

Michigan League Update

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Make sure to visit our website:

www.MichiganLCV.org

- Learn more about environmental issues
- Find out about upcoming Michigan LCV events
- Discover volunteer opportunities with Michigan LCV

Take Action!

Sign up for the Michigan Action Project and make your voice heard through your computer. For more details visit <http://map.e-actionmax.org>

Great Lakes, Great Water!

If you are planning a vacation in Michigan this summer, chances are you will be heading to a lake, one of the Great Lakes or one of Michigan's many inland lakes. The lakes hold a special place in the hearts of Michigan's citizens, which is why this summer Michigan LCV is working to protect our Great Lakes and keep Michigan's water in Michigan.

As it currently stands, many multi-national corporations treat Lake Michigan and the extensive Great Lakes system like their private water wells, undermining the integrity of our state's water for both health and recreation purposes. Corporations can do this because, unlike other Great Lakes states, Michigan's ineffective laws allow abuse of this critical natural resource.

In May, Michigan LCV joined nine organizations from around the state in drafting a package of bills to protect the health and well-being of our Great Lakes. To date, Michigan's legislature has been slow to address this problem due to partisan politics. However, Michigan LCV, our nine coalition partners and residents from around the state understand that protecting the health of our citizens, the health of our lakes, and the integrity of our economy shouldn't be a partisan issue.

This summer as you are enjoying the lakes, please remember Michigan LCV is working to protect and preserve them, keeping them healthy for generations to come.

Michigan LCV Hires Executive Director

Michigan LCV/LCV Education Fund is very excited to welcome Lisa Wozniak on board as the new Executive Director.

Lisa comes to the Michigan League of Conservation Voters with a long history in both the environmental and political worlds. Most recently, Lisa served nine years as the Great Lakes Regional Director for the national League of Conservation Voters, overseeing programs and projects in Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Since her start date in early February, Lisa has been working to build relationships with individuals and groups across the state, attending events such as the West Michigan Environmental Action Council's donor appreciation dinner in mid-May.

Please feel free to Contact Lisa at Lisa@MichiganLCV.org or 734.222.9650



Pictured above (from left to right) Theodore Roosevelt IV, Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director of Michigan LCV and Rob Sisson, President, Michigan Chapter of Republicans for Environmental Protection America

Michigan LCV 2005 Board of Directors

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Michigan LCV/LCV Education Fund Staff

Lisa Wozniak,
Executive Director
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2006 Elections Critical to Environmental Protection: Thoughts from our Executive Director, Lisa Wozniak

It feels like the 2004 elections just took place, yet it's already time to start gearing up for 2006. Whew! Take a deep breath, rally your energy and let's go!

While Presidential elections tend to bring out the highest level of voter participation, it is the state-based elections that can make truly profound differences in our everyday lives. That's why 2006--with both a governor's race and legislative races--is critical to the protection of our water, air and land here in Michigan.

Think of it this way: all of the significant environmental laws passed by Congress over the past 30 years—from the Clean Water Act to the Clean Air Act--are administered and implemented by the states. In other words, the rubber hits the road at the state level where permits are issued, inspections are performed and compliance is monitored (or not). Michigan must, therefore, elect legislators who will ensure that passage and implementation of strong pro-environment laws is a number one priority.

Unfortunately, the past few years have proven that many within the legislature have other priorities. Instead of helping aid environmental protection efforts, the Michigan Legislature has, of late, proven itself a hindrance.

How can this be?! We sit in the heart of the Earth's largest freshwater basin on two peninsulas where the beauty and bounty of this planet truly surrounds us. Yet, the state legislature has let partisan bickering and other concerns prevent them from taking action to protect our water resources. To date, they have balked at passage of true water use legislation; refused to require polluters to cover the costs of the state programs designed to monitor them (thereby dooming the programs to paralyzing poverty); and done nothing to address the fish consumption advisories posted on every inland lake and every Great Lake due to mercury emissions.

If not simply for the health and safety of our families, one would think that the legislature would move to protect our waters in order to safeguard Michigan's tourism industry. And yet they have not.

In 2006, Michigan LCV will be working hard to elevate the issue of the environment in the minds of candidates and voters. We plan to hold our second Gubernatorial Forum in the spring, inviting all the gubernatorial candidates to publicly address key issues pertaining to our water, air and open spaces; we plan to hold our current legislators accountable via our Legislative Scorecard; and we plan to endorse pro-environment candidates for office across the state, and work hard for their election.

We invite you to join us in our work. Michigan is too beautiful NOT to protect, from her glorious sugar-sand beaches to her Upper Peninsula waterfalls and the Great Lakes that envelop her. Licking stamps, dropping literature, talking to voters—it's all worth it when you keep the health and majesty of Michigan in mind.

UPDATE: Michigan LCV-supported Legislators

In the fall of 2004, Michigan LCV endorsed 27 candidates who demonstrated their commitment to Michigan's air, water and land, 22 of whom won their elections. Among these candidates, we then focused the work of our political action committee—Michigan LCV PAC---on three candidates in the general election. These candidates were either running for an open seat, or running against a demonstrated anti-environment incumbent. We are pleased to say that two of these candidates are now in office: Rep. Kathy Angerer and Rep. Pam Byrnes.

In the 55th district, Kathy Angerer had a tough race against incumbent Rep. Matt Milosch, who earned a score of 38% on the 2003 Michigan LCV scorecard. Michigan LCV PAC spent days going door-to-door to talk to voters in the 55th about Angerer's environmental commitment. The race was won by an extremely narrow margin--315 votes—and we now have pro-environment Rep. Angerer in office, with appointments to the Education and Health Policy committees.

In another closely contested battle, Michigan LCV PAC worked with Rep. Pam Byrnes on her race for the 52nd district seat. Now in office, Rep. Byrnes sits on the Higher Education and Career Preparation, Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use and Environment, and Transportation committees.

Michigan LCV PAC also worked for Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith in the August 2004 primary. Smith ran for the 54th district seat after working hard to protect the environment in the Michigan Senate (78% voting record with leadership award on 2002 Michigan LCV scorecard) and after a valiant run for the governor's office in 2002. Rep. Smith is now a member of the Appropriations committee.

Michigan LCV would like to thank all our members who contributed to electing these pro-environment legislators. Without your contributions to Michigan LCV and the Michigan LCV PAC we would not be able to support candidates who will stand up for Michigan's environment.

We will keep you updated on how these legislators are voting through our 2005 Legislative scorecard. Watch for its release later this year!

2nd Annual Conservation Classic a Success!

It was a hot, steamy Michigan day and we got hit with a few short bursts of rain, but everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. The 2nd Annual Michigan LCV Conservation Classic golf outing was attended by nearly 80 people, including members and elected officials.

The dinner to follow included an inspiring speech by former Congressman David Bonior. Congressman Bonior shared many stories from his * years in office, and drew direct connections for the audience between decision-making in Lansing and real protections of our water, air and land in individual communities throughout Michigan.

Many thanks to all who attended, as well as to the Michigan LCV Board of Directors and The Lakelands Golf and Country Club for an incredible event. Please check the website www.MichiganLCV.org for pictures of the day.

We would like to thank all our members for their generosity. We give special thanks and recognition here to the donors from the first quarter of 2005.

Conservation Champions:

John (Jay) Harris
John Hunting

Conservation Circle:

Maury Okun and Tina Topalian

Contributors:

Cathy Allen
Jon and Mary Armstrong
John Bassett
Thomas and Sue Blandford
Theresa Brennan
Robert and Elizabeth Garner
Chris and Elaine Graham
Jeff Irwin
Sue Kelly
William and Marietta Kusey
Joe and Bobbie Kutkuhn
Mark Richardson
Richard and Esther Ross
Nancy Shiffler
George Wickstrom

Members:

Linda Battison
Brian Beauchamp
Robert Borak
Bill and Joyce Bottje
Andy Buchsbaum and Cathy Fleisher
Mildred Burgess
Ralph and Joyce Cobb
Diane Constable
Leon and Jeanne Cook
A. Newton Dilley
Preston Dilts
Karen Fix
Don and Ann Fowler
Lela Fuester
Charles and Linda Kehr
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Gerhard and Margaretha Olving
Dand and Mary Lee Orr
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We're on the Web!
 See us at:
www.MichiganLCV.org

Would you like to become a member of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters?

YES! I would like to help elect conservation minded leaders and make the environment a priority with Michigan's elected officials and voters.

My check made out to "Michigan LCV" is enclosed

\$5000+	Conservation Champion	\$100- \$249	Contributor
\$4999- \$1000	Conservation Corps	\$25- \$99	Member
\$999- \$250	Conservation Circle	\$5	Student Member

How to Support Michigan LCV- Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the best way to financially support Michigan LCV's work?

Begin by making a contribution to become a member of Michigan LCV. This money will go into our 501(c)4 account. There is an annual limit of \$10,000 that an individual can contribute to a 501(c)4. Once you are a member, you can then contribute up to \$5,000 per year to our Political Action Committee (PAC). PAC contributions, which must be publicly disclosed, are the most useful and flexible funds Michigan LCV can accept and we urge our supporters to give to the PAC each year. Because of our political work, all gifts to Michigan LCV are non-tax deductible.

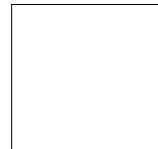
What do I need to know about the 501(c)4 account?

Much of the money contributed to Michigan LCV is given to our 501(c)4 account and is used for a wide range of advocacy and political activities. At the donor's request, 501(c)4 gifts may remain anonymous.

Can Michigan LCV accept funds from a corporation or family foundation?

Because donations to Michigan LCV support political action, we do not accept contributions from corporations or foundations. We encourage foundations to contribute to the Michigan LCV Education Fund, which is a 501(c)3 organization working to educate voters about critical environmental issues.

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