



League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties Newsletter

December
2015

LEAGUE HOLIDAY GATHERING

Our holiday social will be held at the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph on Friday December 11 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. You should have received an E-vite to the event earlier this month. Please indicate how many will be in your party and what you will be bringing to supplement the main dishes (both a meat and meatless lasagna) we will be providing. If you are sharing a dish that requires a serving implement, please be sure to bring it along since there are no salad servers, etc., available for us to use. It will be a lovely venue. Come enjoy, socialize, catch up with members you may not have seen for a while. We look forward to seeing you.

From President Chris



Though most of us look forward to the December holidays, it's good to remember those who are less fortunate and in need. Our November book club book, "A Path Appears", contained a wealth of information on the vast number of people working to make the world a better place for those who are in extreme poverty, are homeless or ill, have physical problems or disabilities that impact lives everywhere in

the world. Besides the many outstanding examples of good being done, the authors also warned of the many sham "charities". To be certain your contribution is going to a worthy, reputable organization, check it out at Charity Navigator, Charity Watch or Guide Star, among others.

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on our Holiday Social (December 11), January book club selections (January 11) and other news of interest.

I wish you and your loved ones good health throughout December and beyond.

Chris

LEAGUE BASICS

Over the course of the 75 years the League has been in existence, Policy Positions have been developed by which all Local Leagues abide and on which League members are able to and encouraged to advocate.

Positions set forth cover Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Each of these major areas contain many sub-texts. For example, Representative Government - Promote an open governmental system that is

LWVBCC: Contact Us

**Our new mailing
address!**

**P.O. Box 1032
Niles, MI 49120**

lwvbcc.org



Calendar

December 11 (Fri) 6-10pm.
League Holiday Social at *the Box Factory for the Arts*.

January 11 (Mon) 10am.
Book Club meeting at Liz Ennis & Annett Van Dusens home.
1220 W. Indian Street, New Buffalo, MI

January 12 (Tue) League
Board Meeting.

LWVBCC
Board of Directors

Chris Zilke President
John Ripley Treasurer
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Donna Dutton Membership
Barb Lackner Voter Service
Vacant Environment
Liz Ennis Education
Melissa Clapper At Large
Karen Ristau At Large
Marilyn Klawiter At Large

Webmaster Mike McCaffrey
Welcome to the team Mike!

Board Meeting/Minutes

Board Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of most months. Members are encouraged to attend. The next meeting is October 20 at 4:00 pm at the Lakewood Estates Community Center, 8000 Warren Woods Rd,

representative, accountable and responsive. Areas defined are Voting Rights, the Election Process, Citizen Rights, Congress and the Presidency, and Privatization.

Three Oaks.

Minutes are posted after they are approved by the Board.

Campaign finance falls under Representative Government, and many local leagues are now reviewing this issue via a Money in Politics review determined to be of great importance at LWVUS convention in 2014.

- [August 18, 2015](#)
- [July 21, 2015](#)
- [May 20, 2015](#)
- [April 21, 2015](#)
- [March 17, 2015](#)

If you're interested in this issue, go to www.LWVUS.org. It will take you right to MIP - Money in Politics. You'll find a listing of recommended readings and the questions that will be addressed as part of arriving - via consensus - at a new or revised Policy Position.

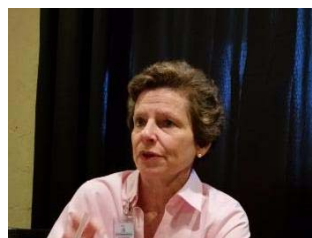
LWVBCC BOOK CLUB

For the January meeting the LWV book group will be choosing between two books (or maybe reading both) about Supreme Court Justices, Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Sandra Day O'Connor. The first book Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsberg was written by Irin Carmona and Shana Knizhnik. Jennifer Senior of the New York Times said of the book, "The authors make this unassuming, most studious woman come pulsing to life....'Notorious RBG' may be a playful project, but it asks to be read seriously...That I responded so personally to it is a testimony to [its] storytelling and panache."

The second title is Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World by Linda Hirshman. Of this book Linda Greenhouse writing for the NYT Book Review said, "For anyone interested in the court, women's history or both, the story of Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, their separate routes to the Supreme Court and what they accomplished during the more than 12 years they spent together is irresistible."Both, undoubtedly, will provide fascinating accounts of these women's lives and careers in the legal world.

January's meeting will be held at the home of Liz Ennis and Annette Van Dusen, 1220 W. Indiana Street, New Buffalo, MI, at 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2016. We hope you will join us for our discussion.

TARA GILLETTE PRESENTATION



The November 18 luncheon presentation by Tara Gillette, Marketing/ Communications Specialist at Region IV Area on Aging was well received and elicited many questions from those in attendance. Not only did Tara provide us with specific examples of ways the Agency has helped individuals and families, she explained the many less-well-known services provided - for example, "Respite Care" for caregivers - to people of all ages and most income levels.

services provided - for example, "Respite Care" for caregivers - to people of all ages and most income levels.

If you have family, friends, neighbors you think would benefit from learning more about the services available, the phone number to call is [800 654 2810](tel:8006542810) or go to www.AreaAgencyonAging.org.



Visit the LWVBCC Facebook Page. Be sure to like us!

Quick Links

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A Woman's World?

Approximately 34% more women than men are graduating from college.

Welcome New Members!

Elaine Kirschenbaum of Benton Harbor

Elizabeth L. McCree Esq. of

"Volunteer/Learning Opportunity"

Interested in taking videos? Would you like to help with the steps involved in event photography with our easy-to-use video camera? We need occasional help when we shoot LWVBCC events and post them online. If you would like to learn about basic videography and help us, please let us know at lwvbcc@gmail.com. Thank you.

Benton Harbor

Cynthia & Les Miller of
Benton Harbor

Marina Peter of Bridgman

LWVBCC ON TV: REDISTRICTING AND LOCAL POLICY IMPACT

Liz Ennis, LWVBCC Board member, past president, and current Education Director of the League of Women Voters of Michigan, participated as a panelist in this local production by South Bend's Public Broadcasting station, WNIT, Sunday, Nov. 15. Liz made a superbly educational presentation not only about redistricting in Michigan but also about the League's mission, especially with regard to voter rights and other current issues citizens need to know about. You can watch the 57-minute program by clicking here.

The panel included Liz Ennis, Brandon Smith, State News Reporter, Indiana Public Broadcasting, and Julia Vaughn, Policy Director, Common Cause of Indiana.

League Membership Directory and Dues

We print our LWVBCC Membership Directory each year in early February. In order to be in the Directory for 2016, your dues must be received by January 31, 2016. Our League U.S. and League MI dues are based on those members whose dues are "current".

In light of this, and to avoid a dreaded phone call reminder by one of your board members, please write that renewal check today or renew via Paypal. Renewing by PayPal can be done easily by visiting our website, <http://www.lwvbcc.org/> and then clicking on the "League Membership and Dues" tab along the left margin. There you will see "Join or Renew via PayPal" and the rest is quick.

If your address, phone number, e-mail address or other relevant information has changed, please let us know by sending an email to lwvbcc@gmail.com with your changes before January 31.

Your continued membership is important and valued greatly by LWVBCC. And if you are among the many members who have already renewed, we thank you very much.



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Featured Article



Consider a featured article that focuses on the association's mission. Describe what the organization is today and where it wants to be in the future.

What action, if any, do you want your members to take? Add a "Find out more" link to additional information that you may have hosted on your website.

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