



League of Women Voters of Berrien and Cass Counties Newsletter

October 2015

October 12 General Meeting



The general public is invited and encouraged to join members of the League of Women Voters to hear from Elvin Gonzalez, Administrator in the Family Division of the Berrien County Trial Court. He has spearheaded several improvements in the area of juvenile justice and family intervention treatment models. He is someone we need to hear and learn from as we work to promote healthy and safe communities. The meeting is on Monday, Oct. 12th at the New Buffalo Library's Pokagon Room at 2:00 pm.

For more information on Mr. Gonzalez see his [biography](#). The library is located at [33 N. Thompson, New Buffalo](#).

From President Chris



Of the 36 individuals who attended the September 24 Redistricting Town Hall, thirteen indicated a willingness - by signing the "Help Us Educate Voters About Redistricting Reform" sheet - to write a letter to the editor and/or post on facebook, make phone calls, knock on doors or suggest community groups or leaders who might like to know more about redistricting reform. Having a response of this nature (greater than 33%!) is indicative of how very important this issue is in moving us toward truly representative government. Thanks to all who attended the Town Hall and a very special THANK YOU to all who volunteered to take additional action. Donna Dutton and I attended the LWVLMR (Lake Michigan Region) convention in Elgin IL this past weekend. Though most of the attendees are League members from the member states (Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin), the convention was quite interesting.

LWVBC: Contact Us

Our new mailing address!

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

lwbcc.org



Calendar

October 12 (Mon) 2:00pm. General meeting with Mr. Gonzalez at the New Buffalo Library's Pokagon Room.

October 27 (Tue) 6:30pm. Benton Harbor Mayoral Debate with Mayor James Hightower and Muhammad Marcos at the Benton Harbor Public Library.

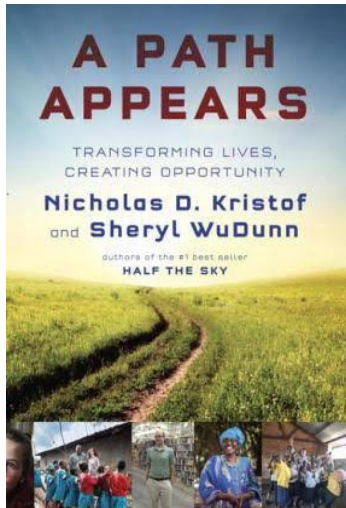
November 18 (Wed) Noon. LWVBC luncheon with Tara Gillette at Coach's restaurant in Stevensville.

LWVBC Board of Directors

- Chris Zilke President
- John Ripley Treasurer
- Pat Lauth Secretary
- Donna Dutton Membership
- Barb Lackner Voter Service
- Vacant Environment
- Liz Ennis Education
- Earl Bickett Special Projects
- Melissa Clapper At Large
- Karen Ristau At Large
- Marilyn Klawiter At Large

non-league people who show up for the keynote speakers and panels. I've reported a bit more in this newsletter under the photo of Michigan delegates to the convention. You'll be receiving your membership renewal letter early this month. There's a new option for paying ... PayPal!! Go to our website - www.lwvbcc.org - for information on using that service.
Chris

Next Book Group Selection



The most important "take-away" from "A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity" is that each of us can make a difference. The husband/wife team of Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn have based their book on scrupulous research in this intriguing tapestry of people who are making the world a better place. They offer us a guide to the ways we can do the same. Even if you can't get to League book club, read this book!

Like us on Facebook 

Visit

the LWVBCC Facebook Page.

Be sure to like us!

Delegates to the LWVLMR Convention



The LWVLMR holds a convention every year in late September/early October. This year's convention was in Glenview, IL. Convention "migrates" each year to a location selected by the current year's host state. In 2017 - the 50th anniversary of LWVLMR - convention will be held in Michigan. Keynote speakers were Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, Climate

Ecologist at the Field Museum and Co-chair of the Chicago Wilderness Climate Action Committee who spoke to us of her progression from studying primate behavior as a biological anthropologist to working on climate change impacts to biodiversity -

and Molly Flanagan, VP of Policy at the Alliance for the Great Lakes, who pre-viously worked on environmental issues at the Joyce

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, Three Oaks.

Minutes are posted after they are approved by the Board.

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

Quick Links

[Consider Membership](#)
[Membership Form](#)
[Donate to the League](#)
[League Information](#)
[Election Information](#)

OUR SPONSORS THANK YOU!

[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

A Woman's World?

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

Welcome New Members!

Renee Rybik & Gerald Grilec
of Union Pier

Mia & Margarita Doerschner
of Harbert -Returning

Congress Committee on Energy and Commerce. Both speakers energized the group with their presentations. In addition, two 3-member panels educated us on "Targeting Civic Engagement for Maximum Impact" and "Innovative and Inclusive Water-related Projects." There are many wonderful organizations working to maintain/improve the health of the Great Lakes. LWVLMR is run by a phenomenal group of volunteers. Check their website: www.lwvlmr.org

October 27 Benton Harbor Mayoral Debate

The LWVBCC and members of the Benton Harbor NAACP have arranged with the two mayoral candidates, current Mayor James Hightower and his opponent, Muhammad Marcos, to hold a debate on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Benton Harbor Public Library. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

November 18 LWVBCC luncheon

Tara Gillette, Marketing and Communications Specialist at the Area Agency on Aging will present an overview of the many services offered by the Agency at noon on November 18 at Coach's restaurant in Stevensville. You do not need to be a League member to attend.

Members

Pauline Furner of
Berrien Springs

[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

[Visit Our Sponsor](#)

Featured Article

Click  to edit

Double-click to
insert an image

Right-click to
format image

100 x 100 pixels

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.

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](#)