



From President Chris



Time to look forward to all the interesting, innovative and engaging possibilities 2016 will bring. Surely there will be challenges, good and creative opportunities, even more fascinating inventions revealed in this Leap Year. An entire "extra" day to utilize to our benefit.

The potential is huge for participating more fully in life generally and for taking advantage of each new day in a way that works best for us individually or as a family or organization.

I'm expecting 2016 to be a full and fruitful year for LWVBCC and look forward to more active participation from our general membership. Please step up, volunteer your time when asked, and attend as many League events as you're able. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on our January book club selections (January 11) and other news of interest. Happy New Year everyone. May it be a positive, productive, and prosperous year for each of you.

Chris

Appeal for New Board Members

Due to recent moves out of state by three of our board members since October 1, I am appealing to any member who is looking for a rewarding, stimulating, at-times-challenging experience to volunteer to serve on our board. We get along well, have good discussions, help each other with project arrangements and details, etc.

Board Responsibilities are:

- Attend Board meetings (give notification if unable to attend).
- Assist in overall planning and decision-making.
- Support and attend League activities.
- Explain and promote the League in your community.
- Understand and maintain the League's political (non-partisan) activity policy.
- Attend state and regional League meetings.
- Assist in fund-raising activities.

LWVBCC: Contact Us

Our new mailing address!

P.O. Box 1032
Niles, MI 49120

lwbcc.org



Calendar

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
Pat Lauth Secretary
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

Please give joining the LWVBCC board sincere consideration. Call me at 269 449 2225 or e-mail me at chris_zilke@yahoo.com.

Center, 8000 Warren Woods Rd,
Three Oaks.

Minutes are posted after they are approved by the Board.

[October 20, 2015](#)

[September 15, 2015](#)

[August 18, 2015](#)

[July 21, 2015](#)

[May 20, 2015](#)

[April 21, 2015](#)

[March 17, 2015](#)

Festivities

It seems everyone enjoyed the Holiday Social held December 11 at the Box Factory for the Arts. There was a fair amount of lasagna left over, and Melissa Clapper and Bette Pierman delivered it that evening to the Benton Harbor family shelter. It was sincerely appreciated by the shelter and I expect by those who were able to enjoy it the next day. Thanks go to Marilyn Klawiter for "booking" the Box Factory, to Donna Dutton for the lovely table arrangements, to Barb Lackner for arranging for the lasagnas to be prepared and delivered, to everyone who brought a dish to share (I think virtually everyone did!) or contributed in other ways - and to each of you who attended.

League of Women Voters Basics - Social Policy

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Some of the sub-categories under the Social Policy Position are:

Equality of Opportunity including Equal Rights; Education, Employment and Housing; and Federal Role in Public Education.

What concerns me in particular these days is the Federal Role in Public Education. I have grand children in public schools in Bloomington IN, Redwood City CA and Chapel Hill NC. We hear and read lots about the drastic reductions in State funding to schools - year after year it seems - but less about the Federal role. It seems to be non-existent. The overall impact of these reductions is having an adverse effect on children everywhere.

LWVBCC Book Club

Book club Monday January 11

"Notorious RBG" Join us at 1220 W. Indiana St., New Buffalo at 10 a.m. Once again, even if you are unable to attend, this is a book you'll enjoy if you want to learn more about Ruth Bader Ginsburg. My appreciation for this extraordinary woman has increased - and I thought very highly of her before reading this book.

Like us on Facebook 

Visit the LWVBCC Facebook Page.

Be sure to like us!

"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 lwbcc@gmail.com. Thank you.

Quick Links

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A Woman's World?

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

A Happy New Year and Special Thanks to our Sponsors:

Service Master Clean
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Please utilize their quality services.

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.

Encourage membership
in LWVBCC!

Learn how saving on
homeowners starts in
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Contact me

P087293

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The League: A Valuable Resource in Our Communities



Helping to Make Democracy Work

**Interested in joining the League? Go to our [website](#) or
contact our Membership Chair [Donna Dutton](#)**

