note the time...5-7 pm**

April:

- 20 **2nd Annual Pictionary Olympics---7 PM!!!** Manistee Golf & Country Club, 500 Cherry Street, Manistee

May:

- 10 **Manistee League Annual Meeting---**Time and Place TBA

Privatization vs Public Interest?

Scope of the Privatization Study: The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. This study will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. At the January program members took sections of this study to read and prepare a presentation to the membership at the February meeting. If you would like to read more about this study you can go to www.lwv.org, (the new LWVUS website that was launched on December 2011), to read more details. When you visit the site, you will notice more than new graphics. You will find better organized, and easier to find, member information that you can rely on regularly. This site is also aimed at the public as well as our membership. Included in this newsletter find a list of the Privatization Consensus questions that we will be discussing in February.

Vote-February 28, 2012 in the Presidential Primary Election in Michigan

Wanted: Curious, Intelligent People!

Where do you fit into the LWV? All organizations are only as strong as the involvement and commitment of the membership! All of you made a commitment to the League when you joined because you like what the League stands for. Now it is your opportunity to help your League while you grow and expand your personal knowledge. Please call Nancy Behring, 231.889.5402, to find out how you can help!

***Unless otherwise noted All LWV Manistee County programs will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7 pm, at Manistee West Shore Medical Center, Education Ctr., Rm. A, 1465 East Parkdale Ave., Manistee, MI 49660.**

The President's Corner ---

Greetings Everyone! At the January 2012 meeting, we agreed that one of the most important issues our country is dealing with in this election year has to do with campaign financing, and so we will join with many other state and local Leagues in asking our National League to make advocacy to overturn/mitigate the effect of the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision a priority. The Court decided two years ago in a 5-4 ruling that a corporation is a person, and that is leading to millions of dollars going to candidates without having to have full disclosure.

At that meeting, we also talked about ideas for future local programs. We divided up the National League study papers on Privatization for presentation at the February 9th meeting... so we will have a great discussion and enjoy a delicious soup supper! Please join us in February for more fun and learning.

Nancy

PS: The 50th LWV National Convention will be in Washington DC, June 8-12.

Comedy relief:

“I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.”

“Where there's a will, there are relatives.”

“Where there's a will, I want to be in it.”

“Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another women.”

“I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you!”

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News from National and State:

LWV of **Kansas** is working in coalition to help educate and register voters before new, stricter laws go into effect. The LWV of **South Carolina** steps up the pressure urging the US Dept. of Justice to deny pre-clearance of the state's voter ID law. The LWV of **Ohio**, working with other organizations, succeeded in getting a measure on the ballot to overturn a newly enacted law that would significantly decrease the number of early voting hours in Ohio. The LWV of **Florida** has taken its message to national TV! LWVFL President Deirdre McNabb eloquently rebuffed a state legislator, who supported the state's new restrictions on citizen registration drives.

League Says 'NO' to Anti-Environmental Riders on Budget Bills

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senate and House leadership, opposing the attachment of any anti-environmental riders to the spending and tax bill that Congress is trying to get done before the end of the year.

Obama/Jackson Mercury Rule is a “Big Win” for Public Health

On December 21, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an historic rule regarding the emission of mercury and air toxic standards at power plants. The League applauded the efforts of the Obama Administration with a statement from LWVUS president, Elisabeth McNamara and a joint statement with leading public health and environment groups.

Pictionary is coming! Pictionary is coming! Get ready for the 2nd Annual Pictionary Olympics, one of the craziest nights in Manistee County, Friday, April 20, 2012, 7 pm, at the Manistee Golf & Country Club, Manistee. If you attended the 1st Annual Pictionary we do not have to tell you what a grand time was had by all!

If you have ever played the game of Pictionary you know how much fun it can be. It is even more fun when played as a team against other teams in our community. The competition is between teams from our area. The teams can come up with unique names and costumes to add to the fun! Many of the teams from last year are returning for 2012...but we do have room for a few more teams this year!

So talk to people you know from businesses and service clubs encouraging them to join the fun April 20th. Also, we need all our members to help on Pictionary night. Someone from the Pictionary committee will be calling you to handle a task on the 20th. Get ready for a wild and crazy night! If you have questions or wish to volunteer for Pictionary duty before you are called, contact Linda Albee, 231.723.0032 or e-mail: ralbee0032@charter.net

CLEAN AIR PROMISE CAMPAIGN

BY LWVUS PRESIDENT, ELISABETH MACNAMARA

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I HOPE YOU ARE ENERGIZED AND READY TO TACKLE THE WORK AHEAD OF US IN 2012. OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND ALL OUR VOTER SERVICE WORK ARE UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS RIGHT NOW, BUT LET'S NOT NEGLECT OUR CLEAN AIR PROMISE CAMPAIGN.

LAST YEAR, CONGRESS'S PRINCIPLE ENVIRONMENTAL TARGET WAS THE EPA. APPLYING THE EMPTY TERM "JOB-KILLING" TO EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT OUR AIR AND WATER, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PROPOSED COUNTLESS BILLS AND AMENDMENTS TO ABOLISH OR EVISCERATE AN AGENCY WITH A SOUND TRACK RECORD OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR AIR AND WATER AND, THEREBY, THE QUALITY OF OUR PUBLIC HEALTH. WE EXPECT SIMILAR ATTACKS TO CONTINUE AS AN ISSUE IN THE 2012 CAMPAIGN.

THE LEAGUE HAS RESPONDED TO SLOGANS WITH FACTS, SOLID POLL NUMBERS AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY, INCLUDING THE CLEAN AIR PROMISE CAMPAIGN. THE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON THE STATES OF MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, MONTANA, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA AND WISCONSIN, BUT NATION-WIDE, WE ARE STILL ENCOURAGING OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS, AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES, TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND MAKE THE PROMISE. WHILE WE DEPEND ON OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH BY ENSURING THAT WE HAVE CLEAN AIR, THE PROMISE IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN USED AS A MEANS TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE CLEAN AIR ACT. THIS LEGISLATION HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ITS PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS IF THE EPA IS ALLOWED TO DO ITS JOB.

SO AS WE START OFF THE NEW YEAR, LET'S ALL RESOLVE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE PROMISE AND SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON: DON'T MESS WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT; DON'T MESS WITH THE EPA!

"The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization for women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy."

**League of Women Voters
Manistee County
P.O. Box 424
Bear Lake, MI 49614**

We value, and we need your membership in the LWV Manistee County. We ask you to join or renew your membership by submitting your dues promptly. Dues are a great value and include subscriptions to the **Michigan Voter**, and your local **Voter** and assures you of another year promoting political responsibility through active and informed participation of citizens in government.

Individual Membership: \$55.00___ Family Membership: \$75.00___

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____ City_____

E-Mail_____

**MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY CITIZEN OVER THE AGE OF 18. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
LWV OF MICHIGAN & MAIL TO: LWV Manistee County, P.O. BOX 424, BEAR LAKE, MI 49614**