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The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

The Leaguer

November – December 2017



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Rising Lake Superior Water Temps Threaten Lake Trout – And Our Future

By Susan Hedman

The Lake Trout season closed early this year in the Apostle Islands region of Lake Superior.

The abrupt end to our recreational Lake Trout season was a reminder that restoring a sustainable fish population is an ongoing process – a process that has successfully allowed Lake Trout to recover, after being almost eliminated from Lake Superior during the 1950s and 1960s.

The next step in this ongoing process is starting right now, as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources begins to prepare a new Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan.

Managing the cold-water fishery will be especially challenging, because Lake Superior is one of the fastest-warming lakes on the planet. Lake Superior has been warming at a rate of 2°F per decade, which is three times the global average for lakes -

Rising Lake, Continued on Page 6



Greetings from our Co-Presidents

Dianne Judd

president@lwvwi.org

Liz Seefeldt

lizseefeldt@cheqnet.net

You hear us say as we introduce ourselves...

“We are a non-partisan organization, and therefore we do not support or oppose any partisan political party or candidate.” But we are political in that we encourage citizens to be active in government.

Our inspiration comes from the suffragettes who, pre-1920, stood for a woman's right to vote in public elections. “Votes for Women” was a sign prominent in their advocacy work. It will soon be the 100-year anniversary of The Nineteenth Amendment. *Is there still work to do?*

Does everyone today have the right to vote?

Currently both the LWV/ABC and the greater Leagues are working on issues of Voter Suppression, Fair Voting Maps, informing citizens of their rights to vote, and encouraging citizens to vote. And there's more...our work also includes advocacy to inform

citizens so that they can be actively engaged in making democracy work. We take action on public policy positions established through years of membership studies and agreements. For example, the LWV/ABC's focus this year is on Living Wages and Local Challenges to Health Care resulting from our recent Economic Inequality study.

Beyond our Local League, you might be interested in what the National League (LWVUS)) is advocating for these days. Our national website, <http://lwv.org/>, is filled with inspiring work done by committed and caring men and women. You will see statements and action including: *LWV Statement on the Executive Order to end Health Care Subsidies*; the *LWV Statement on DACA Reversal*; and the *LWV Statement on the Rallying for Fair Maps at the Supreme Court*.

The LWV Wisconsin is also a home for thoughtful, committed leaders for our democracy. It has joined 44 other entities in filing an Amicus Brief in *Gill v -Whitford*. Their brief urges the U.S. Supreme Court to end partisan redistricting so that every

citizen's vote will have equal weight. The League's State and National positions statements can be found on its website, <http://www.lwvwi.org>, and are available to anyone who is curious about where the League stands. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin operates on the state level with leadership and grassroots support from LWVUS and 18 local Leagues in Wisconsin.

You can see that LWV/ABC is backed by 98 years of strong, active and committed champions for good government practices. Thank you for being part of this organization. Our organization exists because of you and your dedication.

Suffragettes arise! The 2018 Election year will soon be upon us!
In League,

Liz Seefeldt & Dianne Judd



Thank You! *Committees!

To the Membership Committee, for our 2017 Membership Fall Social! It was wonderful to visit with new and long-time League members.

To the Economic Inequality Committee, for bringing us Charlene Mouille from United Way of WI. The program The Rise of the Working Poor was well received by our community with at least 100 people in attendance. If you haven't read our most recent study on Economic Inequality, Study of the Impact of Economic Inequality in Ashland and Bayfield Counties, it is available on our website:
<http://www.lwvabcwi.org/>

You are welcome to join in the discussions with the Living Wages Committee and/or our Local Challenges to Health Care Committee.

To the Voter Services Committee for holding an On-Line Voter Registration event at WITC in Ashland. Voter Services leaders are available to help anyone needing to negotiate this new on-line system. Join this committee and help work on Voter Suppression and Getting out the vote.

Another Thank You to Voter Services Committee for bringing a Fair Voting Maps Resolution to the Bayfield County Board and the Ashland County Board. The Bayfield County Board voted to pass this resolution in October. The Ashland County Board will be bringing this up for a vote on November 14th.

“Challenges to Healthcare” Meeting Report

By Jan Penn

A core initial group of local LWV members and community partners met on Oct 5th for the first time. We reviewed a draft of our mission and goals, and initiated discussions on strategy. (We agreed to wait on finalizing our mission and goals until a fuller complement of partners is engaged in this committee's work).

We had a discussion on strategies which included the idea of utilizing a Healthcare Timeline regarding the evolution of health care **policy** and health care **models** as part of a community education program. References (such as “Health Care as a Social

Good” by David M. Craig) as well as the historical perspectives of individual committee members should help in relating these seemingly complicated issues to the community at large.

Despite the fact that there will probably be different levels of participation in our committee meetings by people presently busy working in the healthcare field, our focus will still most likely entail the **local** impacts relating to this Healthcare Timeline.

We all agreed that many of the major illnesses and health challenges in our region are “diseases of poverty.”

Our next priority is to identify and make contact with our community health partners. This will begin prior to the next meeting, anticipated for early November. The present plan is to hold **meetings at the Vaughn Library in Ashland. All Leaguers are welcome to join in with these important discussions!**

2017/2018 ABC LWV Board and

BOARD

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Committee Members

COMMITTEES - 2017-2018
*Committees are presently
being organized!*

Executive Committee

Dianne Judd, Co-President
Liz Seefeldt, Co-President
Sheila Mitchell, President Elect
Giner Quay, Secretary
Barb Bell, Treasurer

Membership Committee

Darlene Charboneau, Chair
Gail Syverud
Dora Kling
Kathy Allen
Judy Swander

Voter Services

Bev Lindell, Chair
Joyce Kiel
Shari Eggleston
Deanna Eckels
Madeline Lee
Joyce Neumann

Communications Committee

Sheila Mitchell, Chair
Liz Seefeldt
Dianne Judd
Dee Johnson
Newsletter
Dede Eckels & Peter Skoro
Website
Valerie Damstra
Facebook
Dee Johnson

Nominating Committee

Madelaine Rekemeyer, Chair
Mary Jo Tuckwell
Kathy Allen

Financial Committee

Linda Jorgenson, Chair
Liz Seefeldt
Barb Bell

In Remembrance...

Long time League member **Beverly M. Jensch** died on October 11, 2017 at the age of 97. She was a resident of Bayfield, Washburn, and Sand Island.

We knew Bev as a committed reader and thinker with many interests. She was always someone who questioned and searched for answers while enjoying the camaraderie of conversation among friends; a good role model for us all!



*The main objective of the League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of **all citizens** in government **at all levels, especially locally.***

We do this through the active participation of our members on initiatives throughout the year.

We invite you to be more deeply involved in any aspect of our efforts, please contact a committee chairperson.

September Membership Event and New Member Welcome

By Darlene Charboneau

A big thank you to everyone who made our annual fall kick-off event on September 28th a great success! Approximately 30 people enjoyed the **member social**, which was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, welcome new members, and learn about this year's league activities.

The social was followed by a very well received public presentation by **Charlene Mouille**, Executive Director of United Way Wisconsin. A full crowd was present to hear her speak about the rise of the working poor and what can be done about it.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the following individuals who have recently joined as new members, or have re-joined:

Jo Bailey

Ann Chartier

Kristy Jensch

Jan Kasperson

Tracey Synder

Parkar Sterling

LWV CALENDAR

November

Tuesday 7 **Membership Leadership
Development Committee
call, 4:30 pm**

Wednesday 8 **Living Wages Committee Meeting
Vaughn Library, 5 pm**

Tuesday 28 **Board Meeting, Chequamegon
Hotel, 5:30**

December

Tuesday 12 **Holiday Party, Good Thyme,
Washburn, 5:30 pm**

January

Tuesday 2 **Executive Committee**

Tuesday 23 **Board Meeting, Chequamegon
Hotel, 5:30**

Tuesday 30 **Lively Issues Meeting- You don't
want to miss this!**

Rising Lake, Continued from Page 1

and much faster than the rate of increase in ocean temperatures. This Lake Superior warming trend is projected to continue throughout the 21st century.

Rising water temperatures could make Lake Trout and other cold water fish species less abundant in Lake Superior. Spawning activity, growth rates and survival of yearlings are directly impacted by water temperature. Warming summer surface water temperatures could also significantly reduce dissolved oxygen levels in Lake Superior, by interfering with the Spring and Fall "turnover" that brings oxygen from the surface to deeper waters. Deepwater Lake Trout (Siscowet) and other fish that depend on Lake Superior's cold, well-oxygenated deep waters may struggle to survive.

Sea Lamprey - the invasive species that nearly eliminated Lake Trout from Lake Superior in the mid-20th Century - thrives in water that is 50°F or warmer. Surface water temperatures around the Apostle Islands have reached or exceeded 50°F at least 130 days in recent years. In those conditions, these parasitic "Great Lakes vampires" have the potential to grow larger and kill more fish than ever before in Lake Superior.

So, what can we do about this?

We need to update Wisconsin's fishery management strategies and intensify Sea Lamprey control programs. The new DNR Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan must recognize the threat that increasing water temperature poses for cold water species and implement new measures to minimize negative impacts. Failure to do so will jeopardize the self-sustaining populations of Lake Trout that we have worked so hard to establish in Lake Superior - through decades of Sea Lamprey control efforts, harvest regulations and fish stocking programs.

At the same time, we all need to support policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to the warming of our planet -- and the warming of the Big Lake that holds ten percent of the planet's freshwater. It's bad enough that the past three years have been the hottest on record for the planet. What's worse is that Lake Superior surface water temperatures have been rising even faster than the rate at which our atmosphere is heating up.

There is not only an urgent need for government action; there is a need for voluntary personal action, as well. We all can choose to make small changes in our daily lives that, added together, can result in big reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these simple steps also can save you money and improve your health - actions like limiting food waste, eating a plant-

rich diet and walking instead of driving.

If we fail to take steps to limit greenhouse gas emissions, Lake Superior will continue to get warmer. The abundance of Sea Lamprey and other invasive species will increase. The abundance of Lake Trout and other cold water species will decrease. As a consequence of these changes, there may also be significant economic repercussions for communities along Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline.

It's up to us. We need to work together to adapt fisheries management strategies so that they are effective in warmer waters and we need to implement actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to further increases in water temperature. If we don't do both, Lake Trout could be virtually eliminated from Lake Superior. Last time that happened, the cause was a parasitic invasive species. If it happens again, we would have only ourselves to blame.

Susan Hedman lives in Bayfield and is a member of LWV/ABC. She works for Clean Wisconsin and serves on the Advisory Panel that the DNR has convened to develop a new Lake Superior Fisheries Management Plan.



Recent Board Activities

We are on our way regarding Action and Advocacy relating to the three major themes identified in our *Study of the Impact of Economic Inequality in Ashland and Bayfield Counties*. Committee membership is fluid—if one of these areas is your concern, please contact the committee chair and add your voice! Committees and Chairs are: Voter Rights (Bev Lindell), Affordable Health Care for All (Jan Penn), and Raising Wages (Linda Jorgenson)

Your participation enlarges the group's vision and ability to act.

Group synergy is what launches ideas and action.

Working together with partners in our communities helps to achieve our goals.

Natural Resources: An interest group is now available to members. Contact Dianne Judd if you would like further details.

Board Focus: Establishing guidelines and goals for both the Board and Committees with follow-through for effective action is a priority this year. A Leadership Development Workshop for advocacy and action as well as the LWV Wisconsin "Issues Conference" were offered for League participation.

Membership: The 2017 Fall Membership Social was a success. We are now 73 members strong.

Community Program Outreach: Charlene Mouille, Executive Director of United Way, Wisconsin, addressed financial research on Ashland and Bayfield Counties in her talk about *The Rise of the Working Poor and What We Can Do About It* in September.

Voter Services: We participated in the National Voter Registration Day in September. Young people are more likely to register to vote on-line, an opportunity new to Wisconsin in 2016. Committed voter rights volunteers, armed with special training, are prepared to seek out and assist young people with required registration information.

Voter Services is also addressing the gerrymandering issue present in Wisconsin, which is presently before the Supreme Court (*Gill v Whitford*). LWV/ABC contacted the Chairs of the Ashland and Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, urging them to support the *Fair Voting Rights Resolution* that has been adopted by 24 other Wisconsin Counties.

“FairMaps”?... what does this mean?

Heads Up! In mid-January, we are planning for an event to discuss Redistricting with **Dan Theno**, a former Mayor of Ashland and a 4-term State Senator from our 25th District (1973-1986). He is currently retired, lives in Green Bay, and is involved in civic affairs, including the **Wisconsin Fair Elections Project**. Dan has spoken to other LWV co-sponsored programs in Green Bay, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and Appleton. He will be speaking to us on the many issues that arise from “gerrymandering” i.e. the partisan redrawing of legislative district lines. Watch for details regarding this future event.



Are you an Event Planner? Volunteers are needed for this important task! Some possible skills/tasks are: planning, organizing, buying, advertising, selecting venues and caterers, etc.

We are a team; nobody has to do this alone!
Let me know if you could help with this: Dianne Judd, 651-341-9724.

“LIVING WAGE ACTION” COMMITTEE REPORT

by Linda Jorgenson

The Committee met on October 5 at the Washburn Library. While the numbers were small for the first meeting, there was a lively discussion of Committee goals

and strategies for action. All supported the broad goal of striving to form a regional Living Wage Coalition composed of key economic development stakeholders- businesses, workers, government agency personnel,

non-profits, educational institutions, and Tribes.

Given that ambitious goal, people supported a year of outreach, community education, and research into what other rural areas are doing. The following were some of the action steps that were discussed:

Community Education

- Letters to the editor
- Living Wage Economy book discussion night
- Public education campaign about the importance of retaining local wealth through local buying. *If we can be “locavores” food wise, can we not expand that into other purchases/investment options?*
- Possible public forums:
 - Examples of viability of businesses following a “living wage and benefit” model
 - Preparing for the “automation economy”
 - Keeping money local – local banks, coop/worker owned enterprises

Outreach Efforts

- Identify and reach out to resource people in the Chequamegon economic development community. Make presentations about LWV wage findings at their meetings. Ask them to co-sponsor public forums.
- Researching if outside business development puts local owners out of business which results in no net gain to the economy.

Advocacy Action Possibilities

- Promote local ordinances for municipal, county, school districts and anchor institutions such as colleges and MMC to require their contractors to pay living wages and gender equity.
- Highlight how the carbon fee and dividend tax may benefit the lower and middle class economically
- Build a “Coalition around a Living Wage” demand for 2019 Superior Days delegation

Living Wage, Continued on Page 9

Areas for Further Research

- Impact of renewable energy
- Eco-tourism- number of jobs created, wage scale
- Impact of FabLabs
- How well are we supporting job retention/wealth retention?
- What are other rural communities doing about low and stagnating wages?

Committee members also began a list of resource people/stakeholders to contact. Next meeting date set for Wednesday, November 8 at the Vaughn Library Second Floor Meeting Room in Ashland at 5 PM.

All interested Leaguers please come join us

Voter Services Issues Update

by Beverly Lindell

I had the opportunity to attend the LWV Wisconsin "Issues Briefing" Conference in Madison on October 28th. It was a lively gathering of committed members who were present to learn and share ideas about issues the League of Women Voters has addressed as being important to our democracy. Glorily Lopez started out the morning with a poignant and realistic portrayal of the fate of the "dreamers;" i.e. the individuals caught up in the DACA dilemma who are now under increased threat for deportation because of a recent policy of our current administration. In fact, Ms. Lopez came to the Midwest from Puerto Rico at the age of 17, and has made **immigration rights and law her life work.**

There were also excellent presentations on critical water issues in Wisconsin, data on poverty in Wisconsin, enhancing

diversity in the League, and an update on the Wisconsin gerrymandering lawsuit. As voters' services chair, I attended a discussion group on challenges and opportunities to increase voter participation. Our local league is on task with the ideas presented there, which included working to register new or younger voters, training for the online voter registration process, working with our local clerks to provide accurate information, and increased opportunities for voter registration.

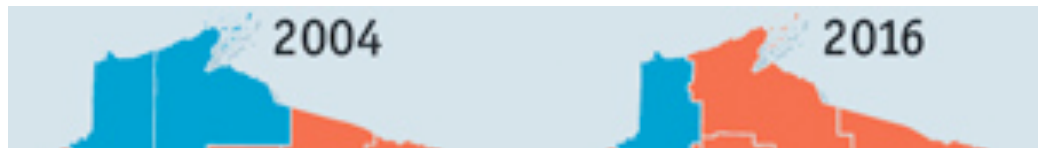
Breaking News: On October 31st, Bayfield County became the 32nd county in the state to pass a resolution calling for a nonpartisan process for the preparation of legislative and congressional electoral maps; i.e. the Fair Voting Rights Resolution. Several Supervisors spoke on behalf of the resolution and the importance of ending the

partisan divide and protecting the democratic process. Two supervisors voted "no" on the resolution but without comment.

Ashland County's Executive Committee for the Board of Supervisors has also approved bringing the resolution to the full board at their next meeting on November 14th. Please contact members of the board to support the Fair Voting Maps Resolution.

Recent Voters Services activities: Dede Eckels and I participated in the National Voter Registration Day by going to WITC and working with students there on online registration.

The Ashland Daily Press printed our letter to the editor regarding gerrymandering written by the LWV Wisconsin President, Andrea Kaminski.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2017

Contact: Erin Grunze, Voter Education Coordinator
Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director
Phone: 608-256-0827 Email: egrunze@lwwwi.org or kaminski@lwwwi.org

**ANDREA KAMINSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN,
TO RETIRE BY END OF YEAR**

Madison, WI – Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWV WI), announces her retirement for the end of December 2017. The LWV WI Board has selected Erin Grunze to be the next Executive Director effective January 1, 2018.

During her remarkable 13-year tenure, Kaminski has seen an unprecedented number of challenges to voting rights through restrictive photo ID and registration laws, an influx of dark money into politics, and the dissolving of governmental checks and balances. She has been at the forefront advocating for voters' rights and government accountability. "It has been an honor to work with Andrea on best practices for election administration, voter outreach, and accessibility," says Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Municipal Clerk of Madison. "Andrea's expertise and thoughtful recommendations have helped make our elections more accessible, secure, and transparent."

LWV WI filed a lawsuit in 2011 to prevent the photo ID law from taking effect and separately filed amicus briefs in other voting rights cases including the *Gill v Whitford* partisan gerrymandering case now in the U.S. Supreme Court. However, Kaminski's focus has not just been on litigation. She has often collaborated with other organizations such as the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Wisconsin VOICES, and Common Cause in Wisconsin to secure increased educational resources and multilingual materials to inform all Wisconsin voters.

"Andrea has been a model leader in Wisconsin's progressive nonprofit community. Wise, thoughtful, and courageous, she also has shown her trust in the grassroots and in coalitions," remarks Matthew Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

The League has increased its presence in the state in the last few years. There are currently 18 local Leagues in the state with recently formed Leagues in the Northwoods and Upper St. Croix Valley. Four additional communities are in the process of developing a new League.

Kaminski has worked very effectively to make sure the core principles of the LWV WI remain consistent: that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed, that everyone has the right to know how government acts on their behalf, and that these values are universally shared by citizens from all backgrounds and political ideologies. Her leadership has established a strong base on which LWV WI will continue to thrive as it approaches its 100th Anniversary in 2020.

"I have been so fortunate to be able to work for the wise and hard-working League members, who devote countless volunteer hours to registering and educating voters year-round just because it's the right thing to do," said Kaminski. "Never endorsing a political candidate or party, our local Leagues are known as trusted

conveners of high-quality voter education forums in their mission to advance informed and active participation in government - whether there is an election coming up or not.”

Grunze is the current Voter Education Coordinator for LWV WI where she manages the nationally recognized statewide Election Observation program. Last year she coordinated the Gear Up To Vote minivan tour for voter education and registration that traveled across Wisconsin between July and October. “Erin has demonstrated an

ability to mobilize the vote and inspire active participation for good government. Since she joined our staff in February 2016 she has become a trusted and reliable leader, with a positive vision and an ability to guide and enhance communication among all members of the League. She has a determination to support the good work

of our local Leagues and this will propel our ability to build a better democracy,” said Debra Cronmiller, President of the League’s State Board.

“I am thrilled by this opportunity and it is such an honor to be selected as the next Executive Director of LWV WI,” said Grunze. “I am so very fortunate to be part of this organization in any capacity and I now look forward to my new role and venture. Andrea has been instrumental to the firm foundation of financial and organizational strength of LWV WI with her unwavering integrity and steady leadership. It has been a wonderful experience for me to work with her for nearly two years. I look forward to building upon what the LWV WI Board and League members across the state have committed their volunteer work to as defenders of the democratic process. With voting rights being assaulted and voting turnout in Wisconsin down in the last election, LWV WI has much work to do. League members are rolling up their sleeves and directly tackling these challenges within our communities and our state.”

Although she will retire from her daily duties as Executive Director, Kaminski will continue to serve as the League’s lobbyist and Board Secretary.

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The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. The League welcomes women and men across the state as members. With 18 local Leagues (and growing) in Wisconsin and 800 affiliates across the country, the League is one of the nation’s most trusted grassroots organizations. Follow @LWV_WI on Twitter.

League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties

Annual Holiday Dinner

Join us at the Good Thyme Restaurant

Tuesday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season with your League friends!

Delicious menu choices:

- Mediterranean stuffed chicken breast with tomato coulee sauce
- Crusted trout with cilantro lime butter sauce

All meals include salad, Yukon gold potato mashers, fresh green beans, baguette, dessert, coffee and tea.

Cash bar available.

\$25/person includes tax & tip. Guests are always welcomed!

RSVP by **November 30!** Please complete the form below and mail to:

Barb Bell, Treasurer
LWV/ABC
P.O. Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

Questions? Call Dora Kling: 715-373-2636 or Dianne Judd: 651-341-9724

Yes! I'll be attending the LWV/ABC's Holiday Dinner! Enclosed is \$25/person.

Dinner choice:

___ Mediterranean stuffed chicken ___ Crusted trout

___ Vegetarian selection requested ___ Dietary restrictions, please specify:

Names of attendees: _____