



Annual Holiday Open House
December 6, 1 - 4pm
At the home of Marilyn & Don Jaquish
502 Sixth Street, Traverse City



League of Women Voters
of the Grand Traverse Area

Serving Antrim, Benzie,
Grand Traverse, and
Kalkaska counties

[Voter Newsletter](#)

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President

Jan Warren

First Vice President

Ingrid Brophy

Membership Director

Donna Hornberger

Voter Services

Inara Kurt

Treasurer



The Annual Holiday Open House benefits the
LWVGTA Education Fund, which supports our

voter service and educational activities. Invitations have been mailed! Please mark your calendar, watch your mailbox, and RSVP by December 1st.

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Consensus Meetings

Constitutional Amendment Study

November 18, 12pm-2pm

McGuire Room of the Woodmere Branch (TADL)
Led by League member Jan Geht

Prepare with the [Constitutional Amendment Study Guide](#)

Liz Messing
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[Campaign Finance Reform:
A Select Bibliography](#)

Compiled by Membership
Director Donna Hornberger

And another great (short) read: [The Best Investigative Reporting on Campaign Finance Since 2012](#), from the nonpartisan Pacific Standard Magazine.



Money in Politics Study

January 6, 12pm-2pm

McGuire Room of the Woodmere Branch (TADL)

January 27, 5:30pm-7:30pm

McGuire Room of the Woodmere Branch (TADL)

Prepare with the [Money in Politics Study Guide](#)

What is a Consensus Meeting?

Our local League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area offers feedback to the National

League by preparing and submitting our responses to Consensus Questions. (See an example of typical Consensus Questions [here](#).)

This winter, we will study and discuss topics chosen by the National League, submit our feedback, and the National League will ultimately craft a position based on LWV members' input.

All League members are welcome to participate in upcoming Consensus Meetings!

Please contact our President Jan Warren (warrenjan2000@yahoo.com) with any questions.

48th Annual Conference and Business Meeting of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

September 25-26, 2015

Report submitted by Mary Lee Orr

Glenview, Illinois was the site of the 48th Annual Conference and Business Meeting of the LWVLMR. Presenters focused on ways of developing civic involvement to advance [The Great Lakes Ecosystem Position](#), adopted three years ago by Leagues of all eight states with a Great Lakes shoreline.

A Field Museum Climate Ecologist emphasized that local action predictably produces results. In other words, don't wait for Congress to move! Start the effort NOW. Other speakers recounted their advocacy successes working with the grass roots organizations.

The Chicago chair of "Moms for Clean Air" talked about the national organization of 550,000 activists, allied with medical associations and

education groups, who work for clean air--free of ozone, toxic chemicals, auto emissions, and coal dust. Jan Walling, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council, a group that represents 750 groups, stressed both the importance of consistent syntax when lobbying the legislature and the importance of establishing a relationship with elected representatives, thus overcoming the illusion that governments are inaccessible to the public.

Most notable was Susie Schreiber, chair of the Waukegon Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group, who brought in over a million dollars in grant money to achieve her success, working with federal, non-governmental agencies, and citizens to clean up the harbor, de-listing it from the EPA's list of AOC's (There are currently 43 targeted Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, and ten are in Lake Michigan.) She attributed her success to having taken all the relative entities into account—such as community, corporations and businesses, environmentalists, economics, geography and political aspects of the area, reaching out to reticent immigrants, and encouraging widespread participation in planning and executing the clean-up process.

Vice President of Policy for the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Molly Flanagan, spoke about the micro beads that have been used in personal cleansing products--dangerous, because they do not bio-degrade and are passed into our drinking water. Her work with chemical companies has resulted in Illinois agreeing to ban these products by 2017. A ban has been signed by Governor Walker in Wisconsin, and a ban is being negotiated in Michigan.

Our field trip to the ABt Recycling Center and Retail Store—the largest appliance store in the country--was of exceptional interest. The 400,000 square foot warehouse—which includes 100,000 square feet of showroom—uses LED lights, electric forklifts (which have their own recharging station), and it has its own generators, avoiding reliance on city power and potential outages. Natural gas is available for peak load times. The 1200 employees are well treated. A wall in the warehouse displays huge flags, representing all 50 countries of employees—who are equipped to do business with foreign countries. Prices are negotiable; no tax is charged outside of Illinois. The spirit of comradeship was visible. ABt has its own recycling center; they recycle all electronic equipment and appliances—we saw ranges and washers and dryers being unloaded, copper tubing and mattresses stacked up, and Styrofoam, which is pulverized, melted into plastic and sold to China for refrigerator shelves.

The LWVLMR promotes programs and advocacy on: Green Waters (Algae Blooms); Stormwater Education; Clean Water Act; Coal Tar Sealants.



Oleson's Grocery Receipts

Dear League members,

Tom's Food Markets has discontinued its

Tomorrow Fund (1% of points on sales receipts) as of October 31st and replaced it with script fundraising, which involves the use of gift cards. Non-profit organizations sell the cards to their members and receive a rebate and a small percentage of purchases made using the card.

The League Board has made the decision not to pursue this method of fundraising, but we are still collecting receipts from Oleson's Grocery Store. Please continue to send them to Jan Warren at 606 West 10th St. Traverse City 49684.



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Our mailing address is:

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